

## Plymouth School Committee

November 6, 2006

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, November 6, 2006, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. McAlduff called for Moments of Silence in memory of Courtney Greene, guidance counselor, who passed away October 21, 2006, and who had served the Plymouth community for two years; in memory of Julie Ann Silva, 17 years old, a student in the Developmental Program at the Cape Cod Collaborative, who passed away October 14, 2006; and in memory of Sean Kearney an 8 year old, 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at Nathaniel Morton Elementary School.

Mrs. McAlduff turned the meeting over to Mr. Haskell who invited Ellen Driscoll, Technology Coordinator, Nancy Dawson, and Verizon Representative, Rick Colon, to the table. Mr. Haskell announced the awarding of a \$10,000 grant from Verizon Foundation which will offer the opportunity for on-line courses through Marco Polo, a standards-based website for learning. Ellen and Nancy commented on the development and writing of the grant, and Mr. Colon noted Verizon Foundation's support of literacy initiatives. He was excited to read the online application for a grant written by Mrs. Driscoll and Mrs. Dawson for a literacy program with a technology program. He congratulated the grant writers and the entire School Committee for having the vision to incorporate technology into the learning process at Plymouth Public Schools. He then presented the \$10,000 grant award check to Mrs. McAlduff. Mrs. McAlduff thanked Ellen and Nancy on behalf of the Board for their work and initiatives.

1.0 To receive comments from the general public.

None.

2.0 To receive comments from student representatives.

Devon Legare from Plymouth South updated the committee on student activities and fundraising events including freshmen working on a mitten and hat drive for the poor at the holiday season and their class trip to Six Flags; sophomores working on basket fundraisers and on male/female

soldier boxes to send overseas; juniors working on shirts for a pep rally; seniors focusing on hallways and plans for senior dinner dance. Two groups are attending leadership conferences at SEMASC. They are also having a fundraiser for Christmas gifts and clothes for the Rose family whose house burnt down. A fashion talent show will be held on Thursday and the 1<sup>st</sup> Mr. Plymouth South contest is coming up soon.

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

Karen Mitchell, President of EAPC, noted the planned use of the teachers' union office for the Deval Patrick campaign. She urged the committee's voice at the Mass Association of School Committees against the Board of Educations' raising the cutoff score for MCAS. She stated that the association is saddened by the unfilled positions of two elementary librarians and noted the loss felt in the learning environment, on bulletin boards and other visual learning media. She expressed the hope that this would be remedied in the very near future.

### 4.0 Communications

#### 4.1 Correspondence

Mr. White presented and read a letter from Brian Palladino, Vice Principal at PCIS, thanking the committee for its support of the PCIS Walk/Run for Courtney Greene. The fundraising event raised \$2,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Mr. White presented and read another letter from the Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers announcing that Warren Phillips, a staff member at PCIS, has been chosen as the Massachusetts Science Educator of the Year for Plymouth County. He will be honored at the annual awards banquet on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. White congratulated Mr. Phillips on behalf of the committee.

Mrs. Freedman presented a letter from the National School Board Association about their advocacy campaign to have members of Congress sign pledges to America's school children encompassing the principles of the National School Board Association's legislative goals for the upcoming 110th Congress. The letter asks committee members to sign individually and as a committee and forward the pledge letter to Congress. Mrs. Freedman moved to forward the letter to Congress on behalf of the committee, asking members to sign and return them. Motion to send the NSBA's letter to Congress was seconded by Mr. White. A vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Mrs. McAlduff moved to send a letter to Commissioner of Education, David Driscoll, respectfully disagreeing with the new standards the State Board of Education has put forth. Motion seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Mrs. Freedman moved to amend the motion by including that a copy of the letter be sent to the new Governor. A short discussion followed regarding agreement with the new standards, defined program, raising the scores, and how special needs students, in particular, are adversely affected. A vote was taken on the amended motion to a) write a letter in disagreement with raising the scores without additional funding for the year specified by the State, and that the committee is not against raising standards but would like more money and more opportunity for input, and b) that a draft of said letter would be presented before the committee for approval, before signing. The vote was unanimous.

#### 4.2 Retirements

Dr. Young announced the retirement of Donna Honkonen, Grade 1 classroom teacher from South Elementary School.

On behalf of the Committee, Mrs. Freedman thanked Mrs. Honkonen for her 34 years of contribution towards excellence in education in Plymouth, noting the importance of giving the elementary students a good send off into education. She wished Mrs. Honkonen 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 #010-07
- 5.2 Case #011-07
- 5.3 Case #012-07
- 5.4 Case #055-07
- 5.5 Case #072-07
- 5.6 Case #073-07
- 5.7 Case #079-07
- 5.8 Case #080-07
- 5.9 Case #081-07

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

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

6.0 To receive a report on a Plymouth Youth Development Collaborative Grant Award.

Mr. Haskell invited Michelle Roy, Bob Sherman, Ed Jacobs from the District Attorney's Office, Lynn McIsaac, parent representative, and Kathy Spears from High Point and South Shore Women's Center to the table. He noted that the Plymouth Youth Development Collaborative received a five-year \$500,000 Federal Grant to create a Drug-free Community Support Program through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration. Plymouth was one six new communities and 105 nationwide to receive the grant. The School District is fiscal agent for this community-based grant.

Michelle Roy gave an overview of the "Communities That Care" survey data, including Survey Administration, Demographic Profile of Surveyed Youth, Survey Validation, Predictors of Problem Behaviors and Positive Youth Outcomes, Youth Risk and Protective Factor Profile, Risk Factors and Grades Affected, Antisocial Behaviors and Grade Level Results, Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use Grade Level Results, What Works in Community Prevention.

Mr. Sherman discussed additional background on the program, which he described as a community action force, thus the Plymouth Safe and Drug-free Communities was developed. He discussed the components of what the data revealed, and noted that these problems also exist outside the Plymouth school district, that it is a common issue and an across-the-board problem. He discussed the goals of the program, Overarching Goals to Develop Prevention Strategies, Grant Overview including Outputs and Short-term, Intermediate and Long-term Outcomes; Capacity Building; Twelve Sectors Representation of the Community Coalition, Implementation, and lastly Evaluation of the program.

Mr. White inquired as to the possibility of being granted a ten-year grant program and when the current five-year period begins. Mr. Sherman was not able to predict the granting of a ten-year grant, due to political considerations. Mrs. Freedman inquired as to the specific goals in the first years. Mr. Sherman indicated community coalition building, reaching out to the community, and training various groups in town to make them aware of the data, and the appointment of a Director to analyze data and take the lead. Ms. Roy noted a summit is planned for the spring to bring groups from different areas to develop action plans for specific goals. Mr. Sherman addressed Mrs. Adelman's question as to formation of support groups and funding for transportation to these groups. He indicated involving pre-established community groups such as scouts, athletic groups, dance classes, CCD and other religious youth groups, as well as health courses at school.

7.0 To discuss a report on MCAS Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Mr. Haskell called attention to a report on the 2006 MCAS scores and AYP. He indicated that an overview of those results revealed eight schools and PCIS in the district did not meet AYP for subgroups and that Corrective Action to raise the scores needs to be taken. He introduced Michelle Roy to discuss, in detail, Corrective Action and Adequate Yearly Progress. She outlined School in Corrective Action Requirements, State and Improvement Targets, Safe Harbor classification, and specific Corrective Actions. She discussed DPIM teams to revise improvement plans. She also discussed Restructuring as a last resort. She discussed AYP findings, and a discussion on how Massachusetts' standards compared with other states. Mrs. McAlduff thanked Ms. Roy for all of her information and data.

#### 8.0 To receive a presentation on the MY TURN (America's Youth Teenage Unemployment Reduction Network, Inc.) Program

Mr. Haskell introduced Jacky McDonough, MY TURN job developer for Quincy and Plymouth; Wendy Mackie, career specialist at Plymouth North and, Christina Herman, student at Plymouth South, representing the MY TURN program at both high school which helps students ages 14-21 to identify and develop skills and self-confidence through career and employment training.

Ms. Mackie gave a brief history on the program, demographics, its goals, and how they are attained through meetings with community and youth development committees. The program provides three basic program models with its goal to build up the workforce: 1) Counselors connecting youths currently in-school to work programs; 2) connecting youth to college initiatives; 3) connecting out-of-school youth to GED and workplace learning opportunities. MY TURN is funded with \$140,000 by three different grants and has provided services to over 100 Plymouth students.

Christina Herman, a senior at Plymouth South in her 4<sup>th</sup> year in the MY TURN program, spoke in behalf of the program and how the experience changed who she is as a student, employee, and a person, while helping to develop excellent career skills, resume writing, interviewing and college career skills. She expressed her appreciation for the self-confidence, pride and valuable character traits she gained in the MY TURN program. Enabled by MY TURN, she obtained a job at the YMCA working with children. She is now a student teacher with the program and the returning Vice President of their Leadership Council. She emphasized her experience that the MY TURN program is more than about careers and colleges; it prepares students for life.

Ms. McDonough spoke on the MY TURN Career Conference and on other aspects of the program including community service learning, a school beautification project for the National Youth Service effort, and student

fundraising events to increase the scholarship effort. She shared a vision to have the program uniquely integrated into the fabric of the high school program.

Mrs. Freedman complimented Ms. Mackie's excitement, energy and enthusiasm as key elements to a successful program. Ms. Mackie discussed means of expanding the participation of more students by integrating the program as an elective course (with credits) and/or work study programs. Ms. Mackey described the students being targeted as "At risk", such as those in MCAS remediation, on IEPs, and students on probation.

Meeting into recess at 9:05 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

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

Mr. Haskell informed the committee that both positions would be funded by the Plymouth Youth Development Collaborative Grant.

- 9.1 Program Coordinator – Plymouth Youth Development Collaborative

Dr. Young thanked her subcommittee, Jane Freedman and Pat Adelman, for their help in writing the job descriptions. She noted that these are two brand new job descriptions directly related to the grant. The Program Coordinator will report to Bob Sherman, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and the Plymouth Youth Development Collaborative Board who will oversee the grant. She discussed the requirements for the position and job goal, which is to provide leadership and coordinate the Drug-free Communities Coalition's Grant.

Motion Mrs. Burgess to approve the job description for the Program Coordinator for the Plymouth Youth Development Collaborative, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. A vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

- 9.2 Administrative Assistant to Program Coordinator – Plymouth Youth Development Collaborative.

Dr. Young discussed the job description and responsibilities as a secretarial position with general office duties, reporting to the Program Coordinator.

Motion by Mr. White to approve the job description for the Administrative Assistant to Program Coordinator-Plymouth Youth

Development Collaborative, seconded by Mrs. Burgess.

Dr. Young indicated a minor wording correction to qualification No. 3. A vote to approve the motion as amended to Qualification No. 3 was unanimous.

10.0 To discuss Plymouth's Charter Review.

Mr. Haskell indicated that the Plymouth Charter Review Committee has invited the School Committee to their meeting on Thursday, November 16, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. They asked the committee to review the current Charter prior to the meeting for input on changes to the Charter. Mrs. McAlduff encouraged attendance of committee members to express their individual thoughts and opinions. Mrs. Burgess indicated the need for suggestions and input on the school portion of the Charter and gave ideas of school issues that may be affected by the Charter.

11.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Haskell discussed his recent attendance at the Massachusetts School Business Officials Symposium on School Construction along with other Plymouth School Department town administrators, and other Town officials. There were workshops on school construction, procurement, the changes around the new law Chapter 149, and the Owner's Project Manager. He highlighted the "CM At Risk" (Construction Manager At Risk) workshop. The featured speaker at the symposium was Katherine Craven, Executive Director of the Massachusetts School Building Authority, who provided an update on the progress of the MSBA, and their development of community inspection teams to verify conditions of buildings and to review projects. He announced Mrs. Craven made a surprise visit to Plymouth North during which Mr. Siever escorted her throughout classrooms, portables and storage areas, for an overview of what needs to be done.

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

Mr. Haskell indicated that they are meeting with program managers to discuss budgets and working on capital outlay projects. Budget workshops are scheduled for December 4, 5, and 6 if needed. A public hearing will be on December 18 where the School Committee will be asked to vote on a recommended budget to go forward to the Town.

13.0 Reports

13.1 Calendar of Events

Mrs. McAlduff noted that the next PSC meeting will be on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Burgess noted that the Capital Outlay Committee will meet on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Adelman noted that the Building Committee

will meet Thursday, November 9 at 6 p.m. rather than 6:30 in the new senior center at Cordage Park. Mrs. Burgess noted that on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., the PSC will go before the Charter Commission.

13.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members

None.

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

Mrs. Burgess indicated that there is nothing to report.

13.4 To receive a report from the Plymouth Building Committee.

Mrs. Adelman indicated that they met Thursday, October 26, and Arthur Montrond discussed the HVAC system at PCIS. Due to pricing and affordability, he has now determined that the VAV system is 1<sup>st</sup> preference, pendant lighting 2<sup>nd</sup>, kitchen equipment 3<sup>rd</sup>, induction system 4<sup>th</sup>, and hot water system 5<sup>th</sup>. They voted to appoint Ted Gentry to hire the Project Owners Manager. There will be a three-day workshop to go over the design of the HVAC system. A brief discussion of VAV and induction systems followed. Mr. White reiterated that VAV was chosen due to affordability, as well as energy efficiency. He noted accomplishments intended for the \$11 million allotted. Mrs. Adelman noted that with rising costs of piping, they were getting less and less for the money. Mr. Gurek reiterated that the basis of the replacement of the HVAC system project is to achieve energy efficiency. He discussed the struggle to achieve this affordably by the second choice VAV system that is more cost effective.

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

Mr. Begley made a presentation and a recommendation for a School Committee website to attain Goal 4 of the School Committee. Questions about security issues, development costs, content and updating of website, FAQs, new flashes, privacy issues, and the integrity of the site, were discussed. Mr. Begley indicated he met with Ellen Driscoll and the website is not totally independent of the direction of the Technology Department but allows for easier updates. Mrs. McAlduff suggested the Communications Subcommittee hash out News Flash and FAQ text, the subcommittee would do that work and then bring it before the entire School Committee for a vote. Mr. Haskell noted the issue of training and the cost involved. Ms. Manfredi indicated that the suggested topics in the format would be presented to the School

Committee for approval. Mr. Haskell reiterated the training aspect and the cost to the District since professional staff would be needed to take time from their current duties to perform that function. The district will determine through time and cost if it is something they can manage in the current budget or if the School Committee decides to allocate resources toward it. A discussion followed on this point. Mr. Haskell reiterated the consideration of time in the cost equation and a measurement of value by the number of hits to the site. Mr. Haskell agreed that an additional stipend for a web person could be discussed at the Budget Workshops, and Mrs. Burgess added that the School Committee also has a budget.

A motion was made by Mrs. Adelman to move forward with the Plymouth School Committee website, seconded by Mr. White. Mrs. Freedman noted the need for ongoing commitment to this website which requires money to maintain it. A brief discussion as to the wording of the motion followed. Mrs. McAlduff reiterated the seconded motion to approve the School Committee website as presented by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve was unanimous.

13.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

Mr. Haskell referred to excerpts from a *Boston Globe* article on the Board of Education talking about MCAS scores, and his clarification of an email from the Commissioner talking about the addition of Education Proficiency Plans for students who do not achieve a score of 240 on MCAS. Educational Proficiency Plans (EPPs) are a series of courses required until the level of proficiency is reached. He warned of channeling youngsters into prescriptive course requirements in order to meet those standards and stated his concern that the EPP will be more direct in nature and prescriptive of what course students must take. A discussion on this point followed. The addition of EPPs will not be in place until next school year.

13.7 Personnel

Dr. Young announced 25 appointments: 2 teachers; 15 paraprofessionals; 1 secretary; 3 cafeteria workers; and 4 advisors. There are 5 leaves of absence and 7 resignations.

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

14.1 October 16, 2006

Mrs. Manfredi moved to accept the minutes of October 16, 2006, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to accept the minutes was five. Mrs.

Burgess abstains.

14.2 October 16, 2006, Executive Session

Mr. Begley moved to accept the minutes of October 16, 2006, Executive Session, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to accept the minutes was five. Mrs. Burgess abstains.

14.3 October 23, 2006

Mr. Begley moved to accept the minutes of October 23, 2006, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to accept the minutes was five. Mrs. Burgess abstains.

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

Mr. Gurek recommended A/P Warrant #20 dated November 9, 2006, in the amount of \$1,645,291.98, and A/P Warrant #20A dated November 9, 2006, in the amount of \$2,266.29. Mrs. White moved to approve Warrant #20 and Warrant #20A in the amount stated, seconded by Mrs. Burgess. Vote to approve the motion to pay Warrant #20 and Warrant #20A was unanimous.

16.0 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 Mrs. Freedman to extend the meeting after 10:30 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Burgess. Vote to extend meeting was unanimous.

Motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract 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 10:25 p.m.

Out of Executive Session at 11:08 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary