

Plymouth School Committee

October 1, 2007

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, October 1, 2007, at Plymouth South Middle School at 7:00 p.m.

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

Present from Administration were 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.

None.

2.0 To receive comments from student representatives.

Lauren Maloney, representative from PNHS, reported on the following areas of achievement: in academics - the semi-finalist and other students receiving commendations in National Merit Scholarship and AP Scholar awards; in civic leadership - freshmen participation in team-building activities at Camp Clark; in fine arts - the PNHS band played at the grand openings of Colony Plaza and the Plymouth Court House; and in athletics – they were well underway.

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

Mr. Riordan, President of EAPC, announced George Ayers as Plymouth Secondary Vice President. Mr. Riordan informed the Committee of the EAPC's willingness to assist the School Committee in posting teacher contracts on the School Committee website, noting their goal of open communication and the importance of public access to information. Dr. Young recommended they work in conjunction with the Communications Subcommittee to achieve this.

4.0 Communications

4.1 Correspondence

None noted; however, it was announced that Mr. Haskell was currently attending a Facilities Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, and that Mr. Maestas would be acting in Mr. Haskell's absence.

4.2 Retirements

Dr. Young noted one retirement: Marcia McChesney, Title 1 Parent Liaison - Districtwide. Mrs. Manfredi thanked her for 9+ years of service to Plymouth students and wished her well in retirement.

- 5.0 To receive a report on the Alternative School Program and introduce the Director of Alternative Education.

Ms. Connors and Ms. Mortensen, principals for PSHS and PNHS respectively, along with Mr. Sherman, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, introduced Jeremy Gobeil, Director of Alternative Education. Mr. Gobeil briefly discussed his background. He gave a description and the purpose of the program. He noted the program details and discussed the program's progress, indicating that transportation is currently the main obstacle. He discussed student profile, staffing considerations, scheduling, and expansion of the program, noting that expansion depended on the success of the current program. Ms. Connors, Ms. Mortensen and Mr. Sherman reported on program details, as well as Mr. Gobeil's implementation and administration of the program. Discussion of outcome, staffing, expansion, cost/funding, parental support, and testing followed.

- 6.0 To receive a report on the Plymouth Youth Development Collaborative.

Mr. Maestas introduced Jen Pinto, Coordinator of the Plymouth Youth Development Collaborative (PYDC). Ms. Pinto discussed the PYDC, its goals, the history of, and criteria for, Drug Free Community funding, noting Community Anti-Drug Coalition Administration (CADCA) requirements that include use of their Strategic Prevention Framework and America's Promise Alliance Five Promises framework. Ms. Pinto discussed the progress of the PYDC, noting that Plymouth is in the Assessment and Capacity Building Stages. She noted the Plymouth Summit on October 29th, invited the School Committee, and welcomed community participation. She distributed a brochure and registration form for the Town Summit. Mr. Maestas noted the expansiveness of the collaborative with involvement by the District Attorney and Police Departments. Also noted was the importance of community and parental support, the need to combine resources, and the necessity of youth involvement in the PYDC.

- 7.0 To receive a report on an Assessment Model for the District.

Mr. Maestas presented a District Assessment Overview noting that all assessments outlined in the overview are State mandated. He discussed MCAS, MEPA, KDI, DIBELS, GMADE, GRADE, and provided the 2007-2008 Massachusetts Testing Schedule, noting that the Department of Education sets the dates for assessment. He discussed uses of data from student assessments, noting that Plymouth has already begun to archive data from student assessments for use in staff development.

Meeting into recess at 9:00 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

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

8.1 #060-08

8.2 #061-08

Mr. Maestas presented the 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. Maestas recommended their approval.

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

9.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Maestas reported receiving no new information from the MSBA regarding the Statements of Interest. He noted that Mr. Haskell had attended MSBA meetings.

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

Mr. Maestas noted that they are working on budgets with principals, coordinators and directors. He anticipates a revised timeline on budget workshops based on the Town Meeting date.

11.0 Reports.

11.1 Calendar of Events

A Selectmen's Meeting was noted on October 9th. A Special School Committee meeting at PNHS was noted on October 22nd at 6:30 p.m., prior to the 7:00 p.m. Town Meeting. Town Summit at Waverly Oaks was noted on October 29th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

11.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members.

Mrs. Burgess noted that the Land Review Committee meets on October 18th.

Mrs. Burgess reported that Capital Outlay unanimously approved

Waverly Oaks, and they would next meet on November 7th to review the by-laws. She noted having been elected Vice-chairperson.

Mrs. Betz reported that the Policy Subcommittee was reviewing seven policies and will present its findings to the School Committee at a retreat scheduled for November 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

As liaison to PNHS, Mrs. Manfredi praised the Failure is No Option Program and the student/staff Mentoring Program implemented by Ms. Connors, noting the sense of community it has fostered at the school.

Mrs. Manfredi requested resolutions for MASC.

Mrs. McAlduff reported that the Finance Committee voted 8-7 against Waverly Oaks; however, it will vote again after being provided with complete information on the issue.

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

Nothing to report.

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

In Mr. White's absence, Mrs. McAlduff reported that the Building Committee supported installation of a robotic observatory at PCIS.

- 11.5 To receive a report from the Communications Subcommittee.

Mr. Begley noted that the School Committee website will be updated with liaison assignments. It was noted that the October 15th School Committee meeting will be held at Indian Brook Elementary School.

Mrs. McAlduff suggested the School Committee send letters of congratulations to students receiving academic awards. There was discussion as to who will send the letters, Secretary Burgess or the Communications Subcommittee. Mrs. McAlduff will obtain the information regarding students' names and awards from student representative, Lauren Maloney's, notes. The use of School Committee letterhead for these letters was discussed.

Motion by Mrs. Burgess to use School Committee letterhead in communications, seconded by Mrs. Manfredi. Vote to use School Committee letterhead in communications was unanimous.

11.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

It was noted that principals have been asked to notify parents of School Committee meetings at their school.

It was noted that MCAS results will be on the October 15th School Committee agenda.

11.7 Personnel

Dr. Young announced 16 appointments: 1 certificated, 9 classified, and 6 coaches/aides. She also noted 6 resignations, and 1 leave of absence.

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

12.1 September 10, 2007

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

12.2 September 10, 2007 Executive Session

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

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

Mr. Maestas recommended FY08 A/P Warrant # 15 dated September 27, 2007, in the amount of \$1,050,355.85. Motion by Mrs. Manfredi to approve FY08 A/P Warrant #15 in the amount stated, seconded by Mrs. Burgess. Vote to approve FY08 A/P Warrant #15 in the amount stated is unanimous.

Motion by Mrs. Manfredi to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bielen. Vote to adjourn was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary