

**Millbury Public Schools
School Committee**

Regular Session
Meeting Minutes

Date: April 28, 2021

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

Administrators Mr. Richard Bedard, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Present: Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services
Mr. Christopher Lowe, Principal of Millbury Jr/Sr High School
Mrs. Abigail Rigney, Assistant Principal of Millbury Jr/Sr High School

Location: Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School

Time: 7:30pm

Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order at 7:33PM and led the Committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. School Committee Reorganization

Mr. Wilbur nominated Mrs. Nietupski to serve as Chairperson of the Committee for the coming year. Mrs. Nietupski's nomination was seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. No other nominations for this position were made. The Committee elected Mrs. Nietupski to serve as Chairperson for the coming year (5-0).

Mrs. Lagerholm nominated Mr. Wilbur to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for the coming year. Mr. Wilbur's nomination was seconded by Mrs. Nietupski. No other nominations for this position were made. The Committee elected Mr. Wilbur to serve as Vice-Chairperson for the coming year (5-0).

Mrs. Lagerholm nominated Mr. Lazzaro to serve as the Committee member authorized to sign payroll warrants for the coming year. Mr. Lazzaro's nomination was seconded by Mr. Wilbur. No other nominations for this position were made. The Committee elected Mr. Lazzaro to serve as the Committee member authorized to sign payroll warrants for the coming year (5-0).

Mrs. Lagerholm nominated Mr. Wilbur to serve as the alternate Committee member authorized to sign payroll warrants for the coming year. Mr. Wilbur's nomination was seconded by Mr.

Lazzaro. No other nominations for this position were made. The Committee elected Mr. Wilbur to serve as the alternate Committee member authorized to sign payroll warrants for the coming year (5-0).

Mrs. Lagerholm nominated Mr. Lazzaro to serve as the Committee member authorized to sign student activity warrants for the coming year. Mr. Lazzaro's nomination was seconded by Mr. Wilbur. No other nominations for this position were made. The Committee elected Mr. Lazzaro to serve as the Committee member authorized to sign payroll warrants for the coming year (5-0).

Mrs. Lagerholm nominated Mr. Wilbur to serve as the alternate Committee member authorized to sign student activity warrants for the coming year. Mr. Wilbur's nomination was seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. No other nominations for this position were made. The Committee elected Mr. Wilbur to serve as the alternate Committee member authorized to sign payroll warrants for the coming year (5-0).

2. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Mr. Wilbur made a motion to accept the regular session minutes of April 14, 2021, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion was approved (5-0).

3. Report of the Administration

- a. Ms. Ryan updated the Committee on the District's pooled testing program, noting that participation has declined recently due to people opting out. Students participating in extracurricular activities are still required to test.
- b. Ms. Ryan updated the Committee on services provided to students by her department, including an update on the number of out-of-district placements.
- c. Mr. Lowe provided the Committee with an update on the first three days of full enrollment at the Jr./Sr. High School. Mr. Lowe thanked the many people who made a full return possible. He stated that students have adhered to all safety expectations. Traffic for morning arrival and afternoon dismissal has been heavier than in the past, but routines to ensure safety are in place. Mr. Lowe noted that students are still prohibited from using their lockers because of distancing concerns, but this hasn't been an issue and students have been getting to class faster than in the past.
- d. Ms. Ryan provided an overview of the upcoming Tiered Focused Monitoring review, citing Special Education and Civil Rights as areas of focus. She will submit all review documents on time and anticipates no findings of significance.

4. Finance and Operations

- a. Mr. Bedard reviewed the FY 2020 audit findings from Melanson, an independent accounting firm contracted by the Town to conduct required annual financial audits. The first finding addressed incorrect data in line 2100 (Purchase of Land and Buildings). This data was provided to the School Department by the Town's Finance Director and was corrected on April 13, 2021. The second finding addressed the allocation methodology that the Finance Director used to determine

indirect costs. The allocation methodology conflicts with the current Indirect Cost Agreement between MPS and the Town. Mr. Bedard stated that he will resolve this with the Town's new Finance Director, Jennifer Barrett.

- b. Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to consider accepting a bid of \$24,603 from Elite Construction and Design for the renovation of Elmwood's front entrance vestibule. Elite, which was one of two bidders, submitted the lowest bid for this project. The project was recommended as a security measure by the School Resource Officer school administrators. Mr. Wilbur motioned to accept Elite's bid, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion was approved (5-0).
- c. Mr. Bedard requested that the Committee table their review of a proposed agreement between the Committee and SEIU Local 888 until the next meeting in order to allow for final edits.
- d. Mr. Bedard reviewed unanticipated savings that will allow the Committee to revise the proposed FY'22 budget to reflect a 2% increase over FY'21. Mr. Wilbur stated that the Committee will not have access to pandemic-related grant money for the FY'23 budget and anticipates a more significant increase in order to maintain programs and services. Mrs. Bristol motioned to approve the revised budget, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion was approved (5-0).

5. Unfinished Business

- a. Mr. Myers highlighted recent work completed on the Shaw School building project. Mr. Bedard noted that a construction camera will be installed to allow the public to view the project.
- b. Mr. Myers reviewed options for the Committee's book study. Committee members selected *Me and White Supremacy* and will follow that with *Promoting Racial Literacy in Schools*.

6. New Business

- a. Mr. Myers asked the Committee to table its review of the District's three-year learning plan until its next meeting

7. Executive Session

At 8:57, Mrs. Nietupski asked the Committee to convene an executive session to discuss the deployment of certain security devices and strategies at the Elmwood Street Elementary School as allowed by *M.G.L. c.20A, §21(a)4*. Mrs. Bristol - YES, Mr. Lazzaro - YES, Mrs. Lagerholm - YES, Mr. Wilbur - YES, Mrs. Nietupski - YES.

Approved:

Jennifer B. Nietupski, Chairperson

Christopher J. Wilbur, Vice Chairperson

Julia Lagerholm

Nicholas Lazzaro

Jessica Bristol