

## Plymouth School Committee

November 20, 2006

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, November 20, 2006, at Plymouth Community Intermediate School at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were Linda McAlduff, John White, Jane Freedman, Patricia Adelman, and Nicole Manfredi.

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 Isabell Bartosiak, 23 years as a foreign language teacher and eight years as an elementary teacher, who passed away.

1.0 To receive comments from the general public.

None.

2.0 To receive comments from student representatives.

Kaitlin Pisano from Plymouth South updated the committee on student activities and fundraising events, spirit days and football games. She noted a regional conference for SEMASC with leadership workshops.

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

Frank Smith, Vice President of EAPC and SPED teacher at Hedge Elementary School, noted the many teachers attending the meeting and mentioned special thanks to committee members' families, the newly elected leadership, Paula Ryan, retired Title One Director, and especially the teachers of Plymouth. He noted the need to realign the pay structures and raise salaries in order to maintain good teachers in Plymouth.

4.0 Communications

4.1 Correspondence

Mr. White noted a letter from Mr. Siever, Principal at Plymouth North, regarding Freshmen Mentoring Program. He thanked Comcast for their support. He also encouraged attendance at the Thanksgiving game and noted a food drive to be held the morning

of the Thanksgiving game to benefit the Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless.

#### 4.2 Retirements

Dr. Young announced the retirement of Denise Welker, Grade 1 classroom teacher at South Elementary School. On behalf of the Committee, Mrs. Freedman thanked Mrs. Welker for her contribution towards excellence in education in Plymouth touching the lives of many children in her 16 years of service. She wished Ms. Welker well in her retirement.

#### 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 #077-07
- 5.2 Case #078-07
- 5.3 Case #082-07
- 5.4 Case #083-07
- 5.5 Case #084-07

Mr. Haskell presented these latest Home Education plans for the 2006-2007 School Year, stating that Mr. Sherman had reviewed each one and they all meet the State's minimum requirements. Mr. Haskell recommended their approval.

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

#### 6.0 To receive an Advanced Readiness Learners Elementary Report.

Mr. Haskell introduced Peg McKay, elementary principal representative, and Cynthia Greenwood, Elementary Advanced Readiness Learners (ARL) Coordinator. Ms. Greenwood acknowledged some participating teachers who were in attendance and continued to outline the program, noting the ARL committee members and elementary liaisons. She introduced the goals of the program for 2006 and 2007 and the means of attaining those goals. Ms. Greenwood and Ms. McKay addressed questions from the committee regarding the enrollment process, clustering, differentiated learning, differentiated learning strategies, and staff training. Mrs. Freeman thanked Ms. Greenwood for her efforts and those of her liaisons.

#### 7.0 To receive a First Quarter Cost Avoidance Energy Report.

Mr. Gurek introduced Jay Tobin, Conservation Manager, and his assistant, Guy Roy, who presented a slide show outlining the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Energy Cost Avoidance Report. It indicated the primary goals of the program,

which are to maintain comfort during occupied times and eliminate energy waste during unoccupied times in order to attain cost avoidance based on savings. He presented comparisons of energy costs with and without energy conservation. He outlined the accomplishments of the district and emphasized that the district as a whole accomplished them. He gave a quick overview of the program including communications, audits, meetings, monitoring, presentations, newsletters, reference documents, and consultation reports. Mr. Roy addressed committee concerns about the terms of the contract with the Energy Conservation Company and vandalism. A discussion of energy cost avoidance and budgeting, as well as the future commitment to energy conservation with monitoring and audits continuing in place. Mrs. McAlduff thanked Mr. Roy and Mr. Tobin for their efforts.

- 8.0 To appoint the Program Advisory Committee for all Technical Studies Programs.

Mr. Haskell invited Mr. Valente to the table to explain the Chapter 74 requirements and regulations, noting that the School Committee is required to formally appoint the Program Advisory Committee for all Vocational Technical Programs and compliance required a vote of the committee in order to adhere to the mandates. A brief discussion followed on the function of the General Advisory Committee.

Mr. White moved to appoint the Program Advisory Committee for all Technical Studies, seconded by Mrs. Freedman. Vote was unanimous.

- 9.0 To receive a proposal on an Alternative School Program and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell invited principals, John Siever and Patty Connors, along with Mr. Sherman, to the table to present a brief overview of the Alternative School Program. Mr. Sherman noted the great number of at-risk students and the challenge to create new programs to meet the needs of these students. Ms. Connors gave a brief summary of the Alternative School Program and Mr. Siever spoke on the goals. A brief discussion followed. Mr. Haskell discussed the flexible structure of instruction along with the unconventional setting, which are geared toward student learning and success. Mr. Sherman emphasized that, although unconventional, the program goal is to return the student to the traditional high school setting. Mrs. McAlduff applauded the program and wished them success.

Mrs. Adelman moved to approve the Alternative School Program, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote was unanimous.

- 10.0 To receive recommendation(s) relative to the following job description and take the following action(s).

## 10.1 Director of Alternative School

Dr. Young outlined the Subcommittee's job description noting changes to the existing job description based on new information, components and curriculum, and administrative structure.

Motion by Mr. White to approve Director of Alternative School job description, seconded by Mrs. Freedman. Vote was unanimous.

## 11.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Haskell indicated that he met with Ron Millican to discuss curriculum research and trends, and that Mr. Millican will coordinate that with both schools. Mr. Haskell stated that internal committees have convened to discuss future trends in high school space and asked the committee to consider where schools will be in fifty years with regard to physical education, Freshmen Academies, technology labs, science labs, and the classroom structure for these components. He noted the need for flexibility in planning for the future. A brief discussion followed on the potential changes in high school space.

## 12.0 To discuss the FY08 budget and review the Chart of Accounts and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell indicated he is working with program managers and on Capital Outlay budgets. Mr. Gurek presented the Chart of Accounts and explained the breakdown of specific codes and their functions. He also explained the monthly report. Mr. Gurek indicated that information from the budget workshops would be available next week for the committee's review.

## 13.0 Reports

### 13.1 Calendar of Events

Mr. White noted that the Budget Workshop meetings would be held at Plymouth Community Intermediate School on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Haskell noted that voting on the budget would take place at the December 18<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.

### 13.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members

Mrs. Adelman reported on votes and resolutions from the Massachusetts Association of School Committee Delegate Assembly.

### 13.3 To receive a report from the Plymouth Permanent School Building

Committee.  
None.

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

Mr. White noted that the committee toured the new senior center at Cordage Park. He also noted discussions on the new HVAC system at PCIS. Mr. Haskell briefly discussed having seen the blueprints of the new system and discussed aspects and plans for the new construction and staging of the project to not negatively impact the students and their education.

- 13.5 To receive a report from the Communications Subcommittee and take the necessary action(s.)

Mrs. Manfredi indicated there is nothing new to report.

- 13.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

Mr. Haskell referred to a handout on the value of homework and noted that the Curriculum Council is currently reviewing this issue and the impact of homework on students' private lives. He also spoke about [www.edtrust.org](http://www.edtrust.org) a website containing data which compares educational achievements of U.S. students to those of students around the world.

- 13.7 Personnel

Dr. Young announced six appointments: four paraprofessionals; one custodian; and one coach. There are two leaves of absence and three resignations.

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

- 14.1 November 6, 2006

Mrs. Adelman moved to accept the minutes of November 6, 2006, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.

- 14.2 November 6, 2006, Executive Session

Mrs. Adelman moved to accept the minutes of November 6, 2006, Executive Session, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.

- 15.0 To receive recommendation(s) for the Disposal of Obsolete Equipment

from the following school and take the necessary action(s).

15.1 Plymouth North High School

15.2 Cold Spring Elementary School

Mr. Gurek indicated that items to be disposed of in both schools were computer related. Mrs. Adelman moved to approve the Disposal of Obsolete Equipment from both schools, seconded by Mr. White. Vote was unanimous.

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

Mr. Gurek recommended A/P Warrant #22 dated November 22, 2006, in the amount of \$631,914.50. Mr. White moved to approve Warrant #22 in the amount stated, seconded by Mrs. Adelman. Vote to approve the motion to pay Warrant #22 was unanimous.

17.1 To discuss strategies with respect to potential litigation pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 23B (3) and take the necessary action(s).

17.2 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 to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategies with respect to potential litigation pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 23B (3) and take the necessary action(s), and 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 Mrs. Freedman, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi, to go into Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all voting in favor, approved unanimously.

Into Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.

Out of Executive Session at 10:40 p.m.

Motion by Mrs. Freedman, seconded by Mr. White, to adjourn. On a roll call vote, all voting in favor, approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary