

Plymouth School Committee

January 8, 2007

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, January 8, 2007, at Plymouth Community Intermediate School at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. McAlduff offered a moment of silence in memory of Jeanette McKay, home economics teacher at Plymouth Carver Intermediate School. Mrs. McAlduff noted that she, herself, had been a student of Mrs. McKay at Nathaniel Morton School.

1.0 To receive comments from the general public.

None.

2.0 To receive comments from student representatives.

None present.

Greener pastures

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

Frank Smith, Vice President of the EAPC, apologized on behalf of the EAPC for leaving the December 18th meeting prior to hearing the report on MCAS. He referred to a passage on the opening page of the teachers' contract, noting that the morale of the teachers is very low and that more and more teachers are leaving for "greener pastures." Mrs. McAlduff thanked the EAPC for their attendance at the meetings and acknowledged the committee's appreciation of the teachers and their desire to work with the EAPC to reach a fair and equitable contract.

4.0 Communications

4.1 Correspondence

Mr. White referred to a memo from Mr. Valente to Mr. Haskell regarding the Fall State Leadership Conference. He noted five students who received medals at the conference. He congratulated the students on their effort and hard work.

Mr. White read a letter from David Sinclair, Principal at Cold Spring Elementary School, to Shelly Cruckshank at Wal-Mart, thanking the Wal-Mart Foundation for their \$1,000 matching grant for the playground renovation and the new e-machine computer.

Lastly, Mr. White read a letter from Mr. Gurek to Harriett Nathanson, thanking her for her donation of a piano to West Elementary School in support of the Plymouth Public School's music program.

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

- 5.1 Case #046-07
- 5.2 Case #047-07
- 5.3 Case #096-07
- 5.4 Case #097-07
- 5.5 Case #098-07
- 5.6 Case #099-07

Mr. Haskell presented these latest home schooling recommendations for the 2006-2007 School Year, indicating that Mr. Sherman had reviewed them, and that each met all of the State requirements. Mr. Haskell recommended their approval.

Motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mrs. Adelman, to approve all cases. Vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

6.0 To receive a follow-up report on Camp Bournedale.

Mr. Haskell invited Dr. Sarke and the Plymouth Community Intermediate School staff to the table to discuss schedule changes and the progress of the Camp Bournedale program. Dr. Sarke introduced Mr. Phillips and Tara Womer, President of the PCIS Home School Association (HSA), noting that the HSA was instrumental in continuing Camp Bournedale due to their monumental involvement in the financial planning. He credited the two school nurses for reviewing medical information and acknowledged the input of school administration and teachers as well. He noted that earlier November scheduling proved more successful in achieving student bonding and gave a strong prognosis for the future of the program. Mr. Phillips added that November was the month originally intended for the program and noted the benefit of students attending at a slightly younger age. For the viewers' benefit, Dr. Sarke discussed the purpose and mission of Camp Bournedale. Mrs. Adelman thanked the HSA, Dr. Sarke and the teachers for their hard work in keeping the program alive.

- 7.0 To receive *Guidelines for Admission Policies of Vocational Technical Secondary Schools and Comprehensive Secondary Schools* and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell distributed a highlighted version of the new *Admissions Policy/Guidelines for Student Acceptance into the Technical Studies Program* provided by Mr. Valente, indicating changes as reworked by the administrative and teaching staff and approved by the Department of Education. He invited Mr. Valente to the table to discuss these changes, noting it as an action item and recommending its approval. Mr. Valente highlighted the changes, most of which were made to encompass Plymouth North High School. As requested, he explained that previous language changes required by the DOE were made to be less arbitrary and subjective and more data driven.

Motion by Mrs. Burgess, seconded by Mr. White, to approve *Admissions Policy/Guidelines for Student Acceptance into the Technical Studies Program*, as presented by Mr. Valente. Vote to approve was unanimous.

- 8.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Haskell reported that he is meeting regularly with the high school principals and Mr. Montrond to look at separate priorities for the two Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Statements of Interest, as well as review the facility master plan and demographics. He explained that the MSBA has required that the original Statement of Interest which was submitted be divided into two school-specific and site-specific Statements of Interest. These are to be submitted simultaneously as a comprehensive project, a high school space solution, neither being independent of the other. Mr. Haskell indicated that the committee would have the opportunity to review the Statements of Interest prior to their submittal.

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

Mr. Haskell indicated they are now working with the Town to move the budget forward to the Advisory & Finance Committee.

- 10.0 Reports

- 10.1 Calendar of Events

Mrs. Adelman noted that the Building Committee is not meeting on the 11th, as they already met last Thursday.

- 10.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members

None.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Mrs. Adelman noted that the committee met last Thursday to approve the bids, noting that they went with Enterprise for the HVAC system, including all alternates. The project manager is Ted Gentry Associates. They are still awaiting a Clerk of the Works.

- 10.5 To receive a report from the Communications Subcommittee.

Mrs. Manfredi indicated that they will meet next week.

- 10.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

Mr. Haskell discussed the Secondary School Reading Grant, noting that his staff is currently working on necessary data to apply. He noted that Plymouth Community Intermediate School is last on the list of eligible schools and that, in order to receive a grant, many other communities will need to decide not to apply.

- 10.7 Personnel

Dr. Young announced eight appointments: one certificated staff, six classified staff, and one coach. There are one leave of absence and four resignations, one with regrets. Mr. White recognized the resignation of Mr. Michael Purdy, Instructional Technology Specialist who served the Plymouth community for twenty-one years and is credited for developing the School Department website. Mrs. Adelman noted that Mr. Purdy also served as a fine English teacher and added regrets at his resignation.

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

- 11.1 December 18, 2006

Motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Begley, to approve minutes of December 18, 2006, with change to budget amount on page 2 from \$7,599,573 to \$71,599,573. Vote to accept the minutes was unanimous. Mrs. Burgess was absent at the time of the vote.

- 11.2 December 18, 2006, Executive Session

Motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Begley, to approve minutes

of December 18, 2006, Executive Session. Vote to approve the minutes was unanimous. Mrs. Burgess was absent at the time of the vote.

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

12.1 West Elementary

Mr. Gurek indicated that there are 29 items from West Elementary school that are either broken or obsolete and in need of replacement.

Motion by Mrs. Adelman, seconded by Mr. Begley, to approve Disposal of Obsolete Equipment from West Elementary School. Vote to approve the Disposal of Obsolete Equipment was unanimous. Mrs. Burgess was absent at the time of the vote.

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

Mr. Gurek recommended A/P Warrant #29 dated January 11, 2007, in the amount of \$1,057,819.22.

Motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mrs. Adelman, to approve Warrant #29 in the amount stated. Vote to approve payment of Warrant #29 was unanimous. Mrs. Burgess was absent at the time of the vote.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary