

# Millbury Public Schools School Committee

## *Regular Session* Meeting Minutes

Date: January 27, 2021

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

Administrators Present: Mr. Richard Bedard, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Mr. Christopher Lowe, Jr./Sr. High School Principal  
Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services

Contributing Guests: Mrs. Angela Avramidis, Head Nurse  
Mr. Josh MacCreery, Athletic Director

Location: This meeting was held virtually with Zoom

Time: 7:00pm

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Mrs. Nietupski opened the meeting at 7:01 PM.

### 1. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

#### a. January 13, 2021 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Lagerholm made a motion to accept the regular session minutes of January 13, 2021, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. Motion approved (5-0).

### 2. Report of the Administration

#### a. Report of the Student Council

Student Council President Colby Walkins and Vice President Anthony Wilson informed the School Committee about recent and upcoming events at the Jr./Sr. High School.

#### b. DESE Structured Learning Time Requirements

Mr. Myers stated that an addendum to the MOA with the Millbury Teachers Association was recently ratified and asked the Committee to consider voting to accept it. This addendum allows the District to

comply with DESE's updated SLT requirements. Mr. Lazzaro motioned to approve the addendum, seconded by Mrs. Bristol. Motion approved (5-0).

c. Report of the Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative

Mr. Myers provided a report for Quarter 2 from the Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative (SWCEC).

d. Report of the Assabet Valley Education Collaborative

Mr. Myers shared the FY 2020 Independent Audit Report of the Assabet Valley Education Collaborative. This audit of AVC's financial statements produced no findings or recommendations.

Agenda Item 3.a. (Acceptance of Donation from the Aquarian Water Company) was taken out of order to accommodate Mr. Paul Lawson, Millbury Operations Manager for Aquarion Water Company. Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to consider voting to accept an exterior water filling station from the Aquarian Water Company. The water filling station is located behind the amenities building. Mr. Paul Lawson commented on the water filling station and cited the strong relationship between Aquarion and MPS. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to accept the donation from Aquarion Water Company, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. Motion passed (5-0). Mr. Wilbur asked for a letter to be sent thanking Aquarion for this donation. Mr. Wilbur asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Aquarion.

e. Reopening Advisory Committee Update

Mrs. Nietupski stated that a public forum will be held via Zoom on February 3, 2021 for the Committee to hear opinions of the public regarding the mixing of cohorts.

i. Updated COVID-19 District Dashboard

Mr. Myers reviewed the District's COVID-19 dashboard, noting a recent decline in positive cases.

ii. Updated Quarantine Guidance

Mrs. Avramidis described two changes to the District's current practices regarding COVID-19: the adoption of a single 10-day quarantine protocol and shrinking the radius for close contacts to 4.5 feet.

iii. Vaccinations

Mr. Myers updated the Committee on the availability of vaccines for school employees: nurses have received a first dose and K-12 educators are in the third tier of Phase II vaccinations, which will be available between February and April.

v. Pooled Testing

Mr. Myers described a COVID-19 testing program using a pooled strategy, which he plans to implement in each school after February break. The state will provide all test kits, training, testing software, and lab analysis by a third-party free of charge until March 28, 2021. Following the initial six-week launch, districts may continue using pooled testing by purchasing tests and any other accompanying testing materials, software, or support from a statewide contract.

vi. Fall Athletic Season II

Mr. Josh MacCreery, Jr./Sr. High School Athletic Director, provided the Committee with an overview of the proposed Fall II season, which the MIAA has scheduled for Feb. 22 to April 25. MIAA

guidance regarding football will not be available until Friday, but an update will be provided to the Committee at its next meeting.

Mr. Wilbur asked Mr. MacCreery to obtain more information from other schools and their numbers of students playing fall sports and what sports were played.

### 3. Finance and Operations

#### a. Grants Listing

Mr. Bedard provided an overview and update of the grants managed by the District. The total of the FY 2021 DESE Administered Grants is \$1,362,882. He referenced a question at the last School Committee about how that total has increased since FY 2020's amount of \$705,944. He stated that there are two large grants directly attributed to the COVID-19 relief effort that total \$546,507. Without that relief package, the district's total DESE grant allocation for FY 2021 would have been \$816,375.

### 4. Unfinished Business

#### a. Report on the Millbury Jr./Sr. High School Field Renovation Project

Mr. Myers stated that the softball scoreboard, fencing over the press box, and the press box lift are unfinished. The project is under budget.

#### b. Report on the Shaw School Building Project

Mr. Myers stated that bids from general contractors are due on Feb. 10, 2021. He commented on the favorable bidding environment and suggested that the project bids may be low enough to allow the building committee to consider completing one or more project alternates.

#### c. Report of the Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Lazzaro stated that the Subcommittee met to review Policy IJNDB - Empowered Digital Use Policy, and accompanying documents to see if updates were required before launching a 1:1 program in the District. He stated that no updates were necessary.

### 5. New Business

Mrs. Nietupski asked Mr. Myers to provide an overview of amendments to DESE's graduation requirements and asked Mrs. Avramidis to share safety guidelines for those who have gotten the vaccine.

Mrs. Bristol asked for an update on the new learning plan at each school.

### 8. Adjourn

Mrs. Nietupski asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:13 PM. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wilbur, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. Motion 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

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Jessica Bristol