

**Millbury Public Schools  
School Committee**

Regular Session  
Meeting Minutes

Date: November 9, 2022

Members                    Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson  
Present:                   Mrs. Julia Lagerholm, Member  
                                Mr. Nicholas Lazzaro, Member  
                                Mrs. Jessica Bristol, Member  
                                Ms. Fatma Al-Bargash, Student Representative

Administrators            Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools  
Present:                   Mr. Richard G. Bedard Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations  
                                Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services  
                                Mr. Andrew Tuccio, Principal, Raymond E. Shaw School  
                                Mr. Jeffrey Berthiaume, Director of Informational Technology

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Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM and led the Committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Lazzaro motioned to accept the regular session meeting minutes of October 26, 2022, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed (4-0).

**Review and Approval of Executive Session Minutes**

Ms. Lagerholm motioned to accept the executive session meeting minutes of October 26, 2022, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed (4-0).

**Report of the Administration**

- a. Report of the Student Council by Representatives Aymen Marquez Essif and Anthony Powell  
Aymen and Anthony provided the Committee with an overview of recent and upcoming events at the Jr./Sr. High School, including an update on the fall sports postseason, the student council's annual "trunk or treat," and a calendar fundraiser. The Drama club is working hard to prepare for the fall play "Mystery at the Murder Mystery." The NHS induction ceremony will take place November 21 and all students are looking forward to spirit day, wellness day, and the annual Thanksgiving day pep rally.

b. Introduction of New R. E. Shaw School Staff

Mr. Andrew Tuccio, Principal of R. E. Shaw School introduced his new staff to the School Committee. Joining Shaw this year is Jessica Ferris and Megan Steiger.

c. Update from the Office of Pupil Services

- State and federal grants used to supplement the District's operating budget

Ms. Ryan provided the committee with an update on the five grants related to the Special Education Department. Some of the funds are being spent on testing and evaluation materials, teaching materials and resources, funding for a new preschool teacher, stipends to be spent on families and community engagement, as well as new ABA technicians.

- Enrollment figures for students with disabilities, English language learners, and out-of-district placements, and for students currently experiencing homelessness

As of October 1, we have 1619 students in district; 78 of those students are English language learners. There are 21 students at Elmwood who are actively receiving instruction, 24 students at Shaw, and 33 at Jr./Sr. High School. There are six languages being translated with four that are considered primary: Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic, and Vietnamese. 20% of our students are identified as a student with a disability. Larger numbers were noticed in preschool which stems from not having early intervention due to the pandemic.. For FY23, we planned for 26 placements and at this time we have 20 of those spots placed. When students are placed in a program, the District has to assume the cost of their education. There are 4 resident placements, 9 private day, and 7 in a collaborative education site. Currently we have five families who are currently experiencing homelessness and we are working together to support them.

## **Finance and Operations**

a. FY 2023 School Operating Budget- Quarterly Expenditures Report

Mr. Richard Bedard, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operation provided the Committee with an overview of the District's expenditures for the first quarter of FY'23. Mr. Bedard made note of items that either represent overages or that are currently trending under budget. \$24,402,721 was our school budget with a balance remaining of \$731,304 which is low for this time of the year but there are funds that are under budget that will hopefully be able to transfer into different line items.

b. FY 2024 Private Special Education School Tuition Rate Increase

Mr. Bedard and Ms. Ryan updated the Committee on a recent recommendation from the Operational Services Division (OSD) of the Massachusetts government. The OSD has the statutory authority to set tuition and services prices for approved private special education programs across the Commonwealth. Normally tuition rates will go up at a change of about 3%, but the new rate has changed by a 14% increase. This would affect 12 different programs that we offer to students. If this increase goes forward it would be close to a \$249,000 increase. Letters have been sent to Senator

Moore, Representative Frost, the Town Manager and the Town Business Finance Manager informing them of this change. This change was sent with no notification or hearing/discussion.

d. Outdated Technology

Director of Instructional Technology, Mr. Jeff Berthiaume, asked the Committee to consider declaring as surplus, in accordance with Policy DN (*School Properties Disposal*), 150 Dell Chromebooks that are no longer supported for use in a school setting. While this equipment is in working order, it has a five-year lifespan (determined by Google), after which point it can no longer be managed. Our technology recycling vendor has determined that these devices have a value of \$0 per unit. Mr. Berthiaume requested permission to offer these devices to town departments prior to recycling. All personal and school department data has been stripped from the devices along with any components that could be used in the future. Mrs. Nietupski asked if these devices could be given to the students. Currently, students have devices that they take home with them from the school. MPS has the opportunity to give these devices to our community (town manager, police, town hall, library, community partners, senior center).

Ms. Bristol made a motion to declare the technology as surplus, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed (4-0).

e. Damaged and/or Outdated Fitness Room Equipment-

In accordance with Policy DN (*School Properties Disposal*), Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to consider declaring as surplus the fitness equipment currently located in the Jr./Sr. High School fitness room, including free weights, cardio equipment, stationary exercise machines, benches, squat racks, and associated equipment. This material will be replaced by new equipment as part of the fitness room renovation this winter. It is likely that some of the old equipment might still have some value. Upon the Committee's approval, Mr. Bedard intends to organize an opportunity for members of the public to bid on any of the old equipment they may want to purchase. A legal ad will run in the T&G and an email will be sent to Town employees. All proceeds from this sale will be deposited to the Town's accounts.

Mr. Lazzaro made a motion to declare the outdated fitness equipment as surplus, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed (4-0).

**Unfinished Business**

a. Report on the Raymond E. Shaw Building Project

The new Shaw School ribbon cutting is scheduled for Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 in the morning. New school tours will be part of the ribbon cutting.

**Phase 1 Status:**

- Playground area work continues;
- Card access readers being installed (exterior doors);

- Base coat installed on bus loop, top coat will be completed later this week;
- Interior punch list nearly complete.

### **Phase 2 Status:**

- Below grade daring system being installed;
- Comfort station rough plumbing and electrical installed;

### **New Business**

- a. Proposed Amendment to Policy JIC (*Student Discipline*) Reflecting Recent Updates to M.G.L. c.71 §37H¾ (b) Regarding Alternatives to Suspension (Second Reading) - *Vote to Accept Requested*

Mr. Lazzaro, Chair of the Policy Subcommittee, provided the Committee with an overview of a proposed amendment to Policy JIC regarding alternatives to student suspension. This amendment is required by a recently-passed update to M.G.L. c.71 §37H¾ (b), requiring administrators to consider alternatives to suspension. If approved by the Committee, it will be added to Policy JIC and Section XV of the Student Handbook.

Proposed new language, which mirrors the MGL update:

The principal or designee will consider ways to re-engage the student in the learning process and shall not suspend the student until alternative remedies have been employed and their use and results documented. Alternative remedies may include, but shall not be limited to: (i) mediation; (ii) conflict resolution; (iii) restorative justice; and (iv) collaborative problem solving. Principals or designees will document the use and results of alternative remedies. Principals or designees do not have to utilize alternative remedies in the following situations: 1) if the alternatives are unsuitable or counter-productive, and 2) in cases where the student's continued presence in school would pose a specific, documentable concern about the infliction of serious bodily injury or other serious harm upon another person while in school.

Mrs. Lagerholm made the motion to accept the change to Policy JIC, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed (4-0).

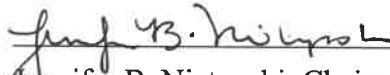
- b. Mrs. Lagerholm would like to discuss the time frames around recess and lunch at the K-6 grade levels.
- c. Mr. Lazzaro would like an update from Mr. Hall on his equity presentation.

### **Executive Session**

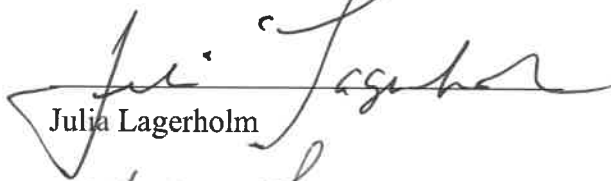
### **Adjourn**

At 8:39pm Mr. Lazzaro made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Nietupski. The motion passed (4-0).

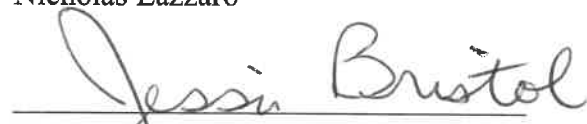
Approved:

  
Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson

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Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson

  
Julia Lagerholm

  
Nicholas Lazzaro

  
Jessica Bristol