

Millbury Jr./Sr. High School
School Council Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2018
5:30 - 6:30 pm

Call to Order:

- 5:30pm

Public Comment:

- No one for comment

March 9th Wellness Camp Day:

- Student surveys showed that their experiences were mostly positive.
- Student school council members shared their experiences. Some positive and some helpful critiques such as having more explanation of how activities tie into wellness.

March 14th National walkout day:

- Student led activity.
- Allowed to go to the gym or choice to go to the auditorium.
- Student school council members shared their experiences: students were given the choice to participate or opt out and go to the gym.
- In the gym students read a bio about all 17 Florida victims and they passed out sticky notes around the gym for people to write a reflection statement
- Some students were frustrated as to why they could not walk outside but we understood that it was about safety according to Mrs. Bennett
- Great support from police and fire departments.
- During the round table meeting with students, the focus was determined to be about honoring victims and supporting kindness towards each other.
- The intent was not a protest and was voluntary. Allowing students to participate how they wanted whether they went into the gym or the auditorium and was one way of teaching them about civic duty.

Video on Twitter through the Millbury-Sutton Chronicle

FY19 Budget update:

- School requested 5.2% for FY19 budget to cover increase to contractual increases such as special education costs that includes 2% for our budget; and a request for 3 new teaching positions.
- Town manager will not support a 5.2% increase indicating needs in other areas of the town such as infrastructure for roads. Potential for layoffs to fix the gap between the school request and the town budget.
- Town Hall meeting tomorrow will be the negotiations and looking at a small gap that we are hoping to gain. Budget update at our next school council meeting.
- Community Council member said that the school is reported to be 71% of the town budget and 29% is other. In 2009, when the recession first started it was reported to be 60/40% then 63/37%. Council member is puzzled as to how the budget has jumped

(71/29%) for the school and gone down so much for other in the town budget. Council member added that they cannot understand the huge gap over in such a small amount of time. Question posed: There are several mandates are going to the school and what are the mandates to the town? Why should the school be penalized for mandates and should be taken into account?

District Learning Plan (formerly known as the Strategic Learning Plan):

- Student and professional learning and support plan that is still in works, with departmental meetings having rescheduled due to weather. Next leadership meeting next Tuesday.
- Hoping to build focus with Shaw school and common language in areas such as student engagement and what our professional development will look like.
- Different approaches and techniques to learning. The district learning plan is scheduled to be presented to school committee June 13th. A lot of work to move this item forward. Will be seeking input school council after we gather information through the upcoming meetings with departments and leadership team(s) to help develop the SLP.

Student surveys:

- Scheduled for Friday the 16th by Panorama but may be put off. This is scheduled for CDS time, so should not interrupt learning time.
- School staff added some social/emotional learning questions have been added.
- Posed question to school council members: How can we use Ted talks or videos with processing sessions after to help students grow on SEL?
- Freshman in action was a great influence through activity blocks has really helped shape how we move forward and build relationships.
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey another resource to gather information as to student needs.

Old Business:

- NEASC steering committee just met and the roll out has been put on hold formerly; however, some teachers have talked to their students about the new rubric. The intent is to still have something piloted regarding the social/emotional rubric. Some of the language we already know has to be revamped.
- Student suggested that we have Mr. Cuha make a video and have the CDS teachers show the video. Made by students for the students. Then follow up with a survey for feedback.

New Business:

- No new business

Next School Council Meeting:

- Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 5:30pm

Adjournment:

- 6:30 pm