

Plymouth School Committee

October 16, 2006

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, October 16, 2006, at Plymouth Community Intermediate School at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.0 To receive comments from the general public.

None.

2.0 To receive comments from student representatives.

Devon Legare from Plymouth South High School updated the committee on student activities and fundraising events. Mrs. McAlduff recognized and thanked her and the students for their community service work. Carolyn Flint from Plymouth North High School updated the Committee on student activities and fundraising events. Mrs. McAlduff thanked them for their hard work.

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

Frank Smith, Vice President of EAPC, introduced Karen Mitchell, President, and a block of his teachers present there to show their support. He thanked the Committee and indicated the EAPC's continued support in upcoming negotiations. He announced that the EAPC is backing the MTA's candidacy for Deval Patrick and urged support. Mr. Smith expressed a desire to open up more communication with the Committee and requested that individual schools be provided with names of liaisons that could be contacted with questions, concerns or for invitations to events. Mr. Smith inquired as to the Physical Restraint Policy and asked for clarification on whether an untrained/uncertified staff member can be required to assist with restraint. He also asked if the School Committee Policy Handbook was available online. Mr. Haskell indicated that it was not. Lastly, Mr. Smith asked if all staff had been educated about the Crisis Manuals and he requested clarification on who exactly was supposed to receive the manuals.

Karen Mitchell indicated that, starting this Wednesday she would be holding breakfast meetings geared toward the Deval Patrick Campaign, offering facts, figures and public education on what he stands for. She plans to hold one meeting at each school building starting from South Elementary School and moving northward, up until Election Day. She offered to supply a list of meeting locations or to provide information to anyone who is not able attend. Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Smith stressed the importance of this campaign, as funding from Boston directly relates to the issues and problems encountered with contracts. For information, she can be reached at 508-747-1255.

4.0 Communications

4.1 Retirements

Dr. Young announced the retirement of Francis Hendry, Custodian at Plymouth North High School.

On behalf of the Committee, Mrs. Freedman thanked Mr. Hendry for his 10+ years of service to the Plymouth School System and acknowledged the importance of the role of custodian and the support they give to teachers and staff by making for a pleasant physical environment. She wished Mr. Hendry well in his 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 #001-07
- 5.2 Case #002-07
- 5.3 Case #003-07
- 5.4 Case #004-07
- 5.5 Case #005-07

Mr. Haskell presented these latest Home-School recommendations for the 2006-2007 School Year and stated that they meet all of the State minimum requirements. Mr. Sherman has reviewed each one and has met with each family to be sure each met the 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 discuss School Committee goals and take the necessary action(s).

Mrs. McAlduff asked Mr. White to read each of the Goals and As Measured By, and then have discussion on changes or recommendations.

Mr. White read Goal 1 - Student Performance - in its entirety. Mrs. McAlduff indicated that the language in Goal 1 reflects input from the Committee and changed from last year to being more relative to what the Committee's job is. She thanked Mrs. Adelman for providing most of the language for the Goal. Mrs. Manfredi suggested adding the words "to encourage improvement" to the language of the Goal, and a discussion on this point followed. Mr. White moved to approve Goal 1, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve the motion was 3 in favor. Mrs. Freedman is opposed.

Mr. White read Goal 2 – Facilities - in its entirety. Mrs. McAlduff indicated that the language in Goal 2 reflects changes based on input from the Committee. Mrs. Adelman moved to approve Goal 2, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve the motion was 3 in favor. Mrs. Freedman is opposed.

Mr. White read Goal 3 – Highly Qualified Work Force - in its entirety. Mrs. McAlduff indicated that the language in Goal 3 is basically the same as last year. Mr. White moved to approve Goal 3, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve the motion was 3 in favor. Mrs. Freedman is opposed.

Mr. White read Goal 4 – Community Relations - in its entirety. Mrs. McAlduff indicated that much of the language was the same as last year with a few exceptions, reflecting comments or suggestions from the Committee and noted the elimination of reports from the Communications Subcommittee. Mrs. Adelman moved to approve Goal 4, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve the motion was 3 in favor. Mrs. Freedman is opposed.

Mr. White read Goal 5 – School Safety and Climate - in its entirety. Mrs. McAlduff indicated that the language in Goal 5 is similar; however, with the acquisition of School Resource Officers, the assessment part is new. Mrs. Adelman suggested adding anti-substance abuse programs to 2.3 of Goal 5 using the collaborative grant. Mrs. Adelman moved to recommend Goal 5 - School Safety and Climate - with the amendment of 2.3 to include anti-substance abuse programs, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve the amendment motion was 3 in favor. Mrs. Freedman is opposed.

Mr. White moved to approve Goal 5, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve the motion was 3 in favor. Mrs. Freedman is opposed.

Mrs. McAlduff thanked the Committee members for their contributions and discussion.

7.0 To discuss the Superintendent's goals and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell indicated that he also has five goals.

Mr. Haskell read Goal 1 - NCLB Remediation - in its entirety and a discussion of 2.3 followed, particularly as to the "development" of a science curriculum and how it differs from Goal 3 - Elementary Science. Mrs. Freedman suggested changing the verbiage from "development of science curriculum" to "align the science curriculum" and Mr. Haskell agreed it was more appropriate. Mrs. McAlduff indicated these revisions to 2.3 As Measured By, for consideration. Mrs. Adelman moved to accept Goal 1 as revised, seconded by Mr. White. Vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Mr. Haskell read Goal 2 – Facilities - in its entirety. Mr. White moved to accept Goal 2, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Mr. Haskell read Goal 3 – Elementary Science - in its entirety. Mr. Haskell discussed Teacher Science Academies, and discussed the Harcourt Science Program. He indicated that the new materials would be on display at the next Town Meeting. Mr. White moved to accept Goal 3, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Mr. Haskell read Goal 4 – Highly Qualified Work Force - in its entirety. He indicated that changes to the Induction and Mentoring Program now include administration, and that item 2.3 now provides for paraprofessionals to a wider range of schools. He indicated that the new materials would be on display at the next Town Meeting. Mr. White moved to accept Goal 4, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Mr. Haskell read Goal 5 – Community Relations - in its entirety and discussed plans to collaborate with Town boards and Town administrators to address community issues, including providing lunches for the elderly at Cold Spring Elementary School while the senior center facility is closed, and the use of the Jocelyn Center. Mr. White moved to accept Goal 5, seconded by Mrs. Adelman. Vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

- 8.0 To receive the MASC Resolutions Committee recommendations and take the necessary actions.

Mrs. Freedman moved to table this matter to the October 23, 2006, meeting in order to obtain adequate recommendations from the Superintendent regarding the resolutions. Mrs. McAlduff indicated that the motion on the floor to table is non-debatable, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to table until October 23, 2006, was unanimous.

- 9.0 To receive a list of School Committee policies to be revised and new policies developed for 2006-2007.

Mr. Maestas referred to a list of School Committee Policies for Review included in the packet and stressed that many policies adopted were last reviewed in the 1980s and are now being aggressively reviewed. He indicated that he would be providing further updates throughout the school year.

10.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Haskell reiterated that MSBA is still developing protocol and regulations for various programs, and they have hired a Director of Capital Planning to help organize their structure.

Mr. Haskell noted a report recently submitted to NEASC outlining efforts to remediate areas of improvement, as well as the debt exclusion vote. He indicated that the reports and summaries are available in digital or paper form. Mrs. Adelman thanked Patty Connors and John Siever for their report.

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

Mr. Haskell reported that meetings with program managers to review requests for the FY08 budget have begun.

12.0 Reports

12.1 Calendar of Events.

Mrs. Adelman inquired regarding posting of Policy Subcommittee Meetings. Mrs. McAlduff confirmed the calendaring of the Building Committee.

12.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members.

None.

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

None. Mrs. Burgess was not present.

12.4 To receive a report from the Plymouth Building Committee.

Mrs. Adelman reported that the committee had met on 10/12 with no quorum for voting. Brian Kuhn, Chairman of the Town Energy Committee, was there to observe. Discussed was the efficiency of the HVAC at Plymouth Community Intermediate School, work in the gym while children are in session, and CORI checks for workmen.

Discussions mainly concerned energy savings and energy efficiency. Mrs. Adelman also confirmed that the Permanent School Building Committee should arrange to attend Plymouth Building Committee meetings.

12.5 To receive a report from the Communications Subcommittee.

Mr. Begley indicated the Subcommittee met with Mark Worthington, Chairman of the Open Review website. Mr. Haskell recommended contacting Mrs. Driscoll, Technology Coordinator, to discuss the coordination of school committee and district websites.

12.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

Mr. Haskell highlighted the concern of student safety and crisis procedures. He presented his copy of the staff Crisis Manual, which he indicated is to be kept in each classroom and reviewed with the staff annually.

Mr. Haskell also reported on a shortage of Library Media Specialists and how the problem is being addressed.

Mr. Haskell announced that he would attend a Town Meeting Preview on October 19. He also announced a School Committee meeting on October 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Plymouth North High School, prior to Town Meeting.

12.7 Personnel

Dr. Young reported 19 appointments: 3 certificated staff, 9 classified staff, and 7 coaches and advisors. There are 2 resignations.

13.0 To receive the minutes of the following meetings and take the necessary actions.

13.1 September 11, 2006

Motion by Mrs. Adelman, seconded by Mr. Begley, to accept the minutes of September 11, 2006. Vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

13.2 September 18, 2006

Motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi, to accept the minutes of September 18, 2006. Vote to accept the minutes was three. Mrs. Freedman abstained.

13.3 September 18, 2006, Executive Session

Motion by Mr. White, seconded by Mrs. Adelman, to accept the minutes of September 18, 2006, Executive Session. Vote to accept the motion was three. Mrs. Freedman abstained.

13.4 October 2, 2006

Motion by Mrs. Manfredi, seconded by Mr. Begley, to accept the minutes of October 2, 2006. Vote to accept the motion was unanimous.

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

14.1 Plymouth North High School

Mrs. Freedman moved to approve recommendation to dispose of the obsolete equipment from Plymouth North High School, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

14.2 Hedge Elementary School

Mrs. Freedman moved to approve recommendation to dispose of the obsolete equipment from Hedge Elementary School, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

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

Mr. Haskell recommended A/P Warrant #17 dated October 19, 2006, in the amount of \$1,637,095.85, and A/P Warrant #17A dated October 19, 2006, in the amount of \$189.56. Mrs. Freedman moved to approve Warrant #17 and Warrant #17A in the amount stated, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve the motion to pay Warrant #17 and Warrant #17A was unanimous.

16.0 To discuss strategies with respect to negotiations pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 23B (3) and take the necessary actions.

Motion by Mrs. Freedman, seconded by Mr. White to go into Executive Session to discuss strategies with respect to negotiations pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 23B (3) and take the necessary action(s). On a roll call vote, all voting in favor, approved unanimously.

Into Executive Session at 8:46 p.m.

Out of Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary