

**Millbury Public Schools
School Committee**

**Regular Session
Meeting Minutes**

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MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: March 23, 2022

Members Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson

Present: Mr. Christopher Wilbur, Vice-chair (attending remotely via Zoom)

Mrs. Julia Lagerholm, Member

Ms. Jessica Bristol, Member

Administrators Mr. Richard Bedard, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations

Present: Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services

Contributing Mrs. Tonia Alger, R.E. Shaw School

Guests: Mrs. Kelly Beahn, Elmwood Street School

Mrs. Heidi Desautels, Jr./Sr. High School

Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and led the Committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Public Hearing: School Choice

Mrs. Nietupski opened a public hearing on the matter of school choice. No one requested to speak. Mrs. Nietupski closed the public hearing at 7:04 PM.

2. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to accept the regular session minutes of March 9, 2022, seconded by Ms. Bristol. Mrs. Nietupski held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. The motion was approved.

3. Report of the Administration

a. Clinical Staff Presentation on Student Supports

Clinical staff members Mrs. Tonia Alger (Shaw), Mrs. Kelly Beahn (Elmwood), and Mrs. Heidi Desautels (Jr./Sr. High School) provided the Committee with an overview of available support for student well-being in the district. They also presented data regarding outpatient referrals, Tier 2 and Tier 3 counseling, safety risk assessments, and hospitalization, which are much higher than in previous years.

Mr. Wilbur expressed his support for allocating existing and additional resources to further support student wellbeing.

- b. Ms. Ryan provided the Committee with an updated overview of COVID-19 infection rates and trends for students and staff in the district, stating that since our last meeting, sixteen COVID-19 positive cases have been identified. At-home COVID tests will be sent home with students rather than the drive through option we have been offering every other week.

4. Finance and Operations

- a. Review and Discussion of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 School District Budget

There were no substantive updates on the FY'23 budget status. Mr. Bedard informed the Committee that there is a quarterly finance meeting with members of the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Town Manager and Finance Director where the FY23 budget will be discussed.

- b. Review and Approval of the Student Activity Account Sub-Account Listing

Mr. Bedard reviewed and asked the Committee to consider approving the student activity account sub-account listing. Elmwood Street School currently maintains six student accounts, R. E. Shaw School maintains seven, and the Jr./Sr. High School maintains thirty. Mr. Bedard oversees, reconciles, and periodically audits all student activity accounts. These accounts are also audited by an independent/ outside auditing firm every three years.

Ms. Bristol motioned to approve the student activity account sub-account listings, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. Mrs. Nietupski held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. The motion was approved.

Mr. Bedard thanked the graduating classes of 2021 who donated 40% of the funds to install an electronic sign at the Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High. He also thanked the Town Manager and the Department of Public Works for their time and efforts in installing the sign.

5. Unfinished Business

- a. Report on the Shaw School Building Project

Work continues with rough electrical in the kitchen, cafeteria, media center and nearby corridors. The generator pad, parking lot drainage, gas line installation and fire alarm devices are scheduled to begin next week. The school is still on time and will be opening for the August 31, 2022 start day. Mr. Myers also mentioned that there will be a Shaw Building Project Update and Community Forum on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 6PM at the existing Shaw School. Mr. Tuccio sent out a form to parents which allowed them to ask questions regarding the opening of the school, which will be addressed at the Community Forum.

6. New Business

a. Report of the School Committee's Policy Subcommittee

Mrs. Nietupski and Ms. Ryan updated the Committee on the Subcommittee's recent work to review and revise Policy JICFB: *Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan*, noting that the policy has been updated to include certain mandated language.

b. Biennial Review of the District's Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

Ms. Kate Ryan asked the Committee to consider approving the district's bullying plan, which was reviewed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education earlier this winter. The plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary by the School Committee every other year.

Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to approve the revised Policy JICFB, seconded by Ms. Bristol. Mrs. Nietupski held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. The motion was approved.

c. Consideration of School Choice for the 2022-2023 School Year

For grades 9 through 12, the Committee approved a limit of eighteen seats for the 21-22 school year. All eighteen are currently filled. Mr. Myers asked the Committee to increase this number to 25 students for the next school year.

Ms. Bristol made a motion to approve School Choice for the 2022-2023 School Year to increase the number of seats from 18 to 25, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. Mrs. Nietupski held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. The motion was approved.

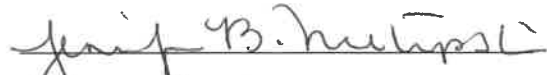
d. Review and Approval of the Negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Millbury Teachers Association for the Period Beginning August 31, 2022 and Ending August 30, 2025- *Vote Requested*

Mr. Myers stated that the MTA ratified the proposed contract and asked the Committee to table the vote until the next meeting, where a final copy will be available for the Committee's review.

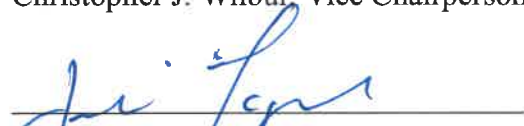
7. Adjourn

At 8:20 PM, Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to adjourn the regular session without further discussion, seconded by Ms. Bristol. Mrs. Nietupski held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. The motion was approved.


Approved:


Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson

Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson


Julia Lagerholm

Nicholas Lazzaro


Jessica Bristol