

Plymouth School Committee

March 5, 2007

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, March 5, 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.

Kaitlin Pisano from Plymouth South High School reported on spring activities. She noted that student council is planning an awards night to coincide with the main meeting, where parents will have an opportunity to observe a student council meeting followed by the presentation of awards. A boat party is scheduled for an end-of-the-year celebration. Next Tuesday is the National Honor Society induction. She reported that next Wednesday, fourteen student council members would attend the three-day MASC Spring Conference in Hyannis. The spring conference for SEMASC will be on April 11th at Canton High School.

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

Karen Mitchell, President of EAPC, noted the participation of Plymouth students in Youth Arts Month held this week at the Radisson, as well as several activities involved in Read Across America Day. She reported that the teachers at Hedge Elementary School donated \$500 to their playground fund in memory of the deceased mother of long-time teacher, Mary Ellen Borges.

4.0 Communications

4.1 Retirements

Dr. Young announced the retirement of Robert Coakley, Housemaster at Plymouth Community Intermediate School, and former Vice Principal at Plymouth South High School. In behalf of the Committee, Mrs. Freedman thanked Mr. Coakley for his thirty-two years of contribution to excellence in education in Plymouth, noting also the many lives he touched in his position as the director of the evening high school. She wished him well in his retirement.

5.0 To receive information regarding the increase in the cost of school lunch.

Mr. Haskell introduced Patrick VanCott, Director of Food Services. Mr. VanCott discussed this year's changes in the school lunch program including an increase of healthy offerings presented in food court settings at the secondary levels and the addition of salads, sandwiches, breads and meats at the elementary level. The Wellness Policy confirmation includes the addition of reduced fat items and baked items. To offset the cost of the higher-priced wellness offerings, Mr. VanCott recommended a 10-cent increase in the school lunch and a 5-cent increase in milk, noting that the last increase in the school lunch was in 2003. Mr. Gurek discussed and clarified the revenue increase. Mr. VanCott noted his participation in the South Shore Collaborative regarding the lunch price survey and purchasing power. He noted that zero dollars are taken from the School Department operating budget for Food Services, and that the proposed increases cover all overhead for school lunch operations. Subsidized school lunch reimbursement and the pre-paid ticket system were also discussed.

Motion by Mrs. Burgess to accept the school lunch increases as presented, seconded by Mrs. Adelman. Vote to accept was unanimous.

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

6.1 Memorials New

Mr. Maestas presented the new Memorials policy for discussion. Mrs. McAlduff read the introductory statement and highlighted the items of the proposed policy. Concerns were raised regarding the potential for quantity and randomness of memorials. A lengthy discussion followed regarding Item 1.0 and the limiting of memorials beyond scholarships and donations; distinction between memorials, scholarships, donations, and naming; tangible and non-tangible donations; the making of value judgments; status on existing memorials; as well as the concepts of tagging, naming, public recognition and the emotional component of memorials. Also suggested was a single memorial for members of the armed

forces killed in service. Mr. Haskell will ask the high school principals for some input. In keeping with the agenda, the discussion will be continued, and hopefully resolved, on next meetings agenda.

7.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Haskell noted a letter from the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) regarding Plymouth North High School's warning status. NEASC is requiring development of timelines for the project by October 1, 2007. They have asked to be notified of any substantive changes for both high schools.

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

Mr. Haskell indicated that there is nothing new to report on the budget. The Town continues to work on things. There was a brief discussion of Chapter 70 figures.

9.0 Reports

Mrs. McAlduff returned to Item 4.0 Communications, which had been inadvertently overlooked. Mr. White noted two letters from the Nye Scholarship Trust to Robert Betters, Esq. regarding his reappointment and to Robert Merrick regarding his appointment to the Nye Scholarship Selection Committee.

9.1 Calendar of Events

Mrs. Burgess noted her attendance at "You've Gotta Have Arts", a three-day art festival at the Radisson, noting the presentation of mixed media of arts, as well as concerts. She noted four presentations of *Fiddler On the Roof* on Fridays, March 9th, and 16th, and Sundays, March 11th and 18th, at Plymouth North High School.

9.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members.

Mrs. Adelman noted her attendance at the Early Childhood Fair at Plymouth North High School, the Tech Fair and Spaghetti Supper, and the Planetarium Open House. Mr. White noted his attendance at a breakfast sponsored by the Plymouth South Pride Committee to observe the White Ribbon Campaign, an organization that speaks out against violence toward women. The event was coordinated with education in health classrooms. Participants took oaths against domestic violence. Mr. White offered special thanks to Teresa Dorr, health teacher at Plymouth South High School, who organized the event. Mrs. Burgess noted stopping in at the girls'

basketball awards night. Mrs. Adelman congratulated the Plymouth South Wrestling Team on their win; Mr. Haskell noted that the wrestling team won the South Sectional Championship and will wrestle against Springfield on Wednesday evening at Plymouth South High School for the Massachusetts State Championship. Mrs. McAlduff noted her appointment to sit on the South Coast Workforce Investment Board where Plymouth had been under-represented. The Board is in charge of giving grants to business, workforce investment training, and educational opportunities.

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

Mrs. Burgess reported they will meet with the Permanent School Building Committee on March 8th.

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

Mrs. Adelman noted the Building Committee Annual Report was included in the packet. Mrs. McAlduff thanked *Old Colony Memorial* for the informational newspaper article regarding the HVAC system at Plymouth Community Intermediate School and the explanation of the timeline for changes.

- 9.5 To receive a report from the Communications Subcommittee.

Nothing new to report.

- 9.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

Mr. Haskell discussed Senator Murray's visit to Mount Pleasant Preschool and Federal Furnace Elementary School to get a first-hand look at Plymouth's unique Autism Spectrum Disorder classes, and to spend some time discussing issues around special education. Mr. Haskell also noted his participation today at a Graduation Rate Summit, where Governor Patrick spoke about improving the graduation rate in the Commonwealth. Michelle Roy, Mr. Siever and Ms. Connors also attended. Mr. Haskell reminded the Committee of their Wednesday, March 21st, 6:00 p.m. meeting with the Educational Quality and Accountability (EQA) Visiting Team as part of their audit. He further noted that they will visit all schools and meet with large numbers of people over the four-day audit. A report card is anticipated by June 30th.

- 9.7 Personnel

Dr. Young announced two appointments, both coaches and advisors; four leaves of absence; and four resignations.

10.0 To receive minutes from the following meeting and take the necessary action(s).

10.1 February 5, 2007

Mr. Haskell noted an amendment to Item 3.0 changing 2nd Vice President to Secondary Vice President. Motion by Mr. Begley to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. White. Vote was four in favor. Mrs. Adelman, Mrs. Freedman and Mrs. McAluff abstained.

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

11.1 Plymouth South Middle School

Mr. Maestas indicated items from Plymouth South Middle School deemed obsolete by the technology department and in need of disposal.

Motion by Mrs. Freedman to approve Disposal of Obsolete Equipment from Plymouth South Middle School, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to approve the Disposal of Obsolete Equipment was unanimous.

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

Mr. Haskell recommended FY07 A/P Warrant #37 dated March 8, 2007, in the amount of \$496,912.02. Motion by Mr. White to approve Warrant #37, in the amount stated, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve payment of Warrant #37 was unanimous.

13.0 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. Freedman to go into Executive Session for the purposes stated, seconded by Mr. White. 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 8:35 p.m.

Out of Executive Session at 9:54 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary