

Millbury Public Schools School Committee Meeting

Regular Session Minutes

Date: May 26, 2021

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

Administrators Mr. Richard Bedard, Jr. Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations
Present: Ms. Elizabeth Boutiette, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Mr. Christopher Lowe, Principal of MMJ/SHS
Mr. Pat Mara, Assistant Principal of MMJ/SHS
Mr. Gregory Myers, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kate Ryan, Director of Pupil Services

Location: Millbury Memorial Jr./Sr. High School

Time: 7:00PM

Mrs. Nietupski called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and led the Committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. The Committee considered accepting Regular Session minutes of May 12, 2021 -- Mrs. Lagerholm motioned to accept the minutes from May 12, 2021, seconded by Mr. Wilbur. Motion passed 4-0-1 (Mr. Lazzaro abstained).

2. Report of the Administration

- a. Revised COVID-19 Guidelines for Schools
Ms. Ryan provided an overview of recent changes to DESE's COVID-19 safety guidelines for public schools, stating that while students are no longer required to wear masks outdoors, masks must still be worn by students and adults indoors and on the bus. She also noted that a vaccine clinic for students 12+ will be held on June 4 from 1-3pm and on June 25 from 1-3pm. Ms. Ryan said that 559 pool tests have been conducted to date with 7 positive pools total.

Mrs. Nietupski asked the Committee for opinions regarding keeping Shaw and Elmwood closed to non-school groups since there is no shot available to students under 12 yet. The Committee agreed to further discuss this issue at a later date. She also asked the Committee if the remainder of meetings can be held without wearing facemasks. Committee members indicated that they were in favor.

- b. Presentation of the Jr./Sr. School Learning Plan
Mr. Lowe, Principal of the Jr./Sr. High School, presented the Millbury Jr./Sr. High School Learning Plan for the 2021-2022 school year, describing the major goals and action steps involved.
- c. Presentation of Student Handbooks for 2021-2022
The Committee reviewed the changes to the R.E. Shaw School Student Handbook, including changes to expectations for homework and work missed when families go away for vacation during the school year. No substantive changes have been made to the Elmwood Street Elementary School or the Jr./Sr. High School Student Handbooks for the 21-22 school year.

3. Finance and Operations

- a. Acceptance of Donation from Sudz City / Mr. David Delaney - *Vote Requested*
Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to consider accepting donated services from Sudz City, owned and operated by Mr. David Delaney. Over the course of the last eight months Sudz City has made in-kind donations for cleaning services during the pandemic with a total value of \$2,965. Mrs. Bristol motioned to accept the donated services, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed, 5-0.
- b. ESSER Grant Funding Update - *Vote Requested*
Mr. Bedard reviewed details of the ESSER grant awarded to Millbury Public Schools and discussed allowable expenditures. ESSER 2 totals \$601,494 of which \$10,000 must be directed toward supporting students' mental health. With these funds, the district would like to buy a new dishwasher for the High School and install an outdoor classroom. Mr. Wilbur motioned to accept these purchases, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed, 5-0.
- c. Review of SEIU Local 888 Agreement/Contract for 2022-2025 - *Vote Requested*
Mr. Bedard asked the Committee to table this item until its next meeting because final details were still being resolved.

4. Unfinished Business

- a. Report on the Shaw School Building Project
Mr. Myers updated the Committee on progress to date for the Shaw School building project, including an update regarding buried debris from the construction of the original Shaw School. This debris does not contain hazardous material, but removing it from the site will be a significant and unexpected expense. Thoughts of maybe moving the pile to another part of the site to cut down on costs but no decision has been made.
- b. Report of the Policy Subcommittee
Mr. Lazzaro updated the Committee on the recent review of policies [KF](#) (Policy Governing Use Of School Property), Policy [KF-R](#) (Schedule Of Fees For Residents/Organizations), Policy [KFC](#) (Field Use Policy), and Policy [KFC-R](#) - Field Use Policy - Fees And Available Fields.

5. New Business

a. Annual Review and Appointment of School Attorney - *Vote Requested*

Mr. Myers asked the Committee to consider reappointing Murphy, Hess, Toomey & Lehane as its legal counsel for the 2021-2022 school year, noting that they have been very responsive and helpful. Mr. Wilbur motioned to accept MHT&L as the district's legal counsel for next year, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed 5-0.

b. Review of Diploma Presentation Requests - *Vote Requested*

The Committee considered diploma presentation requests from four district employees.

Mr. Wilbur motioned to approve all four requests, seconded by Mr. Lazzaro. The motion passed, 5-0.

6. Adjourn

Mr. Wilbur motioned to adjourn at 8:15 PM, seconded by Mrs. Lagerholm. The motion passed, 5-0.