

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 21, 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
Cheryl Rawinski, Public Health Nurse

Administrators Present: 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. David Delaney, Member of the Millbury Board of Selectmen
Mr. Josh MacCreery, Jr./Sr. High School Athletic Director
Mr. Rob Phillippo, parent

Location: This meeting was held virtually via Zoom (Meeting ID: 967 5516 6415)

Time: 5:00pm

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

1. Unfinished Business

- a. Discussion of the Board of Health's December 9, 2020 Decision to Prohibit Basketball
Mr. John Dufrene thanked Mr. MacCreery for providing the Board with the MIAA's basketball accommodation guidance, which he described as comprehensive and well-thought out. He stated that he now understands the issue better, but expressed concern about athletes using the same basketball during the game.

Mr. Jim Donnelly commented on the very low rates of transmission on NBA and NCAA basketball teams. Mrs. Neitupski pointed out that they benefit from daily COVID-19 testing. A brief conversation took place regarding the infeasibility of daily COVID-19 testing for Millbury athletes.

Mr. Rob Marlborough commended the MIAA's guidance document and agreed with Mr. Dufrene about its comprehensiveness. He also expressed concern regarding athletes using a single ball during games, but noted that he could overlook that. Mr. Marlborough asked whether the school could take the temperatures of basketball participants before practices and games. Mr. Josh MacCreery described an app for athletes that would allow them to self-assess their health daily. Mr. Marlborough said he would like to see the school adopt that practice.

Mr. Dufrene asked about equity for other activities that are not currently permitted. Mr. Lowe responded that certain restrictions would have to be reconsidered in order to permit other activities. Mr. Wilbur expressed support for designing safety protocols that would make more activities permissible.

Mrs. Nietupski noted the recent spike in COVID-19 cases and new restrictions from the Governor's office. Mrs. Lagerholm noted that the Elmwood Street School is now fully-remote due to COVID-19 spread in school. Mr. Myers noted that Shrewsbury High School's boys' basketball teams are being quarantined because of positive COVID-19 cases among players since starting practice a week ago.

Mr. Dufrene made a motion to permit the play of basketball in Millbury this winter, seconded by Mr. Marlborough. Mr. Dufrene - YES, Mr. Marlborough - YES. (2-0).

Mr Marlborough said that the decision regarding basketball now lies with the School Committee. Mrs. Nietupski suggested a special School Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 30, 2020 at 5:00PM in order to discuss the risks and benefits of offering basketball this year. Mrs. Nietupski asked Mr. Myers to provide clarity at the December 30, 2020 meeting regarding the School Committee's authority to cancel basketball. He agreed.


Mr. Phillip and Mr. Ayotte commented on the option of moving all basketball players to full remote in order to limit COVID-19 transmission in school. Mr. Delaney commented on the importance of allowing students to play basketball. Mrs. Bristol discussed the importance of providing additional opportunities for students to safely participate in activities.

The Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 5:45PM.

Mrs. Nietupski asked the Committee for any other discussion on this topic. Hearing none, Mrs. Nietupski asked for a motion to adjourn at 5:46PM. Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. All approved (5-0)

Approved:

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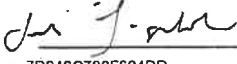
Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson

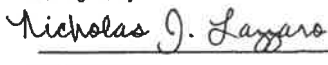
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Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson

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Julia Lagerholm

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Nicholas Lazzaro

Jessica Bristol