

**Millbury Public Schools
School Committee**

Regular Session
Meeting Minutes

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

2023 MAR -9 AM 10: 23

MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: January 11, 2023

Location: Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School Library/Media Center

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

Administrators Present: Mr. Kofi Agyeman, Director of Facilities
Mr. Richard G. Bedard Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Mr. Jeffrey Berthiaume, Director of Instructional Technology
Ms. Lizz Boutiette, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Andy Hall, Principal, Elmwood Street School
Mr. Christopher Lowe, Principal, Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School
Mr. Patrick Mara, Assistant Principal, Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School
Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services
Mrs. Abigail Rigney, Assistant Principal, Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School
Mr. Andrew Tuccio, Principal, R.E. Shaw School

This meeting was recorded and broadcasted by Millbury's Public Access Channel.

Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and led the Committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to accept the regular session meeting minutes of December 7, 2022, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed (5-0).

Report of the Administration

a. Strengthening a Culture of Belonging for All Students

Elmwood Street Elementary School Principal Andy Hall provided the Committee with an overview of the District's efforts to promote a sense of belonging for all students, beginning with a review of

the district's vision that each student has the right to experience safe, engaging, intellectually rigorous, and equitable learning environments where they can grow, thrive academically, civically, socially and emotionally. Ms. Boutiette, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, spoke of CRPLA (Culturally Responsive Practices Leadership Academy) which includes a group of staff members from each school who meet and discuss equity throughout the district. Mrs. Rigney, Assistant Principal at the Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School, spoke of working to ensure that curriculum resources are inclusive, up to date, and diverse. She also mentioned the Millbury Connections group where students come together and have a safe place to talk about equity and justice issues and can work on positively impacting their school culture. Mr. Tuccio, Principal of R. E. Shaw School, spoke of the work at Shaw starting with updating library and classroom libraries, closely examining curriculum to ensure all people are represented appropriately, strengthening student identities and feelings of belonging, and the Jr./Sr. ADL group working with the 6th graders to promote tolerance and inclusivity. Mr. Hall then spoke of the work being done at Elmwood where there have been two staff meetings this year focusing on strengthening a sense of belonging in classrooms; teaching students about the traditions of Diwali and Kwanza; and monthly community meetings focused on students engaging in social and emotional learning lessons.

On March 17, there will be a district equity and belonging check-in with all staff and a "Night to Belong" will also be held for PK-12 students and families to showcase social emotional learning and belonging throughout the district. There will also be an audit at the end of the year by BlackPrint on the steps and measures that the group has put into place.

b. Assabet Valley Collaborative: Annual Report

Mr. Myers shared the annual report of the Assabet Valley Education Collaborative, which included FY22 highlights, challenges, and major priorities.

c. Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative: Annual Report

Mr. Myers shared the annual report of the Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative which includes FY22 highlights, challenges, and major priorities.

Finance and Operations

a. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2024 Programmatic and Capital Needs

Mr. Myers and Mr. Bedard presented an overview of the FY24 Proposed School Budget of \$25,530,211, which represents an increase of 4.26% over FY 2023. Major drivers of this increase include employee contractual increases, reductions in reliance on ESSER grants, utility increases, and a large increase in out-of-district private day program tuitions (14%)

Mr. Wilbur asked about moving the athletic trainer's salary into the operating budget rather than having some of it come from the revolving account in order to save for future renovations of athletic fields. Mr. Bedard reviewed details of the proposed budget, including specific increases/decreases in certain lines.

b. Update on Fitness Room Renovation

Mr. Bedard provided an update on the renovation of the Jr./Sr. High Schools Fitness room, which was substantially completed over the winter break. The room now has new flooring, an exterior window, and new paint. The drop ceiling has been removed and the exposed ductwork and ceiling have also been painted. The equipment will be delivered soon and should be operational come February.

Mr. Lazzaro asked if there might be ARPA funds available to update the boys' and girls' locker rooms as well. Because they are so heavily used, he would like to see some updates being done.

c. Proposed Increase to Pre-Kindergarten Tuition for FY2024

Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to consider increasing tuition rates for PK starting next school year. He proposed a 4% increase which is needed to help offset increasing expenses associated with the program. Mrs. Lagerholm disclosed that she has a financial interest in this matter since she has a child enrolled in the PK program. She consulted with the State Ethics Commission and is able to participate in the vote as long as she discloses her interest.

Mr. Wilbur motioned to accept the tuition increase, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed (5-0).

Unfinished Business

a. Report on the Raymond E. Shaw Building Project

Mr. Myers reviewed the current status of both phases of the Shaw School building project, noting that supply chain issues have delayed delivery of the synthetic turf material needed for the new multipurpose field (Phase II), which will slow the completion of the field and likely affect spring season play. The canopy cover for the front entrance has still not been delivered. At the next building committee meeting, there will be discussion on whether or not to open up the "S" turn in the bus loop in hopes to make the turn easier for the buses to enter and exit as well as pass each other.

New Business

a. Preliminary Consideration of School Choice for the 2023-2024 School Year

Mr. Myers presented current student enrollment figures to the Committee and asked them to consider potential school choice admission for next year in light of these figures. The Committee will hold a public forum on the matter in February. Currently, we only offer school choice to grades 9-12. Mr. Myers asked if the Committee would like to offer school choice in lower grades.

Mr. Lazzaro would like to discuss school start times at the next meeting with regard to the transportation contract that will be coming up.

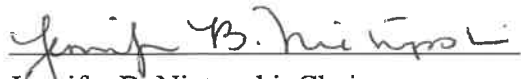
Executive Session

The Committee did not convene an executive session as part of this meeting.

Adjourn

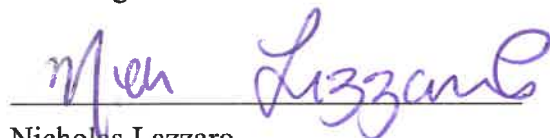
At 9:15 PM, Mr. Wilbur motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed (5-0).


Approved:


Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson

Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson

Julia Lagerholm


Nicholas Lazzaro


Jessica Bristol