

**Millbury Public Schools**  
**School Committee**  
*Special Joint Session*  
*with the Millbury Board of Health*

2021 FEB -3 AM 9:19  
MILLBURY, MA

**Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** December 16, 2020

**Members Present:** Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson  
Mr. Christopher Wilbur, Vice Chairperson  
Mrs. Julia Lagerholm, Member  
Mr. Nicholas Lazzaro, Member  
Mrs. Jessica Bristol, Member

**BoH Members Present:** Mr. Ron Marlborough, Chairperson  
Mr. John Dufrene, Member  
Mr. Jim Morin, Member

**Administrators Present:** Mrs. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Christopher Lowe, Jr./Sr. High School Principal  
Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services

**Contributing Guests:** Mr. Bob Ayotte, parent  
Mr. Jim Donnelly, Millbury Varsity Boys Basketball coach  
Mr. Josh MacCreery, Jr./Sr. High School Athletic Director  
Ms. Cheryl Rawinski, Public Health Nurse  
Mr. Rob Phillip, parent

**Location:** This meeting was held virtually via Zoom (Meeting ID: 914 5689 3850)

**Time:** 5:00pm

---

Mrs. Nietupski opened the meeting at 5:00 PM.

**1. Unfinished Business**

- a. Discussion of Board of Healths December 9, 2020 Decision to Prohibit Basketball.  
Mr. Marlborough explained the Board of Health's decision to prohibit basketball in Millbury due to the rising number of COVID-19 illnesses in the community and recommendations from representatives of the Central Massachusetts Regional Health Alliance.  
  
Mr. Morin and Mr. Dufrene agreed with Mr. Marlborough and commented on the unacceptably high risk of contracting COVID-19 by playing basketball. Ms. Rawinski echoed concerns expressed by members of the Board of Health.

Mr. Donnelly urged the Board to reconsider, explaining that the MIAA has modified the game in order to keep students safe. He commented on the need for students to remain engaged with basketball and asked for the opportunity to give the modifications a try.

Mr. Wilbur shared examples of modifications from the MIAA that would be adopted to keep student-athletes and coaches safe. The MIAA's modifications are more strict than the AAU rules that were in place for fall basketball. Mr. Wilbur expressed concern about the mental wellness of students who look to sports as an outlet and part of their identity. Mr. Marlborough said that he was unaware of any modifications from the MIAA and requested a copy of the MIAA accommodations for review. Mr. MacCreery agreed to send them to the Board of Health.

Mr. Bob Ayotte asserted that students will play basketball regardless of the Board of Health's decision by joining AAU traveling teams, which may be less restrictive than the MIAA's modifications. He stated how students have committed their whole high school career to sports and will find a way to play. Mr. Ayotte suggested moving basketball players to Cohort D in order to reduce the risk of transmission in school.

Mr. Phillippe echoed Mr. Ayotte's concerns and said that many students played AAU in the fall and were unharmed. He suggested that the Board of Health and School Committee allow parents to make the decision about whether basketball was too risky for their children and supported Mr. Ayotte's suggestion about shifting players to Cohort D.

School Committee member Nick Lazzarro commented that he would like to see students in the classroom for more than two days a week. He feels that putting 1,700 kids at risk so that 25 kids can play basketball is not acceptable.

Mrs. Nietupski commented on the need to avoid mixing students together, which competitive basketball would do.

Mrs. Bristol stated that if we are going to allow students to play basketball, we should also work to provide other activities as well, such as drama and other sports.

Mr. Marlborough stated that he would like to have an opportunity to review the MIAA's guidance documents before continuing the discussion. Mrs. Nietupski suggested continuing the meeting to December 21, 2020 in order to allow the Board of Health time to review the MIAA's modification document. Board of Health members and School Committee members agreed.

Mrs. Nietupski asked for a motion to adjourn at 6:05PM. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. All approved (5-0)

Approved:

DocuSigned by:

*Jennifer Nietupski*

7A25F203994B490...

Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson

DocuSigned by:

*Christopher J. Wilbur*

9352B1A473DE49A...

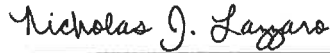
Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson

DocuSigned by:



7D948C780F604DD...  
Julia Lagerholm

DocuSigned by:



3BCA6C3EB7554F1...  
Nicholas Lazzaro

Jessica Bristol