

Plymouth School Committee

August 27, 2007

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, August 27, 2007, at Plymouth South Middle School at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were Linda McAlduff, John White, Margie Burgess, Nicole Manfredi, Dennis Begley, Robert Bielen, and Debra Betz.

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

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

- 1.0 To introduce Kathy Tosolini, United Arts Director.

Dr. Young formally introduced Kathy Tosolini, the newly appointed United Arts Director. She has been a resident of Plymouth for eleven years and formerly worked for the Boston Public Schools. A reception for Ms. Tosolini was held prior to the meeting.

- 2.0 To receive comments from the general public.

None.

- 3.0 To receive comments from student representatives.

None present.

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

Michael Riordan, the new president of the EAPC, introduced himself. He was born and raised in Plymouth and attended Plymouth Public Schools. Mr. Riordan discussed his hopes to foster better communication and to create an improved relationship with the Plymouth School Committee. He provided the School Committee with an EAPC Contact Reference Sheet, including email addresses for all officers, as well as his own cell phone number. He noted his desire to better address the educational needs of the children of Plymouth.

- 5.0 Communications

- 5.1 Correspondence

Mr. White read a letter from Mr. Gurek to Mr. and Mrs. Sean Regan, acknowledging and thanking them for their \$300 donation to Mt. Pleasant Preschool.

5.2 Retirements

Dr. Young noted three retirements, all accepted with regrets: Steven Corvini, math teacher at Plymouth North for 34+ years, George Gavoni, Custodian at South Elementary for 12+ years, and Alfred Costa, Jr., Head Custodian at Plymouth South Middle for 11+ years. Mr. White thanked them for their years of service to the children of Plymouth.

6.0 To receive the Plymouth North High School NEASC Mission Statement and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell introduced Mary Mortensen, Principal, and members of the Mission Statement Committee for the NEASC Self-Study who presented the Plymouth North High School NEASC Mission Statement and Expectations for Student Learning for approval. Ms. Sampson gave a history of the Mission Statement and read it aloud. Changes to the statement were noted and discussed. Plymouth School Committee participation at their committee meetings was welcomed. Mr. Haskell requested his office be contacted as to dates and times of future meetings.

Motion by Mr. White to approve the Plymouth North High School NEASC Mission Statement, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve the Plymouth North High School NEASC Mission Statement was unanimous.

7.0 To receive a Teachers' Contract CD.

Mr. Maestas presented the Teachers' Contract CD, noting that 1,000 copies of the electronic document were ready for distribution to all teachers by principals. There were questions and comments from the Committee, and a discussion followed regarding web availability of teachers' contracts. Dr. Young will obtain additional information on school personnel policy, as well as discuss this matter with Mr. Riordan, President of EAPC, in order to preserve good morale with them.

8.0 To receive a report on online payment of student fees.

Mr. Gurek reported that the School Department is working with the Plymouth Town Treasurer and UniBank officials to offer parents of Plymouth Public School students the option of a new, secure and convenient method to pay student fees online by electronic check or credit card, noting a fee for use of the credit card method. He anticipates that the online payment option for Athletic Fees and School Bus Fees will be available by September 15, 2007. Mr. Gurek noted that online payment

for School Lunch Fees require manual entry of information and will be available at a later date. He will keep the School Committee advised on progress and implementation dates.

9.0 To receive recommendation(s) relative to the School Year 2007-2008 Home Education Program and take the necessary action(s).

- 9.1 #004-08
- 9.2 #005-08
- 9.3 #015-08
- 9.4 #024-08
- 9.5 #025-08
- 9.6 #026-08
- 9.7 #027-08
- 9.8 #028-08
- 9.9 #029-08
- 9.10 #030-08
- 9.11 #038-08
- 9.12 #039-08
- 9.13 #040-08

Mr. Haskell presented the Home Education Program recommendations for the 2007-2008 School Year, stating they meet all of the State requirements minimally, and Mr. Sherman has reviewed each one and has met with each family to be sure each met the requirements. Mr. Haskell recommended their approval.

Mr. Sherman answered several questions from the committee regarding the Home Education Program, discussing reasons why people prefer home schooling, and noting that online access has increased the number of home-educated students. He also commented on participation in sports and co-curricular activities, as well as evaluations, progress reports, parent-teacher competency and requirements for students returning to public schools.

Motion by Mr. White to approve all cases as presented, seconded by Mrs. Betz. Vote to approve Home Education recommendations for the 2007-2008 School Year was unanimous.

10.0 To receive Plymouth School Committee Goals and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell presented the School Committee Goals. A detailed review and discussion followed. Revisions were made to Goal 1 - Student Performance - Items 1.0, 2.2 and 2.4; to Goal 3 - Community Relations - Items 1.0 and 2.7; and to Goal 4 - School Safety and Climate - Items 2.1-2.6.

Motion by Mr. White to approve Plymouth School Committee Goals, as revised, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve Plymouth School Committee Goals, as revised, was unanimous.

11.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Haskell presented a memorandum from Katherine P. Craven, Executive Director of MSBA, regarding a Facilities and Maintenance Assessment Update.

12.0 To discuss the FY09 budget and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell noted that they are beginning work on the FY09 budget.

13.0 Reports.

13.1 Calendar of Events

Mrs. Burgess noted that Capital Outlay would meet on September 12, 2007.

13.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members.

Mrs. Burgess reported on the progress of the Charter Commission. She suggested that School Committee members should be informed of, and voice opposition to, a proposed Charter that could profoundly affect School Committee matters. A lengthy discussion of the School Committee's involvement in the Charter Commission followed. Mrs. Burgess will provide the Committee with copies of two proposed Charters prior to the September 10th School Committee meeting for discussion at said meeting.

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

Nothing to report.

13.4 To receive a report from the Plymouth Building Committee.

Mrs. McAlduff reported on progress at Plymouth Community Intermediate School.

13.5 To receive a report from the Communications Subcommittee.

Mr. Begley indicated he would be reporting on the number of hits to the School Committee website.

13.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

Mr. Haskell noted a MASC/MASS Joint Conference on November 16th.

Mr. Haskell noted that lead and arsenic had been removed from the grounds of Nathaniel Morton and Indian Brook Elementary Schools.

Mr. Haskell noted receipt of a memorandum from the Town of Middleborough regarding the impact of a casino on neighboring towns.

13.7 Personnel

Dr. Young announced 56 appointments: 46 certificated, 9 classified, and 1 coach. She also noted 3 leaves of absence, and 20 resignations (2 with regrets).

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

14.1 July 16, 2007

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary