

## Millbury Public Schools School Committee

### Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Date: November 8, 2023

Location: Raymond E. Shaw School Media Center

Members Present: Mrs. Jennifer Nietupski, Chairperson  
Ms. Kristen Birch, Member  
Ms. Jessica Bristol, Member  
Mrs. Sarah Murray, Member  
Ms. Courtney Wilbur, Student Representative to the School Committee

Administrators Present: Mr. Richard G. Bedard Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations  
Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Mr. Corey Burke, Assistant Principal  
Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Erin Rosenkranz, Assistant Principal, Raymond E. Shaw School  
Mrs. Christine Warren, Director of Special Education

Contributing Guests: Mrs. MaryAnn DeMaria, Instructional Coach (Jr./Sr. High School)  
Mrs. Tamisha Thompson, Instructional Coach (R.E. Shaw)  
Mr. Christopher Mainhart, Instructional Coach, (Elmwood)  
Mrs. Cheryl Schonberg, Instructional Coach (Elmwood)

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

At 7:22PM, Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order and led the Committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Murray motioned to accept the Regular Session minutes of October 25, 2023, seconded by Ms. Birch. The motion passed (4-0).

Ms. Bristol motion to accept the minutes of the October 25, 2023 Special Session with the Student Advisory Council, seconded by Ms. Birch. The motion passed (4-0).

#### **Report of the Policy Subcommittee**

Mrs. Sarah Murray, Chair of the Policy Subcommittee, updated the full Committee on recent work to review the District's expectations for appropriate cell phone use. The Subcommittee reviewed and discussed current rules and expectations; recent research about cell phone use and the pros/cons of

banning cellphones in school; ways that the school can more consistently promote health relationships with phones; and cell phone policies from other districts.

### **Report of the Administration**

a. Introduction of new R.E. Shaw Elementary School Staff

Mrs. Erin Rosenkranz, Assistant Principal of R.E. Shaw School, introduced two new staff members; Riley Harrington, 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA/Social Studies teacher and Laura Linehan, Special Education teacher.

b. Assabet Valley Collaborative: First Quarter Report

Mr. Myers shared the first quarter report of the Assabet Valley Education Collaborative, which includes recent highlights, challenges, and major priorities.

c. Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative: First Quarter Report

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

d. MCAS and i-Ready: Overview of MCAS 2023 and i-Ready Growth Data

Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, provided an overview of the Spring 2023 MCAS results and the Instructional Coaches from each school reviewed the i-Ready growth data.

Ms. Boutiette mentioned that MCAS ELA and Math scores for grades 3-8 have exceeded, met or partially met achievement status higher than the rate of the state. Grade 10 ELA and math have dropped in comparison to the state average and due to the set back from COVID. ELA continues to maintain growth at a higher rate than the state; and math is showing signs of recovery for students who experienced covid learning during grades 5-8. This year, the state will be introducing a new assessment for innovative science in grades 5 and 8, which we will be piloting.

Ms. Boutiette also stated that the Jr./Sr. High school is the recipient of the 2023 AP School honor roll bronze medal. In order to be recognized; 40% or more of the graduating cohort must have taken at least one AP exam during high school; 25% must score 3 or higher on at least 1 AP exam; and 2% must have taken five or more AP exams during high school.

Mrs. MaryAnn DeMaria presented math and ELA scores from the Jr./Sr. High School and discussed intervention initiatives, including WIN (What I Need) classes designed to target specific skill deficits.

Mrs. Tamisha Thompson presented math data from Shaw. ST Math participation is up 37% from this time last year. There is still a continued focus on problem solving; WIN block includes support for students performing at all levels; and year 2 of grades 3 and 4 are using Universal Screener for Number Sense. In ELA, the entire school followed DESE early literacy protocols to gather more detailed data to help plan intentional, data driven interventions, data collected mirrors, all domains of reading, as well as encoding.

Mr. Mainhart spoke regarding math growth and Mrs. Cheryl Schonberg presented ELA data at Elmwood. All Title I tutors are trained and using Orton Gillingham with students in need of decoding and encoding; literacy screeners and progress monitoring; Grades 1 and 2 heavily focusing on writing this year. They have been having professional consultation conversations and coaching cycles to improve the data numbers.

### **Finance and Operations**

a. General update on Door Replacement Project and Windle Field Tennis/Pickleball Court Renovation

Mr. Bedard, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, informed the Committee that he anticipates having bid results from both projects to share at the School Committee meeting in December.

### **Unfinished Business**

a. Raymond E. Shaw School Construction Project: Timeline for Completion and Budget Status of Phase I (School Building Construction) and Phase II (Playing Fields Construction)

Mr. Myers updated the Committee on recent completions on the R.E. Shaw school, including punch list status is near completion; and the landscaping of the softball field is complete. The total construction budget is \$48,846,003.00 with a remaining contingency of \$337,385.00

b. Dorothy Manor Lease: Update on Potential New Lease Agreement

Mr. Bedard, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, updated the Committee about a tentative lease agreement with Up, Up and Play Academy. He anticipates having a lease agreement for a School Committee meeting in December.

c. Review of Superintendent's Plan to Achieve Goals for 2023-2024

The Committee reviewed the Superintendent's action plan for achieving the goals it approved at the October 11, 2023 meeting. The three goals the Committee agreed upon with the Superintendent were Communication, Visioning, and School Start Time.

### **New Business**

Ms. Bristol would like to revisit the condition of the roof at the MMJ/SHS and get a status update.

Mr. Bedard mentioned that during the January 10, 2024 School Committee meeting, the FY2025 budget will be presented.

Mrs. Nietupski stated that there is no pressing business that the School Committee needs to address before Thanksgiving and suggested canceling the Committee's meeting scheduled for November 22, 2023. Ms. Bristol motioned to cancel the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Murray. The motion passed (4-0).

### **Dates to Remember**

Mrs. Nietupski noted the following upcoming events in the district:

School Safety Forum with SRO Keith Gasco: Monday, November 13, at 6PM in the Shaw School


Special Town Meeting, November 14 AT 7PM

Tha Drama Department's Performance of "Whole Latte Love" (Friday, 11/17 at 7PM, Saturday 11/18 at 7PM, and Sunday 11/19 at 2PM).

## Adjourn


At 8:52 PM, Ms. Bristol motioned to adjourn the regular session, seconded by Ms. Birch. The motion passed (4-0).

Approved:

  
Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson

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Christopher Wilbur, Vice Chairperson

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Jessica Bristol

  
Sarah Murray

  
Kristen Birch