

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

**OCTOBER 16, 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 Katherine Jackson (Secretary), Dr. James Sorensen, Kim Savery, Robert Morgan, Vedna Lacombe-Heywood

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).

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMENDATIONS

(With no objections from the committee, Badger moved this to the top of the agenda)

#### Student Recognition

Math Coordinator, Dr. Kelly Bitinas, presented the results of the Summer Freckle Math program, which is a skills-based math practice for students. There were 360 students, grades 1-8, who completed 5,067 sessions with a total of 23,278 minutes spent working on the Freckle Program. The largest number of minutes spent by an individual, Yaroslavia Kazakova, was over 2,400 minutes. Bitinas, Campbell, and Badger then presented the students with certificates and a gift bag. The gift bags contained various gift cards from local supporters: Crumbl Cookies, Fedele's Chocolates, Five Below, Kush Kone, Pinz, Plimoth Candy, Ryan's Amusement, Rose & Vicki's, and Sweet Frog.

Dr. Robert Powers (Social Studies Coordinator) and Alison Riordan (Science, Technology/Engineering Coordinator) introduced professor Jaavan Kamisa and student Anna Banti, from Collegia St. Carla in Milan, Italy. Kamisa and Banti are representative of the 21 students and 2 teachers that are part of an ongoing exchange program between Milan and Plymouth. The students/teachers from Milan will experience our New England culture, and they will also attend classes. Anna and Jaavan shared their experiences, to date, and said they are looking forward to Plymouth students coming to Milan.

### COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Prior to general public comments, Badger stated the expectations relative to public comments (abbreviated version): "The Plymouth School Committee would like the opportunity to learn about the concerns and opinions of Plymouth residents. Input from students, parents, guardians within the Plymouth Public Schools is especially important to the School Committee. Public comment is part of the School Committee's agenda and it is not an opportunity for a discussion, debate, or dialogue between individuals and the School Committee. It is an individual's opportunity to express opportunity to express an opinion or concern on issues within the School Committee's authority and scope. Each speaker will be allowed up to 3 minutes to present their (his/her) material and must begin their (his/her) comments by stating their (his/her) name and address. Topics for discussion should be limited to those items within the School Committee's scope of authority. The authority of the School Committee primarily concerns the review and approval of the district's public schools. The performance of the superintendent and the educational goals and policies of the district's public's public schools, public schools, and complaints regarding school personnel, apart from the superintendent or students, are prohibited. Comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Plymouth School Committee or individual committee members."

Dale Weber, representing Collective Bargaining Relief Association (COBRA) which includes custodial staff, service workers, and skilled tradesmen that work for the schools. His concern was presented as a plea to ask the School Committee to consider these employees during budget preparation. Weber's overall concern is the recruitment and retention of staff. Weber stated: "Plymouth is morphing into a community of a training ground for employees to come her, build resumes, and move on."

Tom Pinto, president of Educational Association of Plymouth Carver (EAPC) spoke in support of Weber's concerns and offered his assistance in working with him.

#### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

DC Brown (Plymouth North High School), Maya DePaul (Plymouth South High School) Among the numerous activities/events mentioned by DC Brown, were the joint college fair with PSHS, PSATs, and picture retakes. The football team is sponsoring a "Pink Out" in recognition and support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The money raised will be given to the Plymouth Breast Center.

DePaul offered friends, relatives, and community businesses the opportunity to give a Shout Out in the PSMS program that will be distributed at the annual fall and spring concerts. Samantha Adams was presented with the Harvard Book Award. The boys' cross country won their 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive Patriot League (Fisher Division) championship title. PSHS will be "going Pink" for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. There is now a sensory room for students. PSHS was recognized as a member of the AP Honor Roll.

#### SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS

Mike Caple, Unified Arts Director, put forth his annual request for a group of middle school choir members to go to Plymouth UK. The students, and chaperones, will travel to Plymouth UK after school ends in June. Caple referenced the packet he made available for consideration. This include itinerary, approximate pricing, and fund raising. Sorensen brought attention to the fact that financial aid would be available. He then questioned the no-refund policy, but Caple said there are always exceptions. Proposal Accepted

Cioffi presented a job description for a new position as Reading Specialist. Based on the cost of outsourcing reading assistance and the less-than-effective piecemeal approach to helping our students who need more intensive help, it was determined that this would be the best path to take. Cioffi presented a job description to the School Committee. There followed a period of discussion. It was agreed to add to the job description that the candidate must recognize the importance of work in a culturally diverse learning environment and have previous experience in that capacity. It was also added that the candidate would be assisting in the compilation of data to evaluate reading programs and assist in identifying strategies in terms and best practices. APPROVED with recommended changes

#### PROGRAM UPDATES

The Curriculum Coordinators, Dr. Kelly Bitinas (Math), Dr. Lisa White (ELA), Alison Riordan (Science), along with Karen Venett (Director of Accountability and Measurement) presented in-depth data relative to their specific disciplines. For details of power point presentations, view EDTV, October 16 School Committee meeting.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's FY24 Smart Goals

Dr. Campbell presented, in great detail, his FY24 Goals. The major topics included Goal 1: Professional Practice Goal  
2: District Goal  
3: District Improvement Goal  
4: Student Learning Goal.

Campbell addressed each goal and how each one would be implemented. APPROVED

Reports and Proposals from the Superintendent

Jeffrey Riley (Commissioner of Education), came to Plymouth to thank Plymouth Public Schools for welcoming newcomer families and students. They went to Cold Spring and had the opportunity to talk with members of the school community and parents. This meeting was videotaped and may be seen on EDTV. Campbell was asked if Plymouth would be a source of support for other schools.

Campbell thanked Rogers for obtaining a grant entitled: Supporting Student Social, Emotional, Learning, Behavioral, Mental Health and Wellness. The grants awarded total over \$73,000 to the PPS.

Mark Duffy, Director of CTE (College, Career & Technical Education) Program, was in charge of the Advisors' Dinner. Trevor Martini, 2009 PSHS graduate, who is now Executive Vice-President of iHeart Radio, addressed the audience. Also participating was Analise Lopes, a PNHS senior, who is part of the Facilities Management Program and won a National placing in her field.

Campbell thanked all the advisors who supported the many students involved in various activities.

## REPORTS

### Letters

Badger presented a draft letter from the School Committee to the National Blue Ribbon members at Manomet Elementary School. After discussion, it was decided to rewrite the letter to have it come from the Secretary of the School Committee but highlight it was from the entire committee.

A reminder that Town Meeting was scheduled for Saturday, but Campbell reiterated that the school did not have any warrants for consideration. He did say he would be in attendance.

### Committee Member Reports

#### Plymouth Building Committee Reports

The fire station in west Plymouth (2) is close to completion. The fire station in Manomet (5) is in the site phase and may have a year until finished.

West Elementary, Federal Furnace Elementary, and Indian Brook Elementary are all scheduled for updates on their roofs. Plymouth is working with contractors but finding big disagreements between contractors and architects. Blaisdell said they are working to complete project but disagreements and weather may hinder progress.

### Personnel Reports

Cioffi reported 4 resignations, 3 staff on parental leave, and 3 on medical leave. He also reported the appointment of 3 certified staff and 7 classified staff.

## UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS N/A

## OTHER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS

### Resolutions

The Advocacy Committee, composed of Badger, Jackson, and Pizano indicated the expiring resolutions that they would like to back for 2024:

1. Banning polystyrene from the schools. Students from PNHS and PSHS are involved with researching information to support this ban.
2. Full cost transportation to and from school for foster children.
3. Access to menstrual supplies.
4. Free broadband for K-12 students.

\*\*These were for informational purposes and did not require a vote at this time

The School Official Voting Delegate to MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) be authorized to vote at the MASC Annual Business Meeting on behalf of the Plymouth School Committee in support of Resolution 5-Full Funding of Transportation Costs for students in Foster.

MASC resolutions

That the School Committee Official Voting Delegate to MASC be authorized to vote at the MASC Annual Business Meeting on Behalf of the Plymouth School Committee.

DEI Resolution

That the School Committee Official Voting Delegate to MASC be authorized to vote at the Annual Business Meeting on behalf of the Plymouth School in support of supporting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for all Students in the School District.

\*\*No formal vote but there was discussion. This appears to be a formality.

#### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Home Schooling Plan Approval #128-4 through #138-24 APPROVED

Minutes

Corrected minutes April 10, 2023 APPROVED

Corrected minutes May 8, 2023 APPROVED

Corrected minutes September 30, 2023 APPROVED

Schedule of Bills

Accounts Payable Warrant ##S101223 APPROVED

Grants and Revolving Funds Warrant #G101223 APPROVED

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. Readers may also click the agenda icon to find more attached file information about the agenda items.