

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 2, 2023 7:00 PM 11 Lincoln Street, PPS Central Office, Mayflower Rm In person and Zoom

Members present: Michelle Badger (Chairperson), Luis Pizano (Vice Chairperson), Dr. James Sorensen, Kim Savery (Zoom), Robert Morgan, Vedna Lacombe-Heywood, Absent: Katherine Jackson (Secretary)

School Administrators Present: Dr. Christopher S. Campbell (Superintendent), Dr. Adam C. Blaisdell (Assistant Superintendent-Business Administrator), Erik W. Cioffi (Assistant Superintendent—Human Resources Director), Dr. Stacey A. Rogers (Assistant Superintendent Administration & Instruction).

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: Quinn Hales (Plymouth North High School) Maya DePaul (Plymouth South High School)

Hales and DePaul highlighted past, present, and future activities that were available to students at their respective campuses. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the various methods of information regarding school activities. This is the time for PSATs, college fairs, yearbook photos, and other activities that are time-sensitive. Hales mentioned that there are still openings for students who are interested in going to Spain in 2024. DePaul highlighted the success of their Going Gold projects which raised \$2900. The students at PSHS had the opportunity to hear the renowned primatologist and anthropologist, Dr. Jane Goodall. There will be a video of her presentation available at a future date. Parents are encouraged to use Aspen to keep up with their children's academics.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC: None

PROGRAM UPDATES

Program Directors

Patrick Vann Cott (Food Services Director), Patti Callahan-Ryan (Assistant Food Services Director), and Olivia Bankston (Nutritionist) collaborated on and presented a presentation regarding Plymouth Public School's food program. A copy of the presentation may be found on the meeting agenda. One of the top points that is highlighted is the fact that school breakfasts and lunches are now free to all students. The presentation demonstrated the methods to offer more healthy choices for students, including foods that are needed by some students with differing eating challenges. Dr. Sorensen read a message from a parent who had questions about meal choices; the presenters were able to clarify what is exactly available for students.

COMMUNICATIONS

Superintendent's Report

Campbell offered his thanks to those who were responsible for Goodall's visit and presentation to PSHS. MCAS data was released on September 19 representing first-time data since schools returned to normal after COVID. This is giving Plymouth an indication of accountability including graduation rates as well as absenteeism rates and needs for assistance and intervention. Campbell said we "have a lot to be appreciative of." Campbell mentioned the one-chip challenge that is pervading social media platforms and the inherent danger it presents for our children. He has sent a memo to parents to make them aware of the problem. On September 21, he met with precinct chairs to discuss school redistricting and aging elementary school buildings. The superintendent then added his congratulations to Manomet Elementary School for being chosen as 1 of only 2 schools, in Massachusetts, to receive recognition as a 2023 Exemplary High Performing National Blue-Ribbon School. He recognized the longevity of the principal, Dr. Patrick D. Fraine along with his faculty and staff, who worked to cultivate an inclusive and nurturing environment while holding high academic expectations.

Manomet Elementary will be honored on November 16-17 in Washington, D.C. Campbell also recognized the schools' Going Gold project to raise awareness and money for pediatric cancer. Over the years this has been part of the schools' projects, they have raised over \$52,000. The superintendent also made this School Custodian Day, in recognition of all they have done.

REPORTS

Committee Member Reports

Badger announced that Senator Moran, Representative LaNatra, and Representative Muratore will be joining the School Committee and the Select Board for December 18 meeting.

In conversation with the Manomet School Council, Badger noted excitement was shared by everyone. There will be t-shirts for the students as well as jackets for faculty and staff. Sorensen reiterated the importance of family involvement as it creates an atmosphere for learning, and Savery said that links to Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) recommendations were sent out. Pizano emphasized that recommendations will be available.

Plymouth Building Committee Reports

Morgan said that the roofs on some of the schools haven't been finished. Blaisdell has completed site visits and indicated there is a long punch list. The companies involved with the unfinished projects have been invited to the next Building Committee meeting.

Personnel Reports

Cioffi stated there are 7 classified appointments, 1 parental leave, 2 medical leaves, and 5 resignations.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS-None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Prior to the meeting and posted on the Town of Plymouth Website under School/Agenda Website, there are a number of warrants that have been put forward for approval by the board. Each board member has an opportunity to review the Superintendent's recommendation and the attachment file with specific information. This information is also available for all interested parties as part of the meeting agenda; click on icon for additional information.

Home Education Plans

Home Education Plans #124-24 through #127-24. Approved

Schedule of Bills

Accounts Payable Warrant #S083123 in the amount of \$781, 084.55 Approved

Grants and Revolving Funds Warrant #G083123 in the amount of \$754 Approved

Accounts Payable Warrant #S091423 in the amount of \$891,222.24 Approved

Grants and Revolving Funds Warrant #G091423 in the amount of \$191,777.45 Approved

Disposal of Equipment and Materials

CC#358 to dispose of obsolete equipment from the Business Office Approved

CC#347 to dispose of Obsolete Equipment from the Visual Performing Arts Approved

CC#332 To dispose of Obsolete Books and Instructional Materials Approved

Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

Minutes: May 08, 2023; April 10, 2023; April 24, 2023. After a short discussion, it was decided this would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Eddy, LWV Observer

For your information: When the minutes of this meeting have been approved, they will be available at Plymouth-ma.gov website. Go to Agenda and Minutes, scroll down to and click School Committee. Look right and click the minutes icon.