

## Plymouth School Committee

January 22, 2007

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, January 22, 2007, at Plymouth Community Intermediate School at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.0 To receive comments from the general public.

None.

2.0 To receive comments from student representatives.

Devon Legare from Plymouth South High School noted current activities including seniors' preparation for Saturday's winter formal, a pop-top drive from soda cans for charity, junior class working on prom, and seniors working on dinner dance plans.

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

Karen Mitchell, President, and Frank Smith, Vice President, of the EAPC came to the table. Ms. Mitchell reported on civil responsibility projects going on in the middle and elementary schools. She highlighted several charitable and community service projects being done by the students and teachers at Plymouth Community Intermediate School and Plymouth South Middle School, including providing Thanksgiving dinners, Toys for Tots, a recycling program, gifts for soldiers, monitoring and testing water quality in the Eel River for the Eel River Watershed Association, and the Howell Program. She also applauded a beautification program at South Elementary School and rebuilding of the playground at Hedge Elementary School.

4.0 Communications

4.1 Correspondence

Mrs. Burgess noted a letter from David Driscoll, Commissioner of Education, to Mr. Haskell and Mr. Siever regarding selection of Plymouth North High School for participation in the Youth Risk and

Youth Health Survey, a statewide survey in trends in adolescent health risks.

She noted a second letter addressed to the Plymouth School Committee from Patricia Carroll at WPLM regarding outreach to the Plymouth community. Mr. Haskell indicated that the Communications Subcommittee would explore this.

Mrs. Freedman noted a letter to Patty Connors, principal of Plymouth South High School, from David Driscoll, Commissioner of Education, applauding their being pre-selected as a 2007 Commonwealth Compass School based on student performance and improvement to above the state average on the MCAS in 2006. The Compass School program is a component of the Commonwealth School & District Accountability System designed to recognize, celebrate and support significant and continuous improvement in public schools across Massachusetts. As a Compass School, Plymouth South High School Technical Studies will be awarded a \$2,500 grant to help sustain improvement efforts. She noted an invitation to the celebration and recognition program at the State House in Boston on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### 4.2 Retirements

Dr. Young noted two retirements: Richard Clark, art teacher at PCIS, and Mary Bellinger, reading teacher from PSHS. Mrs. Freedman thanked these two teachers, on behalf of the committee, for their combined 55 years of dedication to education in Plymouth, 31 and 24 years respectively. She wished them well in their retirement.

#### 5.0 To receive a report on the Department of Education Coordinated Program Review Corrective Action Plan.

Mr. Haskell discussed the process of the Plymouth Public Schools Coordinated Program Review in 2006, the Department of Education's (DOE) accountability system to oversee school district compliance. He noted that he has received the DOE's response to the Action Plan and that it is included in the packet.

Dr. Young gave a detailed presentation of the Coordinated Program Review first identifying the chairpersons, all of whom were invited to the table. She then discussed the components of the review, as well as student records reviews, interviews, and the DOE's Timeline for Corrective Actions. Dr. Young presented highlights of the Corrective Action Program, which included comments from DOE, giving examples from each of the Program Areas and noting that some standards overlapped with more than one Program Area. In closing, she presented an Overall Summary,

noting that nine standards were commended. Mrs. McAlduff thanked and congratulated the chairpersons for their hard work.

A lengthy discussion of professional development for the English Language Learners (ELL) Program, including the language and cultural training components for staff, followed. Also discussed were issues of school space and student-teacher ratios, as well as translation, grants and time constraints for professional development. Dr. Young introduced Trina Camarao, who replaced Paula Ryan as Title 1 Director, and will be working with the DOE.

6.0 To receive a report on redistricting.

Mr. Haskell presented statistics indicating the need to redistrict 100 students, increasing PNHS's enrollment and decreasing PSHS's. He discussed long-term and short-term solutions to overcrowding. He noted that the short-term goal of redistricting is to balance the high school population relative to the capacity of each high school building. He offered two "choice areas" as Marion Way and Rocky Hill Road; however, he emphasized that no solution was perfect due to transportation issues and the town's large area of undeveloped land.

Jim Wohlander presented an overview of redistricting on an overhead map of Plymouth, indicating major roadways, schools, clusters of student-populated area, and areas of undeveloped land. He presented four detailed iterations of redistricting by zone, each with a supporting documentation spreadsheet. Mr. Haskell noted that major roadways for transportation are a big consideration and emphasized that redistricting is a short-term solution, three to four years only. Mrs. Freedman suggested focusing on the criteria tonight and requested all members be emailed the presentation for further review. A discussion of transportation issues followed, as well as the measures of criteria. Added to the list of criteria were Extended Travel Time and Contiguous Nature of Neighborhoods. Mr. Wohlander will forward the presentation via email to all members. Mrs. McAlduff thanked Mr. Wohlander for his work on redistricting.

Meeting into recess at 9:15 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:25 p.m.

7.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Haskell noted that he is still working with HMFH Architects, the principals, and Mr. Montrond on the two Statements of Interest, indicating that the committee will have the opportunity to review them prior to submitting to the MSBA.

8.0 To discuss the FY08 budget and take the necessary actions(s).

Mr. Haskell indicated that last Tuesday the Board of Selectmen accepted the approved School Committee Budget, and they thanked the School Committee for working within the guidelines.

## 9.0 Reports

### 9.1 Calendar of Events

Mrs. Burgess noted that the Capital Outlay Committee was rescheduled to February 9<sup>th</sup>.

### 9.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members.

Mrs. Burgess commented on a town meeting she attended regarding plans for the Obery Street project.

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

Nothing to report.

### 9.4 To receive a report from the Plymouth Building Committee.

Mrs. Adelman noted that the committee met January 4<sup>th</sup> and they are awaiting submission of an annual report to the Town Manager and Selectman, and that once issued, will be shared with the Committee.

Mrs. Freedman suggested that the Communications Subcommittee give attention to information such as was provided by Karen Mitchell of the EAPC and find ways to make it more public.

Mrs. Burgess requested that individual schools be attentive to noting scheduled meetings on the universal school calendar.

### 9.5 To receive a report from the Communications Subcommittee.

Mrs. Manfredi indicated that they hope to meet this week.

### 9.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

Mr. Haskell noted the matter of the Commonwealth Compass School previously discussed in item 4.1.

### 9.7 Personnel

Dr. Young announced four appointments: one certificated staff,

one classified staff, and two advisors. There are five leaves of absence and four resignations. Dr. Young noted that Karen Backman, Mathematics Coordinator, will not be replaced but will do some work from home and return after 8 weeks.

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

10.1 January 8, 2007

Motion by Mrs. Adelman, seconded by Mr. Begley, to approve minutes of January 8, 2007. Vote to accept the minutes was unanimous. Mrs. Freedman abstains.

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

Mr. Haskell recommended A/P Warrant #31 dated January 25, 2007, in the amount of \$855,177.75 and A/P Warrant #29A dated January 11, 2007, in the amount of \$1,545.

Motion by Mrs. Burgess, seconded by Mrs. Freedman, to approve Warrants #31 & 29A as recommended. Vote to approve payment of Warrants #31 & 29A was unanimous.

12.0 To discuss strategies with respect to negotiations pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 23B (3) and take the necessary actions.

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

Into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m.

Out of Executive Session at 10:44 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Begley, seconded by Mrs. Freedman, to adjourn. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary