

Millbury Public Schools School Committee

Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Date: February 24, 2021

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

Administrators Mr. Richard Bedard, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Present: Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Mr. Corey Burke, Elmwood Street Elementary School Assistant Principal
Mr. Andy Hall, Elmwood Street Elementary School Principal
Mr. Christopher Lowe, Jr./Sr. High School Principal
Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services

Contributing Mrs. Angela Avramidis, R.N., Head Nurse
Guests: Mr. Ron Marlborough, Millbury Lion's Club Board of Directors

Location: This meeting was held virtually with Zoom

Time: 7:00pm

1. Public Hearing: Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed School Budget

Mrs. Nietupski opened the hearing at 7:01PM and asked Mr. Myers to provide a brief overview of the proposed FY'22 budget. Mrs. Nietupski invited anyone present at the meeting to speak. Hearing none, Mrs. Nietupski closed the public hearing at 7:04PM.

2. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. February 10, 2021 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wilbur made a motion to accept the regular session minutes of February 24, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES.
Motion approved (4-0).

3. Report of the Administration

a. Report of the Student Council

Student Council members Joey Bein and Will Moroz updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events at the high school, including the start of Fall 2 and plans for a COVID-safe spring carnival.

b. Mr. Myers reviewed recent COVID-positive cases in the District, noting the continuing decline in reported illnesses.

c. Abbot BinaxNOW Pooled COVID-19 Testing Program

Mrs. Avramidis presented an update on the pooled testing program, including the testing of football and band and the hiring of a substitute nurse to support the program.

d. Elmwood Street Elementary School Full Reopening Plan Update

Mr Hall and Mr. Burke provided an update on the plan to bring all students back to class full-time in March, citing recent preparations and parent survey data. Mr. Hall and Mr. Burke noted that students who transition from fully remote instruction to fully in-person instruction will need to be assigned to a different classroom since remote teachers will still be teaching remote students. Mr. Bedard described changes to our transportation plans in order to safely transport students to and from school. Mr. Myers noted that Wednesdays will be half days in order to accommodate cleaning protocols.

6. New Business

a. Lion's Club Request for use of Windle Field

This agenda item was taken out of order to accommodate Mr. Ron Marlborough, who requested that the Committee consider approving the Lion's Club's use of Windle Field for its annual carnival, which will be held from July 1, 2021 to July 4, 2021 with a rain date of July 5. Mr. Marlborough also requested that the Committee allow the Lion's Club access to the high school foyer on July 2 from 7:00-9:00AM to accommodate the Joseph Coggins Memorial Road Race. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to allow the Lion's Club to use Windle Field and the high school foyer as requested, seconded by Mrs. Bristol.

Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES.
Motion approved (4-0).

4. Finance and Operations

a. Mr. Bedard reviewed the proposed FY'22 budget of \$23,543,623 and asked the Committee to consider adopting it as presented. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to accept the proposed budget as presented, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm.

Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES.
Motion approved (4-0).

i. District-Wide Technology Warrant Article

Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to approve a warrant article in the amount of \$115,000 to fund the purchase of technology, software, infrastructure, and other technology equipment across the district or take any action thereon. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to accept the proposed warrant article as presented, seconded by Mrs. Bristol.

Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES.
Motion approved (4-0).

ii. District-Wide Type A School Bus Warrant Article

Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to approve a warrant article in the amount of \$70,000 to fund the purchase of a type-A school bus or take any action thereon. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to accept the proposed warrant article as presented, seconded by Mrs. Bristol.

Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES.

Motion approved (4-0).

5. Unfinished Business

a. Report on the Millbury Jr./Sr. High School Field Renovation Project

Mr. Bedard informed the Committee that the fields are ready for game use and we have secured temporary occupancy pending the completion of the press box lift. Only the softball scoreboard still needs to be installed.

b. Report on the Shaw School Building Project

Mr. Bedard noted that the general contractor bids received by the district are 9% below the project's estimated budget, which will allow the Building Committee to include all four alternates in the construction phase. Mr. Bedards also informed the Committee that the Building Committee unanimously accepted the lowest responsible bidder, Fontaine Brothers, Inc. General Contractors, to build the school. Mrs. Bristol made a motion to affirm the Building Committee's decision and award the project to Fontaine Brothers, Inc., seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm.

Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES.

Motion approved (4-0).

6. New Business

a. Mr. Myers updated the Committee on the district's plan to provide 1:1 devices to students in grades 4-

12. Students in 4-6 already have access to in-school 1:1 technology and 5th and 6th graders will be able to take their devices home in the fall. Students in grades 7-12 will receive a device for use at school and at home starting this spring.

b. Superintendent's 2020-2021 Annual Goals: Mid-Year Update

Mr. Myers provided the Committee with an overview of progress in meeting his goals this year, noting that the hybrid schedule has made some aspects of his Supervision and Evaluation goal difficult to achieve. He also stated that the Committee will receive a safety update at an upcoming meeting as part of the School Safety goal.

c. School Committee's 2020-2021 Annual Goals: Mid-Year Update

Mr. Myers provided the Committee with an overview of progress in meeting their goals this year, noting that the Committee will be selecting a book read focused on equity at a future meeting as part of its Educational Equity goal.

Mrs. Nietupski asked Committee members if there was any new business to discuss at the next meeting.

Mrs. Nietupski asked for an update on the MCAS testing schedule. The Committee also agreed that future meetings would be held in person in the media center.

7. Executive Session

Mrs. Nietupski asked for a motion to enter executive session in accordance with MGL Ch 30A §21(A)3, to discuss strategy with respect to negotiations with SEIU Local 888. Mr. Wilbur motioned to convene an executive session, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm.

Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES.
Motion approved (4-0). The Committee convened an executive session at 8:21PM.

8. Adjourn

The Committee returned to regular session at 9:15. A motion to adjourn the regular session was made by Mr. Wilbur, seconded by Mrs. Bristol.

Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES. Motion approved (5-0).

Approved:

Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson

Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson

Julia Lagerholm

Nicholas Lazzaro

Jessica Bristol