

**Millbury Public Schools
School Committee**

Regular Session
Meeting Minutes

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
2022 AUG 25 AM 10:48
MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: April 27, 2022

Members Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson (participating remotely via zoom)

Present: Mr. Christopher Wilbur, Vice-Chair

Mrs. Julia Lagerholm, Member

Ms. Jessica Bristol, Member

Mr. Nicholas Lazzarro, Member

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

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

Mr. Corey Burke, Elmwood Street Elementary School Assistant Principal

Mr. Andy Hall, Elmwood Street Elementary School Principal

Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services

Contributing Mr. Michael McIver

Guests: Senator Michael Moore

Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM and led the Committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. School Committee Reorganization

a. Nominations and Vote for School Committee Chairperson

Mrs. Bristol nominated Mrs. Nietupski for the position of School Committee Chair and Mrs. Nietupski accepted the nomination. No other nominations were offered. Mr. Myers held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Lazzarro - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. The motion was approved (5-0).

b. Nominations and Vote for School Committee Vice-Chairperson

Mrs. Lagerholm nominated Mr. Wilbur for the position of School Committee Chair and Mr. Wilbur accepted the nomination. No other nominations were offered. Mrs. Nietupski held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Lazzarro - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. The motion was approved (5-0).

c. Nominations and Vote for Member Authorized to Sign Payroll Warrants and Alternate

Mrs. Lagerholm nominated Ms. Bristol for the position of School Committee member authorized to sign payroll warrants. No other nominations were offered. Mrs. Nietupski held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Lazzarro - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. The motion was approved (5-0).

Mrs. Lagerholm nominated Mr. Lazzaro to serve as an alternative to sign payroll warrants. No other nominations were offered. Mrs. Nietupski held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Lazzaro - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. The motion was approved (5-0).

- d. Nominations and Vote for Member Authorized to Sign Student Activity Warrants and Alternate
Mr. Lazzaro nominated Ms. Bristol for the position of School Committee member authorized to sign student activity warrants. No other nominations were offered. Mrs. Nietupski held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Lazzaro - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. The motion was approved (5-0).

Mrs. Lagerholm nominated Mr. Lazzaro as an alternative to sign student activity warrants. No other nominations were offered. Mrs. Nietupski held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Lazzaro - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. The motion was approved (5-0).

After the School Committee reorganization, Mrs. Nietupski asked Mr. Wilbur to chair the remainder of the meeting as she was attending the meeting virtually. Mr. Wilbur agreed to chair the remainder of the meeting.

2. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Bristol motioned to accept the regular session minutes of April 13, 2022, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. Mr. Wilbur held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Lazzaro - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. The motion was approved (5-0).

3. Guest Presentation

Mr. Michael McIver on the Topic of: Children's Mental Health, the Impacts from the Time Period During COVID-19 Peak and Post COVID-19.

Mr. McIver talked about child hospitalization rates in the district. He spoke of his organization, "Kid Lives Matter," where local parents get together and talk about post COVID issues. He asserted that social emotional learning is part of the decline in student learning and that schools do not understand the origin of SEL, which he claimed to be sinister. He also advocated for public comment at future School Committee meetings.

4. Report of the Administration

- a. Report of the Millbury Jr./Sr. High School Student Council
Student Council members, Layce Hermans and Rose Winston, provided the Committee with an update on recent and upcoming events at the Jr./Sr. High School
- b. Presentation: Removing Barriers to Inclusion & Equity and for all Students
R.E. Shaw School Instructional Coach, Ms. Tamisha Thompson, Jr./Sr. High School Special Educator, Ms. Barb Kallin, R.E. Shaw School Instructional Coach, Ms. Juliet Rodrigues, and Elmwood Street Elementary Principal, Mr. Andy Hall, provided the Committee with an overview of efforts to establish more equitable inclusion of students across the district.

Mr. Hall asserted that each student has the right to experience safe, engaging, intellectually rigorous, and equitable learning environments where they can grow and thrive academically, civically, socially and emotionally. He spoke of the rich history of immigrants in Millbury.

Mrs. Thompson spoke of the DEI committee which is a group that promotes equity and excellence for all learners and educators. They have talked about equity and whether or not we are teaching all perspectives rather than just one. They celebrate multiple holidays allowing other students to understand different backgrounds. They also discussed unified sports teams in which many students and staff members are attending and contributing.

