

Plymouth School Committee

April 2, 2007

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, April 2, 2007, at Plymouth Community Intermediate School at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were Linda McAlduff, John White, Margie Burgess, Jane Freedman, Patricia Adelman, Nicole Manfredi, and Dennis Begley.

Present from Administration were Barry Haskell, Dr. Carol Young, and Robert Gurek.

Mrs. McAlduff opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A Moment of Silence was offered for Mary Anne Callebaut who passed away. She had served twelve years as a Science Teacher at Plymouth North High School and had retired in 1997.

1.0 To receive comments from the general public.

Gerri Duncombe, a Cold Spring Elementary School parent, PTO Member, and member of the Cold Spring Playground Committee, commented on the Memorials policy, requesting that case-by-case consideration be given regarding all memorials. Mrs. McAlduff requested a letter be sent to Superintendent Haskell presenting information regarding the concept of the Cold Spring playground project and the fundraising plans. Mr. Haskell requested a proposal regarding concept and fundraising, noting that approval is needed prior to fundraising.

Vanessa Doyle, mother and Co-chair of the Cold Spring Playground Committee, came forward to address fundraising issues as they pertain to the proposed Memorials policy and argued against placing a blanket policy on all memorials, including plaques and naming rights.

2.0 To receive comments from student representatives.

Devon Legare from Plymouth South High School noted that the Junior Prom date is set for May 4th, and the End-of-the-Year Ceremony on May 3rd. Kaitlin Pisano noted that she and thirteen students attended the MASC Spring Conference on Leadership. Kaitlin presented the Excellence Book, documenting and outlining all programs the students worked on throughout the year. The book will be analyzed, evaluated, and judged in competition. Kaitlin stated that April 11th is the last SEMASC conference at which time she will step down as secretary.

- 3.0 To receive comments from the Education Association of Plymouth & Carver.

Karen Mitchell, President of EAPC, spoke on the great opportunities at hand on Beacon Hill for the MTA to have conversations with legislators about Chapter 70 funding. She proposed a meeting with the Committee to formulate a plan of action.

- 4.0 Communications

- 4.1 Correspondence

Mr. White read a memo from Warren Valente to Mr. Haskell, announcing medal winners in the SkillsUSA South District Competition. Each medal winner was acknowledged and congratulated.

Mr. White read a second memo from Mr. Valente to Mr. Haskell announcing results of Plymouth South High School's participation in the DECA State Conference. He acknowledged and congratulated students who received awards, noting two students who were interviewed by Chronicle for their unique marketing approach. The program will be aired in May.

Mr. White read a letter from Mrs. Connors, Principal at Plymouth South High School, to Mr. Haskell and the Committee, announcing the addition of a PSHS sign now in view above the main entrance and thanking the metal fabrication students for constructing it.

- 5.0 To receive recommendation(s) relative to the School Year 2007-2008 Student Handbook and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell noted that only minor changes were made in the handbook, as there was a major revision done last year. Mr. Haskell recommended its approval. Mr. Sherman, who co-chaired the committee with Michelle Roy, was present and clarified the nature of the changes. A discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. Begley to accept the 2007-2008 Student Handbook as amended, seconded by Mrs. Burgess. Vote was unanimous.

- 6.0 To receive a report on a Memorials policy and take the necessary action(s) on memorials in place and on the policy.

Mr. Haskell discussed progress on the Memorials policy, noting a revised draft in the packet based on discussions from the last meeting. Administration believes that principals should make recommendations to the Superintendent, and the Superintendent should make

recommendations to the School Committee with final decisions to be made by the School Committee for consistency.

Mr. Haskell noted three outstanding projects to be discussed, The Memorial Bench at Plymouth North High School for which he recommended the exclusion of additional names; musical instrument cases donated in memory of the mother of PCIS Housemaster, Jake Collins; and a Hedge Elementary School playground in memory of Doris Pedrini.

Motion by Mrs. Freedman to approve the placement of the Memorial Bench at Plymouth North High School as a grandfathered memorial. Amended motion by Mrs. Freedman to approve the placement of the Plymouth North Memorial Bench with the stipulation that no new names be added to the bench. A discussion followed regarding the location of the placement of the bench, formal dedication ceremony for the bench, and the addition of names to the bench. Mr. Siever spoke in defense and respect of the Memorial Bench, as principal, parent, and citizen of Plymouth. Another discussion followed regarding the addition of names to the Memorial Bench. Vote to approve the grandfathering of the Plymouth North Memorial Bench with only the names as they appear, was six in favor. Mrs. Freedman abstains.

Motion by Mrs. Freedman to approve the grandfathering of instruments and instrument cases at PCIS, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Mr. Kane, Principal of Hedge Elementary School, accompanied by teachers from Hedge School, spoke in favor of grandfathering the Doris Pedrini playground project at Hedge School. Committee members and Administration expressed concerns that procedures were not adhered to in the development of this project. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the project's approval, fundraising, and the Administration's request that the project be placed on hold, until a Memorials policy was put in place.

Motion by Mrs. Adelman to approve the grandfathering of the Doris Pedrini Memorial Playground, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. There was further discussion of procedural issues, as well as community support for the playground. Vote to approve was six in favor. Mrs. Freedman abstained.

