

**Millbury Public Schools
School Committee**

**Regular Session
Meeting Minutes**

2023 JUN 15 AM 10:25

MILLBURY, MASS

Date: April 12, 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
Mr. Andy Hall, Principal, Elmwood Street Elementary School
Mr. Joshua MacCreery, Athletic Director

Contributing Guest: Ms. Allison Murray, Varsity Cheer Coach

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. Wilbur motioned to accept the regular session meeting minutes of March 22, 2023, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed (4-0).

Report of the Administration

a. Overview of Project Lead the Way and Supporting Grant Awards

Mr. Jeffrey Berthiaume, Director of Instructional Technology, provided the Committee with an overview of Project Lead the Way, an innovative project-based learning program that incorporates science, technology, engineering, and math. PLTW empowers students to develop and apply in-demand, transportable skills by exploring real-world challenges in an exciting and engaging way. PLTW is project based, where students work collaboratively to identify problems and develop unique solutions.

Finance and Operations

a. Renewal of Annual maintenance Contract for HVAC to Renaud HVAC of Sutton, MA

Mr. Bedard recommended that the Committee consider renewing the District's HVAC service contract with Renaud HVAC for an additional year. Effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, with a \$6.50 or 5.4% increase in the regular day and overtime hourly rate. The increase is due to an increase in the State's prevailing wage rate. The District will need to re-bid this contract by June 30, 2024.

Mr. Wilbur motioned to accept the renewal of annual maintenance contract for HVAC to Renaud HVAC, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed (4-0).

b. Acceptance of the Lowest Responsible Bid of \$389,000 from Stutman Contracting of Oxford, MA to renovate the Jr./Sr. High School Culinary Arts Room

Mr. Bedard requested that the Committee table this agenda item until the next meeting.

c. MassDOT award of two combination dynamic speed feedback and school zone speed limit sign assemblies for the Jr./Sr. High School

Mr. Bedard informed the Committee that the District was recently awarded two school zone speed limit assemblies for the Jr./Sr. High School. These assemblies are identical to the new solar powered units located on Elmwood Street. Mr. Agyeman, Director of Facilities, is working with DPW and the vendor who installed the signs on Elmwood Street to complete the installation, which will likely take place late this spring/early summer.

Mr. Wilbur motioned to accept the donation of two combination dynamic speed feedback and school zone speed limit signs from MassDOT, seconded by Ms. Bristol. The motion passed (4-0)

d. Proposed Additional Preschool Classroom

Mr. Andy Hall, Principal of the Elmwood Street Elementary School, informed the Committee of a plan to add a sixth preschool classroom next year to meet an increased demand for preschool programming. While the demand for preschool next year is higher than normal, our protected enrollment for kindergarten is unusually low. As a result, one of our seven kindergarten teachers will be reassigned to preschool for next year so that the new classroom will not require an additional teacher. Mr. Wilbur suggested that Elmwood keep the current Kindergarten teacher and add a new preschool teacher for the additional classroom since the new preschool teacher's salary would be covered by the increase in preschool students. Mr. Bedard, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Myers agreed to explore this option and report back to the Committee.

e. Acceptance of Donation of \$1,500 from Nicolopoulos Plumbing to Support the Elmwood Readathon

In accordance with policy KCD, Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to consider accepting a donation from Nicolopoulos Plumbing in the amount of \$1,500 to support Elmwood's readathon.

Mr. Lazzaro motioned to accept the donation from Nicolopoulos in the amount of \$1,500, seconded by Ms. Bristol. The motion passed (4-0).

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 the playground is nearly complete (only the climbing rope still needs to be installed). The turf field is installed and going through a punch list process. It is ready for the baseball team to practice and play on and the comfort station is not yet open.

New Business

a. MHS Cheerleading National Competition Trip to Hershey, Pennsylvania

Mr. MacCreery, Athletic Director, asked the Committee to consider approving the cheer team's out of state, overnight field trip to Harrisburg, PA for the purpose of participation in a National Cheer Competition. The field trip will take place from April 21 through April 24, 2023, and include 14 students and two coaches. Travel will be arranged through AA transportation. Accommodations will be at the Residence Inn Marriott Harrisburg North. The team will also visit nearby Hershey Park as part of the trip.

Ms. Bristol motioned to approve the cheerleading Trip to Hershey, Pennsylvania, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. The motion passed (4-0).

Mrs. Nietupski asked if Committee members had any new business they would like to propose for a future meeting. Ms. Bristol asked if a subcommittee had been put in place to explore the topic of school start times. Mr. Myers said a committee has not been formed yet but this is something that will be put together soon.

Ms. Bristol also asked if the surveys from strengthening the culture of belonging had been compiled yet. Ms. Boutiette said the leadership team has been doing a deep dive and compiling the information. They should have the information after their next meeting. She would also like an overview of the "Night to Belong" to be mentioned at the next meeting.

Executive Session

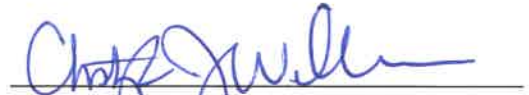
At 8:11PM, the Committee held a roll call vote to move into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the SEIU Local 888 because an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the Committee's bargaining position and the chair so declares to conduct contract negotiations with the Superintendent of Schools. Ms. Bristol - YES, Mr. Lazzaro - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES.

Adjourn


At 9:21PM, 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