

Plymouth School Committee

February 26, 2007

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, February 26, 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, Gary Maestas, Dr. Carol Young and Robert Gurek.

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

1.0 To receive comments from the general public.

None.

2.0 To receive comments from student representatives.

None present.

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

Karen Mitchell, President of the EAPC, relayed a message from members that they are ready, willing and able to discuss their contract, and they look forward to a fruitful meeting this Wednesday. Mrs. McAlduff responded in behalf of the Committee, indicating their eagerness for a fruitful meeting on Wednesday as well. She then read a detailed statement to the EAPC in behalf of the committee, noting that the EAPC's recent utilization of the media to promote contract demands resulted in the committee's decision to set the record straight. The statement set out a timeline of the negotiation process and highlighted issues of contract negotiations and disputes since October 2005, including the EAPC's filing for mediation through the State Labor Relations Board and the committee's objection to such mediation due to the delays and limits on face-to-face discussion it imposed. Mrs. McAlduff then reiterated the committee's contract offers to the EAPC, and discussed the rationale behind their decision against meeting certain demands by the EAPC. The discussion concluded with the anticipation of a more productive meeting on Wednesday.

4.0 Communications

4.1 Correspondence

Mr. White read a memo from Warren Valente, Director of the PSHS Technical Studies Program, regarding 52 marketing students who participated in the DECA Conference in Falmouth. He noted the 21 award winners, as well as the Gold Level status earned by the Plymouth South School Store as a school-based enterprise. Mr. White congratulated the students.

Mr. White read a second memo from Mr. Valente regarding the Tech Expo.

5.0 To receive recommendation(s) relative to the following policies and take the necessary actions (s).

5.1 School Committee Communications 5.2

Mr. Maestas presented the policy and thanked the committee for their work. He noted changes to the policy and opened the matter to discussion.

A discussion of the opening statement followed, resulting in a motion by Mrs. Adelman to add as an introductory sentence, "The Plymouth School Committee encourages free and full communication between individual members of the committee and individual staff members or any group or association representing staff members." Mrs. Adelman also added that the word "official" be underlined throughout the policy. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Burgess. Vote to accept the addition of the introductory sentence and to underline the word "official" throughout the policy was unanimous.

Motion by Mr. White to accept the policy with the amended changes, seconded by Mrs. Burgess. Vote to accept the policy with amended changes was unanimous.

5.2 Memorials New

Mr. Maestas presented the new policy on Memorials for discussion. Mrs. McAlduff indicated that, due to the complex nature of this policy, this item would be on next week's agenda, suggesting a time limit on tonight's discussion.

Motion by Mrs. Freedman to limit discussion to fifteen minutes with the opportunity for a statement by each member, seconded by Mr. White. On a vote, Mr. Begley opposed, the rest were in favor.

A discussion of how to proceed on this policy followed, with clarification made by Mr. Maestas as to memorials, dedications, and naming rights, indicating that this policy is for memorials only.

Mrs. Freedman offered a perspective on the potential number of memorial requests for consideration. Mr. Maestas discussed the committee's research into other school districts' memorial policies and the wide range of policies they reviewed. Mr. Haskell presented questions for consideration regarding who would be allowed to have a memorial, i.e., students who die from destructive or self-destructive decisions and whether schools are an appropriate place for memorials. He indicated that this would be a recurring agenda item until the committee has some direction for the policy and the policy subcommittee. Mr. Maestas requested input from the committee via email.

6.0 To discuss redistricting and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell presented and recommended the redistricting plan that includes the addition of the Manomet and Long Pond Road areas as the two new choice neighborhood zones, with Rocky Hill Road and Marion Way now absorbed into North High School at the 9th grade level, noting consideration given by way of Out-of-District Requests for particular students and their families affected by the redistricting. A map and spreadsheet were part of his presentation. Mr. Haskell will make final contacts regarding busing. Mr. Haskell noted that the flux in student demographics due to frequent redistricting has been considered and will be explained in the Statement of Interest to the SBA, in accordance with their requirements regarding high school space, further discussing Urbanomics criteria and data obtained to attain equalization.

Motion by Mrs. Freedman to approve the redistricting plan as presented, seconded by Mrs. Burgess. It is noted that the committee received no public comment on redistricting. Vote to accept the redistricting plan as proposed was unanimous.

7.0 To receive a report on a Chapter 61B (Recreation) property and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell referenced a map of a portion of the Waverly Oaks property, consisting of 31.2 acres that directly abuts the South High/South Middle School complex, noting that the land is currently under purchase and sale agreement for 6.2 million for the development of 160 single-family, non-age restricted housing units. He further explained that as recreation land, the Town of Plymouth has First Right of Refusal and thereby 120 days as of Feb. 7, 2007, to exercise that right. He discussed the great potential for the land for additional buildings, schools or resources in the future and further discussed the benefits of possessing this land. He further recommended that the committee petition the Board of Selectmen to purchase this property, which may also require a special Town Meeting. A brief discussion followed.

Motion by Mrs. Burgess to recommended that the Town of Plymouth purchase the land as stated, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. A brief discussion of other aspects of the land use and development followed, as well as an explanation by Mr. Haskell of the process of recommendation to the Town. A vote to recommend that the Town of Plymouth purchase the land as stated was unanimous.

8.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Haskell stated that they are continuing work on the Statement of Interest to address the new demographics request by the SBA regarding the flux in student demographics due to redistricting. He indicated a July 31, 2007, deadline and stated that the Committee would have time to review the Statement of Interest prior to submittal.

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

Mr. Haskell indicated that Capital Outlay was included in the FY08 budget item. Mr. Gurek presented the FY08 COEC Requests and Projections, listed in priority and districtwide priority. He explained the breakdown of the items. Mr. Montrond, Mr. Haskell, Mrs. Burgess and Mr. Gurek responded to questions by the committee on specific items and the priority and ranking of items. Also noted by Mrs. Adelman was The Department of Revenue's recommendation that a townwide Capital Outlay Committee, separate from the townwide Building Committee, be established.

Motion by Mrs. Freedman to approve the FY08 Capital Outlay Requests, as presented, seconded by Mr. White. A vote to approve the FY08 Capital Outlay, as presented, was unanimous.

10.0 Reports

10.1 Calendar of Events

Mrs. Burgess noted an open house at the Planetarium on March 2nd and 3rd for a lunar eclipse viewing in addition to other programs, which included Plymouth North High's annual Early Childhood Fair on March 3rd, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Manomet Elementary School's Second Annual International Potluck Dinner; the combined high schools' Music and Drama Club presentation of "Fiddler on the Roof" on March 9th, 11th, 16th & 18th, and the Third Annual "You've Gotta Have Arts" at the Radisson Hotel on March 5th, 6th and 7th.

10.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members.

None.

10.3 To receive a report from the Plymouth Permanent School Building

Nothing to report.

10.4 To receive a report from the Plymouth Building Committee.

Mrs. Adelman reported that the committee will meet next on March 8th at 7:00 p.m., when the project manager of the HVAC systems will give a tour of the progress.

10.5 To receive a report from the Communications Subcommittee.

Mr. Begley reported that the final details for the School Committee website are being discussed and that he is awaiting information from the Committee on who will support it.

10.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

Mr. Haskell discussed his attendance at Commissioner David Driscoll's presentation on Education Reform. He also discussed removal of the "position status" column from personnel reporting sheets as the current workforce is stable. Mrs. Adelman noted that at Commissioner Driscoll's conference, a League of Women Voters' event, Mr. Haskell was commended by the League for his attendance at 110 meetings for the override.

10.7 Personnel

Dr. Young announced six classified appointments, and one leave of absence.

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

Mr. Gurek recommended FY07 A/P Warrant #36 dated March 1, 2007, in the amount of \$1,245,638.70.

Motion by Mr. White to approve Warrant #36, in the amount stated, seconded by Mrs. Burgess. Vote to approve payment of Warrant #36 was unanimous.

12.0 To discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining and unaffiliated contracts pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 23B (3) and take the necessary action(s).

Motion by Mrs. Burgess to go into Executive Session, seconded by Mrs. Freedman. On a roll call vote to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategies with respect to collective bargaining and unaffiliated contracts pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 23B (3), all voting in favor, approved unanimously.

Into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

Out of Executive Session at 10:20 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Freedman, seconded by John White, to adjourn. Approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary