

Plymouth School Committee

October 15, 2007

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, October 15, 2007, at Indian Brook Elementary School at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Mrs. McAlduff opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.0 To receive comments from the general public.

Ms. Johnson, President of the Lacrosse Finance Committee, appealed for funding of a combined Plymouth North/South Lacrosse Program.

2.0 To receive comments from student representatives.

None present.

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

Mr. Smith, Vice President of the EAPC, read a letter from Mr. Riordan regarding ideas for future growth. Mr. Smith requested information on grievance procedures. Mr. Haskell offered that the appropriate channel for grievance procedures continues to be through administration.

4.0 Communications

4.1 Correspondence

Mr. White noted a letter from Mr. Bastoni of the Science, Technology and Engineering Department at Plymouth North High School to Bill Bradley, Vice President of Kenmark Office Systems, thanking him for the donation of a Savin GX3050n color printing system. Mr. White conveyed appreciation for the donation on behalf of the School Committee.

Mr. White noted a memo to Mr. Haskell and Maestas from Ms. Lisa White, ELA Coordinator, announcing nominees and recipient of the NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing. Mr. White acknowledged all students nominated and congratulated Chelsea Barry for winning a 2007 Achievement Award in Writing.

4.2 Retirements

Dr. Young noted 2 retirements: Catherine Nelson, Special Needs Aide/Student Activities Monitor at Nathaniel Morton Elementary School for 32 years; and Mary Towns, IMC Aide/Student Activities Monitor at Cold Spring Elementary School for 18+ years. Mr. White congratulated and thanked them for all their years of good service to the children of Plymouth and wished them well in retirement.

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

Mr. Haskell recommended appointment of the Program Advisory Committee for all Technical Studies. He noted that Mr. Valente was present and available for any questions.

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

- 6.0 To receive a report on MCAS Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Mr. Haskell presented an overview of the 2007 AYP determinations for Plymouth Public Schools. Ms. Roy reviewed AYP guidelines, terms and determination indicators, including Participation, Performance, Improvement, as well as the additional indicator of Attendance/Graduation Rate. She discussed other determination changes including State Targets of 85.4 for ELA, and 76.5 for Math. She discussed No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability and required actions for aggregate and subgroups. Ms. Roy presented AYP status for each Plymouth school, discussing school and District accountability, status and required actions. Mr. Maestas discussed professional development planning, noting that they are looking at components of reading. Restrictions and limitations on grants for professional development were discussed, and Mr. Haskell noted changes in Title 1 grants that have affected the delivery and implementation of professional development services at the middle and high school levels. A discussion of Special Education performance plans, delivery of services, varied learning rates, and subgroups followed.

- 7.0 To receive a report on the MCAS high-stakes test in science which begins in June 2008 and its ramifications for Plymouth students.

Mr. Micozzi presented the Science Technology and Engineering 2007 MCAS District Report. He presented a detailed analysis of data contained in summary reports, noting that changes are made to curriculum based upon the data.

- 8.0 To receive a report on the PCIS Observatory and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell introduced Carl Fletcher, President of the Science Technology Education Partnership Foundation (STEP). Mr. Fletcher provided

background on the STEP Foundation and presented a detailed overview of the planned automated robotic observatory project, as well as an analysis of roof capacity for the observatory at PCIS. He discussed project costs, contributors and pledges, noting that the Robotic Observatory is at no cost to the District. He highlighted the capabilities and resources the observatory offers. Mr. Fletcher also read his report on the observatory to the Building Committee. He received questions from the committee regarding weatherproofing of dome, training, networking of resources, and operation.

Motion by Mr. White to approve the PCIS Observatory, seconded by Mrs. Betz. Vote to approve the PCIS Observatory was unanimous.

- 9.0 To receive recommendations relative to the MASC Resolutions Committee and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell presented four Resolutions from the MASC, noting the protocol of voting.

Motion by Mr. White to approve Resolution 1, Sharing of Information on Students Attending Charter Schools with the Sending School Districts, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve Resolution 1 was unanimous.

Motion by Mr. White to approve Resolution 2, Regarding The Inclusion of Special Education Transportation Costs in the Circuit Breaker, seconded by Mrs. Betz. Vote to approve Resolution 2 was unanimous.

Motion by Mr. White to approve Resolution 3, Public Policy Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Betz. Vote to approve Resolution 3 was unanimous.

Motion by Mr. White to approve Resolution 4, Foundation Budget, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve Resolution 4 was unanimous.

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

- 10.1 #002-08
- 10.2 #003-08
- 10.3 #010-08
- 10.4 #011-08
- 10.5 #012-08
- 10.6 #013-08
- 10.7 #014-08
- 10.8 #016-08
- 10.9 #017-08
- 10.10 #034-08
- 10.11 #035-08
- 10.12 #036-08

- 10.13 #037-08
- 10.14 #064-08
- 10.15 #065-08
- 10.16 #078-08
- 10.17 #079-08
- 10.18 #080-08
- 10.19 #083-08
- 10.20 #084-08
- 10.21 #087-08
- 10.22 #090-08
- 10.23 #091-08
- 10.24 #092-08

Mr. Haskell presented Home School recommendations for the 2007-2008 School Year, stating that they all meet the State requirements minimally, and that Mr. Sherman reviewed each one and has met with each family to be sure each meets the requirements. Mr. Haskell recommended their approval.

A correction to the 2006-2007 date was noted. Motion by Mr. White to approve all cases for 2007-2008 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve Home School recommendations for the 2007-2008 School Year was unanimous.

11.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Haskell presented an update received from Katherine Craven, Executive Director of the MSBA on its reformed program for school construction and renovation grants. Also presented were notes from a MSBA meeting on October 1, 2007, along with details including a Statement of Interest Summary Report, MSBA Master Plan Guidelines, New MSBA Rules and Regulations, New Program Approval Process, Timeline for New Program, and the MSBA 10 Commandments, together with Statement of Interest Summaries/School District Priorities. Mr. Haskell also discussed political considerations, as well as financial readiness. Mr. Maestas emphasized the number of school districts waiting and the number of factors taken into consideration, adding that no indication has been given yet. Facility maintenance and the topic of a maintenance fund were discussed.

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

Mr. Haskell presented the FY09 budget guidelines including a budget forecasting overview, noting that a level-service budget is planned. State aid was discussed.

13.0 Reports

13.1 Calendar of Events

The next School Committee meeting on November 5th at PCIS was noted, with additional meetings on November 6th and 7th. Mr. Maestas noted that the Board of Selectmen would meet on October 16th during which the student delegation that traveled to Shichigahama, Japan, would be presented with a gift.

- 13.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members.

Town Meeting Preview was noted on October 22nd.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Mr. White reported on progress at PCIS.

- 13.5 To receive a report from the Communications Subcommittee.

Mr. Begley reported being in communication with Mr. Riordan of the EAPC regarding posting teacher contracts.

- 13.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

Mr. Haskell reported on his attendance at the K-12 Facilities Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

- 13.7 Personnel

Dr. Young announced 18 appointments: 2 certificated, 10 classified, and 6 coaches/advisors. She also noted 8 resignations, and 3 leaves of absence.

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

- 14.1 September 17, 2007

Motion by Mr. White to approve the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Betz. Vote to approve the minutes was unanimous

- 14.2 October 1, 2007

Motion by Mrs. Manfredi to approve the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Betz. Vote to approve the minutes was unanimous. There was one abstention.

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

- 15.1 Plymouth North High School
- 15.2 Plymouth South High School
- 15.3 Plymouth South High School Technical Studies

Mr. Maestas noted the need for approval for the disposal of items of obsolete equipment from Plymouth North High School, Plymouth South High School, and Plymouth South High School Technical Studies.

Motion by Mrs. Manfredi to approve disposal of obsolete equipment from Plymouth North High School, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to approve disposal of obsolete equipment from Plymouth North High School is unanimous.

Motion by Mr. White to approve disposal of obsolete equipment from Plymouth South High School, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve disposal of obsolete equipment from Plymouth South High School is unanimous.

Motion by Mr. White to approve disposal of obsolete equipment from Plymouth South High School Technical Studies, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve disposal of obsolete equipment from Plymouth South High School Technical Studies is unanimous.

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

Mr. Maestas recommended FY08 A/P Warrant #18 dated October 18, 2007, in the amount of \$849,851.05. Motion by Mr. White to approve FY08 A/P Warrant #18 in the amount stated, seconded by Mrs. Betz. Vote to approve FY08 A/P Warrant #18 in the amount stated is unanimous.

Mr. Haskell noted that, due to the length of the month, an extra warrant would be available for School Committee signatures on October 24, 2007.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary