

Plymouth School Committee

November 19, 2007

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, November 19, 2007, at Plymouth Community Intermediate School at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were Linda McAlduff, John White, Margie Burgess, Nicole Manfredi, Dennis Begley, Debra Betz, and Robert Bielen.

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.

Mr. Riordan reported that their website is up and running and now includes the teachers' contracts. He noted that the website address is www.plymoutheducators.com. Mr. Smith presented a Statement of Appreciation to the School Committee signed by the educators of Plymouth for giving them the opportunity to present their concerns to the School Committee after tonight's meeting.

4.0 Communications

4.1 Correspondence

Mr. White read a press release from the New England Patriots announcing that Plymouth North High School Coach Bill Burkhead was named New England Patriots High School Coach of the Week in recognition of his team's upset win over unbeaten Marshfield High School. The Patriots Charitable Foundation will donate \$1,000 to Plymouth High School's football program in Burkhead's name.

Mr. White read a memo from Ms. Connors, Principal of Plymouth South High School, regarding recent events at school, including

winners of Atlantic Coast League Sportsmanship Awards by the volleyball, field hockey, and boys soccer teams; Fox 25's feature on "High School Friday" and a feature on the Tech Studies Program; a new informative Senior Newsletter for mailing to parents of seniors throughout the year; and winners of AP Scholars for the Class of 2007 named by the College Board for exceptional achievement on the college level Advanced Placement exams. Mr. White acknowledged and congratulated the many students who won the awards.

Mr. White read a letter from Mr. Sinclair, Principal of Cold Spring Elementary School, to KenMark Office Systems in appreciation for their donation of a new Ricoh duplexing color printer for their office.

4.2 Retirements

Dr. Young noted one retirement: Margaret Gibbons, IMC Aide/Student Activities Monitor at Hedge Elementary School with 20+ years. Mr. White congratulated and thanked Margaret on behalf of the School Committee for her years of service to the Plymouth Schools and for providing quality educational services to the children of Plymouth.

5.0 To receive an MCAS Testing Report.

Mr. Haskell noted the 2007 MCAS Testing Report for each school, separated by grade and subject. He indicated that the basic data is used to develop school improvement plans, look at trends, and see progress in MCAS Testing. Michelle Roy gave a detailed presentation of MCAS Testing Report in ELA, Math and Biology. She gave an overview of how the data is analyzed and how the reports are used. She presented a summary of specific charts, noting any trends that appear. Mr. Haskell noted that Literacy Instruction needs improvement and discussed the steps being taken to address that need.

6.0 To receive a recommendation to present to the Capital Outlay Expenditure Committee for FY09.

Mr. Haskell noted that he has been working along with Mr. Montrond, and Mr. Gurek to develop the School Department submission to the COEC for FY09. He discussed the process by which recommendations to CEOC proceed through Town government to reach Town Meeting. The main areas for recommendation are Building Repairs and Renovations, Vehicles and Equipment, Computers and Connectivity, and HVAC Replacements. Mr. Montrond presented recommendations for the four categories in detail. Mr. Haskell discussed considerations for Computers and Connectivity in detail. Mr. Maestas discussed the benefit of a fiber optic network as opposed to cable.

7.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Haskell reported that in late November the MSBA said they will identify a group of schools with which they will work.

8.0 To discuss the FY09 budget and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell noted that December 3, 4 and 5, 2007, are Budget Workshops and that cost center managers and program managers will be in attendance. He also noted that the public hearing and school committee vote to accept the budget will be on January 7, 2008.

9.0 To receive recommendation(s) relative to the School Year 2007-2008 Home Education Program and take the necessary action(s).

- 9.1 #096-08
- 9.2 #097-08
- 9.3 #101-08

Mr. Haskell presented the latest Home Education recommendations for the 2007-2008 School Year indicating that all meet the State requirements minimally, and Mr. Sherman reviewed each one and has met with each family to ensure each meets the guidelines. Mr. Haskell recommended their approval.

Motion by Mr. White to approve all cases for 2007-2008 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Burgess. Vote to approve the Home Education recommendations for the 2007-2008 School Year was unanimous.

10.0 Reports.

10.1 Calendar of Events

Nothing further noted.

10.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members.

Mrs. Burgess reported that the Energy Committee has applied to the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative for a \$125,000 grant for an educational facility on renewable energy resources.

Mrs. Burgess noted that she traveled with vocal music and orchestra students to attend the Boston Symphony Orchestra rehearsal. She also noted having attended a charity fundraiser concert at the mall.

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.

Mr. White reported they will meet next in January.

10.5 To receive a report from the Communications Subcommittee.

Mr. Begley noted he is still soliciting content for the School Committee website.

10.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

Mr. Haskell noted an inquiry regarding the School Committee policy for production of documents under the Freedom of Information Act. He discussed the School Committee Policy on such requests. He noted a request by a Duxbury resident for which an estimate was provided. The person disagreed with the estimate and a complaint was filed, investigated by the Secretary of State, and found in favor of the school district.

Mr. Haskell discussed and cleared up a question regarding whether Plymouth South Middle School or the School Committee changed the form of the Pledge of Allegiance to leave out the words "under God". He emphasized that no change in form has been made to the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Haskell encouraged parents to call teachers, school principals or his office with any questions about information brought home by their child.

Mr. Haskell noted that the MASS/MASC Joint Meeting was took place from November 14 -17 and that former school committee member, Jane Friedman, was honored for lifetime achievement for her 21 years of service on the School Committee.

Mr. Haskell noted that Mark Sylvia, Town Manager, made two new staff announcements: Lynn Barrett, Finance Director/Town Accountant, effective December 10th, and Patrick O'Brien, Special Assistant to the Town Manager begins on December 3rd.

Mr. Haskell reported that Channel 5 will be airing a new program called "A Plus" which reports on exceptional high school seniors, noting that Lauren Maloney, Student Representative from Plymouth North High School, will be featured on the show on either Nov. 29th or 30th at 5:30 p.m.

10.7 Personnel

Dr. Young announced 15 appointments: 2 certificated, 10 classified, and 3 coaches. She also noted 3 resignations, and 3 leaves of absence.

11.0 To receive minutes of the following meeting(s) and take the necessary action(s).

11.1 November 5, 2007

Motion to approve the minutes, by Mrs. Burgess. Seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

11.2 November 5, 2007, Executive Session

Motion to approve the minutes, by Mrs. Burgess. Seconded by Mrs. Betz. Vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

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

Mr. Gurek recommended FY08 A/P Warrant #23 dated November 15, 2007, in the amount of \$1,219,159.01. Motion by Mr. White to approve FY08 A/P Warrant #23 in the amount stated, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve FY08 A/P Warrant #23 in the amount stated is unanimous.

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

Motion by Mr. Begley to go into Executive Session for the purposes stated, seconded by Mrs. Betz. On a roll call vote to go into Executive Session for the purposes stated, all voting in favor, approved unanimously.

Into Executive Session at 8:19 p.m.

Out of Executive Session at 8:55 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary