

**Millbury Public Schools
School Committee**

**Regular Session
Meeting Minutes**

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2023 APR 27 AM 10:30
MILLBURY, MASS.

Date: March 22, 2023

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

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

Administrators Present: 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. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services

Contributing Guests: Ms. Aubrey Grondin, Class of 2024
Ms. Courtney Wilbur, Class of 2024
Ms. Julia Lagerholm

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

At 7:02PM, Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order 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 March 8, 2023, seconded by Ms. Bristol. The motion passed (4-0).

Report of the Administration

a. Report of the Student Council

Student Council by Representatives Aubrey Grondin and Courtney Wilbur provided the Committee with an overview of recent and upcoming events at the Jr./Sr. High School, including a recap of the winter sports season, the MASC Spring student council conference in Hyannis, the freshmen class field trip to the Boston aquarium, and the upcoming play, "Mama Mia."

b. Overview of Professional Development Programs Available to Staff

Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, provided the Committee with an overview of the District professional learning pathways and highlighted PD workshops and self directed learning opportunities. She spoke of the District's progress in adopting Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles. There will be a continued focus on diversity training from the ADL, training to support students' mental health from NAMI, and ongoing technology training from EdTech. Some of the workshops and online courses that were offered were culturally responsive teaching and the brain, UDL now, science of reading, overcoming dyslexia, unlearning, equity by design, and offered a few BVCC workshops on IEP writing, inclusive practices, and culturally diverse practices.

Finance and Operations

a. Discussion of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget

The Committee discussed the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 budget of \$25,443,212 (an increase of 4.26%, or \$1,040,491) which it voted to accept at its February 22 meetings. The Committee agreed to a request from the Town Manager, Mr. Sean Hendricks, to reduce the FY'24 request by \$100,000 to 3.85%. This decrease will require the continued use of ESSER funding in the operating budget for a third and final year.

Mr. Wilbur asked if ESSER funding will run out after this year. Mr. Bedard stated that we do have this funding until 2024 and DESE wants us to spend this money before September. He would like to see the leadership team meet together to see where they would be able to cut from the budget for next year.

Ms. Bristol asked about the \$45k for Eureka and how it is being spent. Ms. Boutiette said this is a one-time cost for supplemental materials. Mr. Lazzaro said he is worried about the increase for next year's budget considering negotiated increases with the MTA and the SEIU.

Mr. Wilbur motioned to accept a reduced FY24 school district budget of \$25,343,212, seconded by Ms. Bristol. The motion passed (4-0).

b. Adjustments to Chapter 70 Formula as part of the Student Opportunities Acts of 2019

Mr. Bedard stated that since the last meeting, the state has released preliminary Chapter 70 state aid funding amounts as part of the Governor's proposed budget. We owe a lot of this increase to the state's adoption of the Student Opportunity Act, which is revising the Foundation Budget over a six year period. Millbury's Chapter 70 increase is set at 8.53% or \$828,367. The town's Chapter 70 state aid totals \$8,852,759, or about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the school budget. The \$828,367 represents approximately 80% of our entire FY'24 proposed \$1,040,491 increase.

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 National Grid connected permanent electrical service to the school's underground power lines and disconnected interim service from above-ground poles last week. The fencing is nearly complete with the exception of the backstop, which is still being assembled. The turf carpet has been installed and subcontractors are now applying turf infill material.

New Business

a. Request to Declare as Surplus: Outdated Technology

In accordance with Policy DN (School Properties Disposal), Mr. Jeffrey Berthiaume, Director of Instructional Technology, asked the Committee to consider declaring as surplus one-hundred teacher PCs that were replaced last year with laptops.

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

b. Superintendents Mid-Cycle Review

In accordance with M.G.L. CH 71, §38 and Policy CBI (Evaluation of the Superintendent), the Committee conducted a mid-year performance review of the Superintendent of Schools. The Committee's Evaluation Lead, Mrs. Julia Lagerholm, joined the meeting to provide this update. Mr. Myers has made adequate progress in meeting his targeted goals: communication, visioning, and supervision and evaluation.

c. Amendment to the School Year 2023-2024 Calendar

The Committee adopted a revised calendar for School Year 2023-2024 so that the week of April vacation coincides with the week that includes Patriots' Day (April 15). The current calendar shows April break occurring the week prior.

Ms. Bristol made a motion to approve the amendment to the school year calendar. Seconded by Mr. Wilbur. The motion passed (4-0).

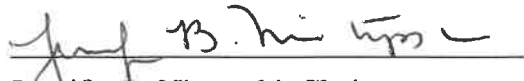
Executive Session


There was no executive session.

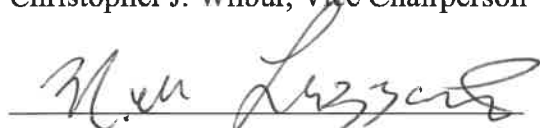
Adjourn

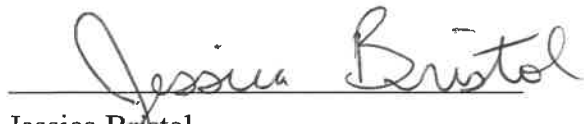
At 8:11PM, without further discussion, Mr. Wilbur motioned to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed (4-0)

Approved:


Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson


Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson


Nicholas Lazzaro


Jessica Bristol