

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

October 30, 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) Absent: Dr. Stacey A. Rogers (Assistant Superintendent Administration & Instruction).

SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMENDATIONS

Chairperson Badger asked for a moment of silence for Mary Gardiner Wilson, a former school department colleague, who was a Grade 1 teacher for Nathaniel Morton for 29 years.

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC: None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS: Lillian Morse (PSHS), Quinn Brown (PNHS)

Morse announced that, through raising over \$2,800, PSHS was awarded the Going Gold trophy. Breast Cancer Awareness will be the recipient of \$1500 which was raised on Pink Day. The field hockey team also raised \$600 from game donations. The Children's Business Fare was scheduled for November 8. PSHS hosted the first digital (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)). The football, golf, and volleyball teams have qualified for post-season participation in state tournaments. The Unified PSHS and PNHS basketball teams will be competing in their Mega Bowl. The school was selected as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School for awareness for their dedication to embracing diversity, promoting equity, and empowering students to be change advocates Scott Johnson, Special Education teacher and boys' tennis coach, was selected as Massachusetts Boys' Tennis Coach of the Year.

Brown reminded seniors that it is time to check Plymouth North website or PNHS Daily for updates and information regarding their 2024/senior yearbook. It is also time to order caps and gowns: www.jostens.com for information. There will be college visits during KBlock and lunch. A full list of attending colleges, universities, and armed services can be found on the PNHS website. Guidance has a bulletin board listing available jobs. For prospective winter athletes there will be a Meet the Coaches Night in the cafeteria from 5-6pm on November 13. The Student Council will be hosting a Craft Fair on November 4. Brown is asking for students to assist the Interact Club in supporting Rotary's Winter Clothing Drive. This drive will be during the months of October and November. PNHS will be holding a Rolling Rally to celebrate and send off sports teams that have qualified for the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) tournaments. DC also stated that the Annual Veteran's Day Assembly is scheduled for November 9th.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS

PNHS International Field Trip Request Venice, Florence, and Rome

Alex Cardoso (PNHS) and Nicole Jalbert (PNHS), along with students Casey and Bella, presented their proposal for an international trip for 42 students in 2025. Casey and Bella had been to Panama on a previous trip and shared their experiences. Cardoso and Jalbert expressed their beliefs about the benefits of the trip. Dr. Sorenson spoke of his concerns regarding the cost of the trip, and the percentage of students that would be excluded due to cost. Discussion by all members of the School Committee followed with Heywood mentioning that they might also want to look at other school

activities that students cannot afford. The concerns about the cost of trips and other activities will be discussed at an Advocacy meeting in November. This trip was approved 5-2.

RISD (Rhode Island School of Design)

Dr. Campbell made the presentation for the day trip to Providence, RI. The students will be French and Spanish students from PNHS. They will be divided into two groups where the French group would go to RISD Museum, and the Spanish group would explore Brown University's campuses. The groups would then have a bag lunch, and switch itineraries. This trip was approved 7-0.

BUDGET

Capital Improvement and Equipment Requests

Dr. Blaisdell and Matt Durkee (Director of Facilities) gave an overview of the FY25 Capital Plan. Blaisdell first explained that a facility needs assessment was previously done a couple of years ago, so a lot of these items are coming directly from that list. Durkee found other needs and they were bumped to this list. The first item on the list is money for an eligibility and feasibility study for a new 425 student elementary school. This will be presented as a statement of interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). The first point of discussion was the FY25 Capital Requests. A spreadsheet followed which included a breakdown of 2025, 2026, 2027, and 2028. Copies of the spreadsheet may be found under the agenda for this meeting. Approved 7-0 with the idea that the items may be moved in relation to priorities changing.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

School Improvement Plans

Patty Fry (Principal, Plymouth South High School) started her presentation by thanking Matt Durkee, the skilled craftsmen, and the head custodians for the HVAC systems. She then stated that a lot was accomplished during the pandemic thanks to the kids, staff and parents. Patty listed her goals and accomplishments with a 2020-2023 slide presentation: 1) New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Alignment with New Standards/Development of Vision of a Graduate; 2) Purposeful Advisory Re-design, Reflection, & Implementation; 3) Family & Community Engagement with a focus on Communication; 4) Diversity & Inclusiveness at Plymouth South. She then showed how the goals were met.

Patty then presented her new goals for 2023-2027 with a slide presentation: 1) NEASC Self-Study (2023-24) & Collaborative Conference October 2024; 2) Digital Portfolio-Vision of a Graduate beginning with Class of 2027; 3) Student Voice in deciding which assignments align by department; 4) Create and Develop a Successful English Language Program at PSHS including CCTE, Five Students, PD, "Connections" Club with Student Mentors.

The School Council of Plymouth South High School was comprised of Patricia Fry, Principal • Chris Baker, CCTE Supervisor • Marc Loranger, CCTE Director (2020-23) • Mark Duffy, CCTE Director • Kristen Buchanan, Guidance DH • Julie Morency, Social Studies • Brenna Buckley, Science • Kyle Leavitt, Health • Dan Bell, Parent • Tina Beltran, Parent • Kerry Enokian, Parent • Rachel McMahan, Parent • Liz Spiegel, Parent • Michelle Ireland, Parent • Robert Morgan, SC • Vedna Lacombe-Heywood, SC • Katherine Jackson, SC • Michelle Badger, SC • Kathryn Spiegel, Student • Colby Keating, Student • Caroline Anderson, Student • Ronan Buchanan, Student • David Tricario, Student.

COMMUNICATIONS

Superintendent's Report



Campbell introduced the first recording of American Voices, a podcast, that will be available on a monthly basis. The podcasts will revolve around school happenings and events. The first recorded podcast participants, Campbell and 4 middle high school students, shared their thoughts on this year's district's theme: Just Be Yourself. The overall focus of Hometown Voices is to bring in student's perspective on various topics. Podcasts will be on the school website and Spotify. Campbell thanked ED TV for their assistance in setting up this program.

On October 19 the Education Commissioner met with various superintendents/assistant superintendents from across the Commonwealth. The topic of discussion-and concern-was the high rate of absenteeism which has risen. The higher rate, at this point is at the elementary school level as opposed to previously being at the secondary level. The Commissioner indicates that there will be more outreach to families. Campbell stated that Plymouth had set goals and has exceeded them.

Campbell congratulated Mrs. Shelly Terry, English teacher at PNHS, for being the recipient of the Milkin Education Award. The Milkin Award also included a check for \$25,000. Campbell said that this is one example of the great educators we have in Plymouth schools.

Although the school didn't have any warrants, Campbell and Badger attended the Town Meeting. Article 8, calling for acceptance of a Master Plan, was approved. Campbell indicated they he would like the School Department to be a part of the planning.

As was mentioned by Fry, the Megabowl will be at PSHS. Campbell encouraged people to go and support these athletes. He said that they would like to expand the program to elementary schools. To this end, they have met with Massachusetts Special Olympics to start the process.

Starting with next year's 9th graders, the designation of level College Prep 2 course will be eliminated. Rogers Has been working with principals, teachers, academic coordinators, and department heads to discuss the benefits of this decision. Campbell then gave supporting information that went into making this decision.

Campbell has instituted a new public forum, Coffee and Conversation. This will be monthly either early morning or early evening. The first one will be held before the School Committee Meeting on November 13 at 5PM; the topic will be School Finance.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS: cont'd

Policy Adoption, Amendment, Review and Appeal

Massachusetts Association of School Committees. (MASC) Section D Policy.

As noted by Campbell, this presentation is for informational purposes. Each committee member has access to a copy D policy. The policy subcommittee is made up of Campbell (Blaisdell filled in for Campbell), Rogers, Heywood, and Sorensen. Any questions or suggestions may be forwarded To Rogers, Heywood, or Sorensen.

Other School Committee Matters

Proposed 2023 MASC Resolutions

After discussion of each proposed resolution, the School Committee voted to give Savery an opportunity to vote on their recommendations at the meeting of the MASC.

1. FULL, STABLE FUNDING FOR METCO APPROVED
2. REGARDING INVESTIGATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION BIDDING PROCEDURES APPROVED
3. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION NO VOTE
4. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION APPROVED
5. MA SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY APPROVED
6. SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM SURVEILLANCE APPROVED
7. RELATED TO MCAS APPROVED

8. SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS APPROVED

REPORTS

Committee Member Reports

Savery attended the Milkin Award and shared what an amazing experience it was for her. Savery and Jackson attended a MASC sponsored workshop regarding the LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Plus) Community. Savery reiterated how we are encouraged to follow the Golden Rule but offered another rule: The Platinum Rule. The definition is shared as: Treat others the way they want to be treated. She felt we should ask the LGBTQ+ what is best for them.

Badger felt that the College Fair was well attended and thanked guidance, students, faculty, and staff for their support. She mentioned some of the towns, outside of Plymouth, that also attended the fair. December 18 will be a joint meeting with State Representative LaNatra, State Representative Muratore, and State Senator Moran; they will be joined by the Select Board. The meeting will be held at 11 Lincoln Street (School Administration Building) at 7PM. LaNatra, Muratore, and Moran would like any questions in advance. Badger also went to Manomet Elementary School to see an overview of the materials donated by the Home School Association to enhance/add activities.

Heywood visited South Elementary to observe and support their Reader Celebration program. She spoke of the value of the program for all students.

Plymouth Building Committee Reports: None

Personnel Reports

Cioffi reported: 5 Appointments-1 Certified, 4 Classified; 1 Resignation; Leaves-1 Parental, 3 Medical.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS: None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

October 2, 2023, Regular Session APPROVED

Home Education Plans

Home Education Plan(s) #139-24 through #147-24 for School Year 2023-2024 APPROVED

Schedule of Bills

Accounts Payable Warrant #S102623 \$632,583.65 APPROVED

Grants and Revolving Funds Warrant #G102623 APPROVED

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA: None

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.