Mr. Lazzaro asked what the issues are whether it be student to staff or peer to peer. Mr. Hall said there are issues pertaining to both. He said sometimes it comes from a bullying perspective, sometimes from a harassment perspective. It is something that we deal with right away to make sure that no one is silenced.

Ms. Bristol also spoke about the committee entertaining reading another book regarding equity. She also thanked the parents club for their donations to the schools. She asked what equity looks like in a classroom. Mr. Hall said that the class can take on a lot of different forms. They can translate specific words for students to learn what their native language means in another language. The overall outlook of equity is “What do you need and how can I get you where you need to be.”

Mrs. Lagerholm asked about SEL and whether staff members have been following our students along through their schooling in Millbury to see how they have succeeded or have not succeeded. Mr. Hall saw an increase in how we are recognizing that kids show emotions differently and need different supports to allow them to do so.

5. Finance and Operations

a. Fiscal Year 2023 Update: Senator Michael Moore

Senator Michael Moore updated the Committee on the Commonwealth’s FY 2023 budget process, including efforts to extend the state’s free school lunch program through next year.

Mr. Moore talked about the governor releasing the new budget nearing \$7 million for Chapter 70. \$8,024,392 is devoted directly to Millbury for the fiscal year 22-23. The house raised the pupil aid from \$30 to \$60 per pupil and there was an increase in Circuit Breaker funds. He also mentioned the earmark requests for Millbury. In the past, funds were given to Millbury to purchase the Woolie Wagon which allowed us to save money on bussing. We have made the same request for another Woolie Wagon which would allow student transportation to the Carpenters Union School located nearby. This program will allow students to participate in an “intern-like” program and receive credits towards their graduation. We have also requested a new security entryway into the High School that will mirror Elmwood and the new Shaw schools entrance. He spoke that he was not certain whether there will be free/reduced lunch offered again this year due to the fact that a good portion of the funding came from federal funding so now it would have to be made up on the State side.

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

Mr. Bedard updated the Committee on the FY ‘23 proposed budget. The approved information has been sent to Town Hall. There was recently a meeting with Town leadership and we are in good

shape regarding warrant articles and the technology article which will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting. He also mentioned that we have broken ground on the two outdoor classrooms located at Elmwood Street School and the Memorial High School.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Report on the Shaw School Building Project

Mr. Myers spoke of the progress at the new school and shared the architect's drawings and compared them to what the building looks like at this point. The community forum presentation is located on our website for those who would like to view this information.

b. 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

Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to accept the negotiated collective bargaining agreement, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. Mr. Wilbur held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Lazzaro - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. The motion was approved (5-0).

7. New Business

a. Superintendent Evaluation: Review of Process and Timeline

The Committee reviewed the process and timeline for evaluating the Superintendent.

Mr. Myers gave the committee a check sheet as a guide to use towards his evaluation process.

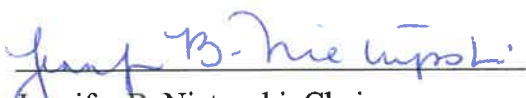
Mrs. Lagerholm agreed to chair the superintendent evaluation process. Mr. Myers agreed to provide an evaluation narrative prior to the next meeting.

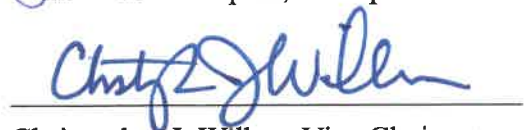
Mrs. Nietupski asked about the upcoming play, which will be next weekend.

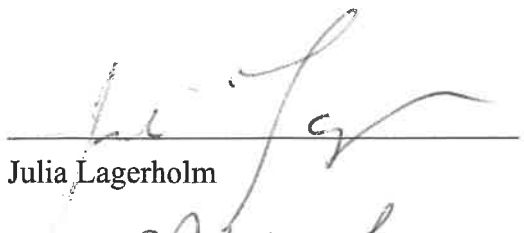
8. Adjourn

At 8:47 PM, Mrs. Nietupski motioned to adjourn the regular session without further discussion, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. Mr. Wilbur held a roll call vote: Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Lazzaro - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. The motion was approved (5-0).

Approved:


Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson


Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson



Julia Lagerholm



Nicholas Lazzaro

Jessica Bristol