

Plymouth School Committee

September 17, 2007

A meeting of the Plymouth School Committee was held on Monday, September 17, 2007, at Plymouth South Middle School at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were Linda McAlduff, John White, Margie Burgess, Nicole Manfredi, Dennis Begley, Robert Bielen 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.

None.

2.0 To receive comments from student representatives.

None present.

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

Frank Smith, Elementary Vice President, thanked Central Office for their help in getting teachers off to a good start; however, he voiced complaints from them over first paychecks, offering a remedy for next year. He also noted that the Hedge playground dedication was on September 28 and invited the Committee to attend. Mr. Riordan, President of the EAPC, noted that he would report back to the Committee regarding posting teacher contracts on the School Committee website at the October 1st meeting.

4.0 Communications

4.1 Correspondence

Mr. White noted a letter to Mr. Haskell from Jon Dorn, regarding Saturday's Cod Production's presentation of Schoolhouse Rock 2007, a waterfront benefit concert for Plymouth Public Schools at which \$600 was raised and donated for the benefit of Plymouth students. Mr. White noted a letter from Mr. Gurek to Mr. Dorn in acknowledgment and thanks for the generous \$600 donation.

4.2 Retirements

Dr. Young noted one retirement: Linda Reilly, Library Media Specialist at PCIS. Her resignation was accepted with regrets. Mr. White thanked her for 23+ years of service to Plymouth students and wished her well in retirement.

- 5.0 To receive a report from the student delegation that traveled to Shichigahama, Japan.

Mr. Maestas introduced Paul Allard, Thomas Begley, Colin Crociati, and Ashley O'Connell, four of the eleven students who traveled to Shichigahama, Japan. Mr. Maestas commended the entire student delegation on their fine representation of the Plymouth community while in Japan. Each student gave an account of his/her experiences while in Japan. Mr. Crociati presented his filming of the trip, highlighting the countryside, people and culture. Miss O'Connell wore a formal kimono, and traditional wooden sandals that were carved for her in Japan.

- 6.0 To receive a report on the Communities That Care Survey.

Mr. Haskell noted that students in grades 7-12 participated in a Communities That Care Survey administered nationally to provide statistics regarding students' attitudes and behaviors. He introduced Ms. Michelle Roy who gave a background on survey administration, a demographic profile, and reviewed survey validation. She discussed the risk factors and protective factors that are predictors of problem behaviors and positive youth outcomes. She presented statistics revealed by the survey on anti-social behaviors, alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, noting that in Plymouth alcohol abuse is significantly higher than in state and national statistics. Lastly, she discussed what works in prevention and what is happening in Plymouth to address these issues, noting the Plymouth Youth Development Collaborative.

- 7.0 To receive a report on meeting the challenge of MCAS high-stakes testing in science.

Mr. Haskell noted that science has been added to high stakes testing. He introduced Mr. Micozzi, K-12 Science Coordinator, who discussed high-stakes science assessment and Plymouth's curriculum preparation for it, providing a Test Schedule for School Year 2007-08. He gave a background on Bridgewater State College Curriculum Blue Ribbon Panels, noting the school districts involved in Blue Ribbon Panel 2006 and 2007 and outlined the task of Blue Ribbon Panels. He presented lesson plan samples. A discussion followed regarding costs of SRS, standardized lesson plans, and teacher performance as measured by test results.

Meeting into recess at 9:05 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

- 8.0 To discuss the Superintendent's Goals for the 2007-2008 School Year and take the necessary action(s).

Mr. Haskell presented the Superintendent's Goals for the 2007-2008 School Year. Goal 3 Community Relations Item 2.2 was discussed. Goal 1 Student Performance Item 2.3 was discussed. Goal 2 Facilities Item 2.2 was discussed and amended to delete the words, "except high schools".

Motion by Mr. White to approve Superintendent's Goals for the 2007-2008 School Year with the three-word change, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve Superintendent's Goals for the 2007-2008 School Year with the three-word change was unanimous.

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

- 9.1 #033-08
- 9.2 #074-08
- 9.3 #075-08
- 9.4 #076-08
- 9.5 #077-08

Mr. Haskell 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. Haskell recommended their approval.

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

- 10.0 To discuss high school space.

Mr. Haskell reported that he has not received any new information from the MSBA.

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

Mr. Haskell indicated that they are working on preliminary documents, and noted that the dates for budget workshops will be affected by the Town Meeting date not yet announced.

- 12.0 To receive recommendation(s) relative to a field trip request and take the necessary action(s).

No discussion or action taken as the field trip was cancelled and is to be rescheduled to a later date not yet determined.

13.0 Reports.

13.1 Calendar of Events

Mrs. Burgess reminded the Committee that Capital Outlay meets on September 18th. Mr. Haskell also stated that the Finance Committee meets on September 19th. Mrs. Burgess noted Charter Commission public hearings on October 18 and 25th.

13.2 To receive reports and proposals from Committee members.

Mrs. Burgess discussed identifying uses for MY TURN \$10,000 grant for students working with the elderly.

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 noted they met last Thursday and discussed a project manager for Federal Furnace, West, and Indian Brook Elementary School projects. He also updated members on progress at PCIS and presented a project report from Ted Gentry. There was a discussion of PAC TV budget money being held, as well as purchase of mobile hand-held video equipment for taping meetings away from PCIS.

13.5 To receive a report from the Communications Subcommittee.

Nothing to report.

13.6 To receive reports and proposals from the Superintendent.

Mr. Haskell announced that the School Committee meets a half hour prior to Annual Fall Town Meeting.

Mr. Haskell noted that he met with Committee Precinct Chairs regarding Waverly Oaks.

13.7 Personnel

Dr. Young announced 14 appointments: 4 certificated and 10 classified. She also noted 7 resignations and no leaves of

absence.

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

Mr. Haskell recommended FY08 A/P Warrant #14 dated September 20, 2007, in the amount of \$402,240.81. Motion by Mr. White to approve FY08 A/P Warrant #14 in the amount stated, seconded by Mr. Begley. Vote to approve FY08 A/P Warrant #14 in the amount stated is unanimous.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary