

School Committee

February 5, 2007

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, February 5, 2007, at Plymouth Community Intermediate School at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were John White, Margie Burgess, Nicole Manfredi, and Dennis Begley.

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

Mr. White opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 1.0 To receive comments from the general public.

Mr. Charles Checkley of Cedarville came to the table to dispel rumors about him and the HALT organization and to express his concerns regarding redistricting.

- 2.0 To receive comments from student representatives.

None present.

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

Frank Smith, Vice President, introduced Corey Joyce, the recently named Secondary Vice President of the EAPC. He spoke about professionalism, commitment and opportunity with regard to teachers. A large contingent of teachers was present at the meeting, each holding a sign reading, "Good Schools Need to Keep Good Teachers," all of whom were excused by Mr. Joyce and exited at the conclusion of his presentation.

- 4.0 Communications

- 4.1 Correspondence

Mrs. Burgess noted a congratulatory letter from Millie Davis of the National Council of Teachers of English regarding Plymouth North and Plymouth South High Schools' ranking of Excellence in Student Literary Magazines.

Mrs. Burgess noted a letter from the Community Preservation Committee announcing a public forum to be held on February 8th to review the application process for recommending projects to Town Meeting for CPC funding and to discuss community priorities. The

Committee meets regularly at Plymouth Community Intermediate School on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.

Mrs. Burgess expressed congratulations to Director of Athletics and Varsity football coach, Bill Burkhead, who was awarded Coach of the Year 2006 by Eastern Massachusetts Association of Interscholastic Football Officials for his successful program and his commitment to excellence.

Mrs. Burgess noted Massachusetts Institute of Technology's recognition of Michael Bastoni from the Technology Education Department. Mr. Bastoni's name was submitted by a former student as a teacher especially influential in student development. He was recognized for his fine character and special qualities, which had an important impact on his students.

Mrs. Burgess noted the addition of two new music teachers enabling expansion of music electives, adding that donation of acoustic guitars and keyboards would be helpful.

Lastly, Mrs. Burgess noted a lecture on Education Reform by Dr. David Driscoll, retiring Education Commissioner, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, on Thursday, February 15th, at 7:00 p.m., at the PCIS Little Theater.

4.2 Retirements

Dr. Young noted three retirements: Anne Stempleski, Principal at South Middle School, Leslie Morris, Library Media Specialist at Plymouth North High School, and David Clemence-Schreiner, Special Needs Teacher at Plymouth North High School. Mr. White thanked these teachers for their years of dedication to education in Plymouth and wished them well in their retirement.

5.0 To receive a report on Energy Cost Avoidance.

Mr. Haskell introduced Jay Tobin and Guy Roy, Energy Managers, who discussed Energy Conservation and Cost Avoidance. Mr. Tobin presented utility use and cost avoidance data for the first half of FY07, with breakdowns of electricity, oil, propane and natural gas, noting that total Cost Avoidance as a result of energy conservation was \$519,219.78. Environmental impact was also noted, as well as the ways and means of implementing and attaining Energy Conservation.

6.0 To discuss redistricting.

Mr. Haskell presented a redistricting scenario illustrating the possibility of developing new choice neighborhoods that would allow students in the

South High School district to choose to go to North High School. The proposed new choice neighborhoods are the Manomet area and the area immediately surrounding South High School. The two current choice neighborhood zones, Rocky Hill Rd. and Marion Way, would no longer be choice; they would be absorbed into North High School at the 9th grade level. Mr. Haskell believes that this scenario would not incur any apparent increase in busing costs. A lengthy discussion followed. Mr. Haskell noted plans to discuss this matter again at the next meeting and to determine whether the committee is ready to take action. He emphasized that a decision of “action” or “no action” should be made between now and the first meeting of March so that students may make a choice for next year. Mr. Haskell and the committee encouraged input from the public on redistricting plans.

7.0 To receive recommendation(s) relative to the following policy and take the necessary action(s).

7.1 School Committee Communications 5.2

Mr. Maestas noted that this policy was reviewed at the December 4, 2006, meeting and that the Policy Subcommittee made changes based on recommendations from that meeting. He outlined the changes to the policy, as well as language changes. Mrs. Burgess noted the absence of Mrs. Adelman who has specific comments regarding this matter and recommended tabling it to next meeting. The matter was tabled to the next meeting.

8.0 To receive recommendations relative to the following job description(s) and take the necessary action(s).

8.1 Technology Systems Engineer

Dr. Young outlined recommended changes to the job description for the Technology Systems Engineer.

Motion by Mr. Begley to accept the Technology Systems Engineer job description as written, seconded by Mrs. Burgess. Vote to accept the Technology Systems Engineer job description was unanimous.

8.2 Computer Hardware/Software Technician

Dr. Young outlined recommended changes to the job description for the Computer Hardware/Software Technician.

Motion by Mr. Begley to accept the Computer Hardware/Software Technician job description as written, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to accept the Computer Hardware/Software Technician job description was unanimous.

8.3 Behavior Specialist

Dr. Young introduced this new job description replacing the current position of Consultant Services to Special Needs Department incorporating these services into the school district, thereby providing better on-staff services and cost effectiveness for the school district. She outlined the qualifications, job goals and performance responsibilities contained within the job description. A discussion followed. Mr. Sherman noted a dramatic increase in students in need of these services between preschool and elementary and noted having better control of quality of services by replacing consultants with a certified Behavior Specialist. He noted the possibility of adding a second behavior specialist in the future, if the need arises.

Motion by Mrs. Burgess to accept the Behavior Specialist job description as written, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to accept the Behavior Specialist job description was unanimous.

9.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Haskell noted the presentation made by Katherine Craven at the Massachusetts Municipal Association's mid-January conference showing the evolution of the SBA's regulatory process and indicating that the MSBA Process Flow Chart is comprised of 31-steps. For the viewers' information, Mr. White noted that the flow chart describes 5 phases and 31 steps. He noted that submittal of our Statement of Interest is only the first step in the 31-step process. Mr. Haskell indicated that the Statement of Interest would be presented in mid-March. He also noted an increase in projects from 60 to 133. A brief discussion followed regarding Plymouth North and South's standings in terms of need.

10.0 To receive a recommendation relative to the 2007-2008 School Calendar and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell presented the proposed School Calendar for the 2007-2008 school year and discussed notations made with regard to MCAS testing and graduation dates.

Motion by Mrs. Burgess to approve the 2007-2008 School Calendar as proposed, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve was unanimous.

11.0 To receive a recommendation for seniors' last day and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell announced the recommendation by high school principals that seniors' last day be May 25th, which meets the requirements of student learning time under DOE regulations.

Motion by Mrs. Manfredi to approve May 25, 2007, as seniors' last day, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve was unanimous.

12.0 To receive recommendation(s) relative to the School Year 2006-2007 Home Education Program and take the necessary action(s).

12.1 Case #100-07

Mr. Haskell presented the latest Home-School recommendation plan for the 2006-2007 School Year stating that Mr. Sherman had reviewed it and that it meets the State's minimum requirements. Mr. Haskell recommended approval.

Motion by Mrs. Burgess to approve the case as presented, seconded by Mr. Begley. A brief discussion regarding the Committee's receipt of copies of the Home-School plans followed. Vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

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

Mr. Haskell announced the Finance Committee's postponement of his proposed meeting with them to discuss the FY08 budget due to the Finance Committee's need to review revenue projections and other areas of the overall budget with Town Manager and Finance Director as there are concerns over increased taxes and the impact on the taxpayer. The new date for discussion of the FY08 budget has not been set.

14.0 Reports

14.1 Calendar of Events

No changes were noted.

14.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members.

Mrs. Manfredi discussed her attendance at the School Health Advisory Committee meeting on January 24th and noted two projects they are working on: 1) Implementing a Staff Wellness campaign; and 2) Implementing a Whole District Wellness Policy.

Mrs. Manfredi spoke of her attendance at a Dropout Crisis Conference noting the State's 5-year goal to cut the state dropout rate in half by implementing successful dropout recovery programs and alternative educational offerings. Mrs. Manfredi will pull together information from the conference for the committee's review.

Mrs. Burgess reminded the committee that on Friday the Capital

Outlay Committee will be meeting. Mr. Gurek is expected to attend.

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

Mrs. Burgess noted an Executive Committee Meeting this Thursday at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

- 14.4 To receive a report from the Plymouth Building Committee.

Mr. White noted that they met last week and announced that preliminary work would begin this week. Mr. Gurek noted that a memo was being sent to parents now with a copy to the Committee indicating contractors are now preparing to begin work. Mr. White noted that the Building Committee anticipates a joint meeting in March with the Town Selectmen and the Planning Board regarding the Town Facility Master Plan.

- 14.5 To receive a report from the Communications Subcommittee.

Mr. Begley indicated they are finalizing the new School Committee website, which they hope to have up, and running in the next few weeks.

- 14.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

Mr. Haskell again noted the lecture by Commissioner David Driscoll sponsored by the League of Women Voters, on Thursday, February 15th, at 7:00 p.m. at PCIS to discuss Education Reform.

Mr. Haskell noted that the Educational Quality Assurance (EQA) Team will be visiting from March 19th to the 22nd and that they have asked to meet specifically with the School Committee on Wednesday, March 21st, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The meeting will be at PCIS in the Little Theater.

Mr. Haskell discussed his attendance today at a State House presentation for Commonwealth Compass Schools. Patty Connors and Warren Valente accepted the award earned by Plymouth South High School's Technical Studies Program for its performance in MCAS. Mr. Haskell and Mr. White offered their congratulations for this achievement.

- 14.7 Personnel

Dr. Young announced six appointments: one certificated staff, three classified staff and two advisors. There are three leaves of absence and three resignations.

15.0 To receive the minutes of the following meetings and take the necessary action(s)

15.1 January 22, 2007

Motion by Mrs. Burgess to approve minutes of January 22, 2007, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to accept the minutes was unanimous. Mr. White abstained.

15.2 January 22, 2007, Executive Session

Motion by Mrs. Manfredi to approve minutes of January 22, 2007, Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to accept the minutes was unanimous. Mr. White abstained.

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

16.1 Plymouth Community Intermediate School.

Mr. Gurek indicated that there are approximately 42 various items of educational technology to be disposed of from Plymouth Community Intermediate School.

Motion by Mrs. Burgess to approve disposal of various items of educational technology from PCIS, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote was unanimous.

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

Mr. Gurek recommended FY07 A/P Warrant #33 dated February 8, 2007, in the amount of \$911,758.40.

Motion by Mr. Begley to approve Warrant #33 as recommended, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve payment of Warrant #33 was unanimous.

Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Burgess, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to adjourn was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary