

**Millbury Public Schools
School Committee**

Regular Session
Meeting Minutes

2023 JUN 15 AM 10:25

Date: May 10, 2023

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

Members Present: Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson
Ms. Jessica Bristol, Member
Ms. Jamie Jurgiel, 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. Andy Hall, Principal, Elmwood Street School
Mr. Christopher Lowe, Principal, Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School
Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services
Mr. Andrew Tuccio, Principal, R.E. Shaw School

Contributing Guests: Auburn Elks Lodge Members #2118
Mr. Stephen MacGregor, President of the Auburn Elks
Senator Michael Moore

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

At 7:05PM, Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order and led the Committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Nietupski noted an error in the minutes of April 26: the nomination process was turned over to her once the vote for chairperson was decided.

Ms. Bristol motioned to accept the regular session meeting minutes of April 26, 2023 with the correction noted, seconded by Ms. Jurgiel. The motion passed (3-0).

Finance and Operations

a. Presentation of \$5,000 donation from the Auburn Elks Lodge #2118

Mr. Myers asked the Committee to consider accepting a donation of \$5,000 from the Auburn Elks Lodge #2118 to be used to replace the large oval classroom rugs at Elmwood. Mr. Steven MacGregor, Exalted Ruler, along with other members of the Auburn Elks Lodge, presented the donation to the School Committee.

b. Overview of State Budget Status from Senator Michael Moore

Senator Michael Moore provided the School Committee with an overview of the Commonwealth's Fiscal Year 2024 budget development process and progress to date in funding Chapter 70. The Senator noted increases to Chapter 70, Circuit Breaker, and local aid. He also discussed progress made to continue universal free lunch, agreed to look into issues of competitive school transportation bids, and legislation addressing bus safety (exterior cameras).

c. Review of Approved Town Meeting Articles Affecting the School Department

Mr. Bedard reviewed the two warrant articles that were recently approved at Town Meeting:

The technology warrant article (\$90,000) will be used to replace old equipment and purchase needed technology for new courses. The school facility security warrant article (\$300,000) will be used to install a keyless entry system at both Elmwood and the Jr./Sr. High School (similar to the system at Shaw), replace twelve exterior doors at Elmwood and the Jr./Sr. High School that have been damaged by years of sand/salt exposure, install a two-step entry system at the Jr./Sr. High School, and replace certain security cameras.

d. Update on Current Revolving Account Funding Balances

Mr. Bedard provided an update on the current balances of the School District's twelve revolving accounts as of April 25, including summer school revolving, Windle Field, Dorothy Manor, Community Service, Non-Resident, Athletics, School Facilities, Lost Book, Community School, Student Parking, School Choice and School Lunch.

Report of the Administration

a. Night to Belong: overview of Activities, Presentations, and Feedback from the March 30th Event

Mr. Andy Hall, Principal of the Elmwood Street Elementary School, provided the Committee with an overview of the many activities and presentations that were available during the March 30th Night to Belong Event. Students from each school participated, along with teachers and administration. Parents and students were thrilled to have this event and are looking forward to making this an annual event.

b. Review of School Community Belonging Survey Results

Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, provided the Committee with an overview of the parent and staff survey results on the topic of belonging. She noted that staff and students generally report a sense of belonging in the schools, but also noted opportunities to improve. The community felt that the schools are generally equitable and inclusionary. Parents would like more information about DEIB and want to have more opportunities to be part of the meetings, etc.

On the topic of communication, Ms. Bristol asked if there is some way to ask the families what they are looking for other than things that we are already sending out. Ms. Boutiette agreed to look into this.

Mr. Myers mentioned the school choice applications that are due by May 15. Currently we have 20 open seats for the next school year and have more than 20 applications that were submitted.

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 area work continues. There is also some concern regarding drainage near the field. The committee is working with the builders and engineers to make sure that this problem is resolved. We are also working on widening the S curve to make passing easier. There were some issues last week with the parking at the field. Even though there were no parking signs up, people were still parking along the driveway.

New Business

a. **Report of the Policy Subcommittee: Overview of Policy Revision Process for the Use of Technology**

Mrs. Nietupski informed the School Committee on efforts to review and revise the District's Acceptable Use Policy, which describes the School Committee's expectations for student and staff use of the District's technology resources. This policy will be viewed again at the next meeting and then voted on.

b. **Annual Review and Appointment of School Attorney**

Mr. Myers asked the Committee to consider reappointing the legal firm of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey, and Lehane of Quincy, MA to represent the School Committee in matters of both employment and special education law. The District has been satisfied with MHT&L since first contracting with them in 2019.

Ms. Bristol made a motion to re-appoint the school attorney, seconded by Ms. Jurgiel. The motion passed (3-0).

Mr. Myers mentioned that we are forming the school start time committee which will include administrators, students, parents and teachers.

Executive Session

At 8:24pm the committee entered into Executive Session. Ms. Bristol- yes, Ms. Jurgiel- Yes, Mrs. Nietupski, Yes. All in favor- yes.

Adjourn

The Committee returned to regular session at 9:33PM and, without further discussion, Mrs. Bristol motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Jurgiel. The motion passed, 3-0.

Approved:


Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson



Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson



Nicholas Lazzaro



Jessica Bristol



Jamie Jurgiel