Meeting into recess at 8:32 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 8:46 p.m.

Mrs. McAlduff reintroduced Item 6.0 on the agenda, to discuss the Memorials policy as presented. It was the consensus of the Committee to vote on the policy as a whole, rather than item-by-item. Detailed discussion of particular items contained in the policy followed. Mr. Haskell

commented on procedures and criteria for appropriate policy-making.

Motion by Mr. White to change Item 2.3 to “Items donated in memoriam are those items that support student activities and learning and may contain appropriate tags, plaques, or markings, seconded by Mrs. Adelmann. After discussion, Motion to change Item 2.3... was withdrawn and seconded.

Detailed discussion of item 3.3 followed, as well as Item 2.0. Mr. Gurek clarified the statutory law as applied to scholarships indicating that the Committee has no authority over scholarships and grants. A detailed discussion of Item 3.2 followed.

Mrs. McAlduff stated the changes to the Memorials policy, as presented, which are:

Item 3.3 is deleted;

Item 2.3 is changed to read, “Items donated in memoriam are those items that support student activities and learning, and may contain appropriate tags, plaques, and markings. All such recommendations go through the Superintendent, to the School Committee, for final approval.”

Motion by Mrs. Manfredi to approve the Memorials policy with changes as stated, seconded by Mrs. Adelmann. Mrs. Freedman objected to the vote and proposed the policy be rewritten by Mr. Maestas, based on notes from tonight’s discussion and presented for approval at the next meeting. Vote to approve the Memorials policy was six in favor. Mrs. Freedman opposed. Motion carried.

In a list of memorials presently in existence in the school district, Mrs. Adelmann noted a misstatement by South Elementary School regarding the circumstances involved in the death of a student who had attended the school.

7.0 To receive a report on Job Fairs and Recruitment.

Dr. Young presented a report on Job Fairs and Recruitment highlighting two recruitment brochures, a listing of eight Job Fairs, and a listing of current job openings. She also noted that the Alternative School is on track.

8.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Haskell noted that they continue to work on the Statements of Interest.

9.0 To discuss the FY08 budget and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell indicated that Mr. Gurek met with precinct chairs to answer questions about the Medicaid and Agricultural Transportation Articles in preparation for Town Meeting. Mr. Haskell also reported that a list of Capital Outlay recommendations, which was received from the Town Manager, will go before the Board of Selectmen and then presented at the next School Committee meeting.

10.0 Reports

10.1 Calendar of Events

None.

10.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members.

Mrs. Manfredi noted her attendance at a School Health Advisory Committee meeting on March 14th and discussed issues and events regarding the Wellness Policy. Mrs. Burgess noted that the Capital Outlay Project is now complete.

10.3 To receive a report from the Plymouth Permanent School Building Committee.

Mrs. Burgess reported that the Permanent School Building Committee met and voted to move the Plymouth South Middle School remediation project forward.

10.4 To receive a report from the Plymouth Building Committee.

Nothing to report.

10.5 To receive a report from the Communications Subcommittee.

Nothing new to report.

10.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

Mr. Haskell discussed the tentative School Committee Meeting schedule for next year, noting a tentative date for a School Committee Retreat. He requested notification of availability from the Committee. Further, Mr. Haskell noted that the Grade 7-12 "Communities That Care Student Survey" will run from mid-April through May.

10.7 Personnel

Dr. Young announced two appointments, one leave of absence, and three resignations, one with regrets.

11.0 To receive minutes from the following meetings and take the necessary action(s).

11.1 March 5, 2007

Motion by Mrs. Manfredi to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

11.2 March 5, 2007, Executive Session

Motion by Mrs. Burgess to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

11.3 March 19, 2007

Motion by Mrs. Manfredi to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to approve the minutes was unanimous. Mrs. Adelman abstains.

11.4 March 19, 2007, Executive Session 1

Motion by Mr. White to approve the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Burgess. Vote to approve the minutes was unanimous. Mrs. Adelman abstains.

11.5 March 19, 2007, Executive Session 2

Motion by Mrs. Burgess to approve the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve the minutes was unanimous. Mrs. Adelman abstains.

12.0 To receive recommendation(s) for the Disposal of Obsolete Equipment from the following school(s) and take the necessary action(s).

12.1 Cold Spring Elementary School

12.2 Plymouth South Middle School

Mr. Gurek indicated that there are some non-computer items, approximately sixty computer work stations and other computer related items from Cold Spring Elementary School and Plymouth South Middle School that are either broken or obsolete and in need of replacement.

Motion by Mrs. Manfredi to approve Disposal of Obsolete Equipment from Cold Spring Elementary School and Plymouth South Middle School, seconded by Mrs. Burgess. Vote to approve the Disposal of Obsolete Equipment was unanimous.

13.0 To receive a schedule of bills and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Gurek recommended FY07 A/P Warrant #41 dated April 5, 2007, in the amount of \$804,525.66. Motion by Mr. White to approve Warrant #41 in the amount stated, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve payment of Warrant #41 was unanimous.

Motion by Mrs. Freedman to adjourn, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to adjourn was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary