

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING January 8, 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).

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC INFO

Michael Spencer, Principal from Nathaniel Morton Elementary School, offered a moment of silence for Diane Surdam, a staff member who recently passed away.

OTHER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS INFO

Representative Matt Muratore, a representative for Representative Kathy LaNatra, and a representative for State Senator Susan Moran shared an update regarding both the positive and negative effects the state financial conditions may have on the school budget. Badger mentioned the efforts they are putting forward to deal with the costly transportation problem.

Comments regarding the projected budgets were made by Tom Pinto (Educational Association of Plymouth and Carver) and Dale Webber (Collective Bargaining Relief Association). Both highlighted the high rate of turnover and the salary/benefits in comparison to other nearby towns. Pinto was supported with comments from 3 members of the school staff: Julie Hannon, Katie Keeley, and Rachel Fallon. Pinto, Webber, Hannon, Keeley, and Fallon-representing EAPC and COBRA members-were requesting a no vote on the contract. They all felt the contract needed to be revisited and be more in line with surrounding towns.

BUDGET INFO& ACTION

In reference to the upcoming budget vote, there was a discussion among the members of the School Board. Campbell stated that the budget was put together based on a recommendation from the town. The ensuing discussion highlighted the concerns that were voiced by both PREA and COBRA. Those that spoke acknowledged that Plymouth is losing quality people because of salaries that are lower than those in the Lighthouse Community. After much discussion, it was decided to put the vote aside until further meetings to revisit the budget. The School Committee was scheduled to meet with the Select Board, but it had to be cancelled; it has been rescheduled for January 16

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS INFO & ACTION

Dr. Robert Powers, Social Studies Coordinator, presented a detailed update on the K-12 curriculum. Powers stated that the Plymouth schools are unique because they have the benefits of academic coordinators. He also highlighted their Civics Curriculum which has been supported by a sub-committee of the League of Women Voters who created an incredible, “super-helpful” resource based off of one that was built on a Cape Cod program. Powers shared that this program contains “all these different topics of issues outside of their school in the local or state community, even national news”. This curriculum also included various guiding questions.

Brian Byrne, Director of EDTV, and Libby Hurley, Communication Media Specialist for Plymouth Public Schools and part of the EDTV team, presented an overview of their programs. Byrne and Hurley,

through their presentations demonstrated how EDTV's focus is to EDUCATE, COMMUNICATE, and ENTERTAIN. EDTV is a local access channel in Plymouth but, more importantly, it fosters video production skills and storytelling skills in all schools and grade levels. Byrne acknowledged the staff and their responsibilities. At the high school level, EDTV programs are classes. At the middle and elementary level, there are EDTV clubs. Byrne and Hurley then gave a detailed explanation of EDTV programs and successes/awards.

After discussion regarding school bus transportations, and the concerns that Plymouth has regarding costs, it was voted 7-0 to renew our contract with First Student America, Inc. APPROVED

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS INFO & ACTION

Mike Cable, Coordinator of Visual Performing Arts, Bonnie Holmes, Band Director and VPA Department Head at Plymouth North High School, and Corey Greub, Band Director and VPA Department Head at Plymouth South High School spoke relative to the proposed Plymouth Marching and Concert Bands field trip to Hawaii. The Music Performance Trip to Honolulu, Hawaii will be December 4-9, 2024. APPROVED

The school committee members were given copies of recommended revisions to MASC Section E and Section F policies. Discussion and clarification on updates followed by the reminder that there will be more at the next meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS INFO

Superintendent's Report

Strategic Planning Update: Campbell said they are gathering a lot of data. He also said they have finalized the survey which they will go over next week. The focus groups started on January 8, and it was stated that the students were fantastic. After meeting with the PSHS students, they met at 6 PM with staff and community members. On January 9, focus groups will be held for middle school staff, administration, and the school community is invited to facilitate. PCIS is available for School Committee continuation of focus groups.

Meeting with Executive Office of Education: Transportation-Campbell thanked Representative Muratore for arranging a meeting to discuss transportation reimbursement. Campbell was told that the financial climate is not that good at this point.

Podcast Recordings: DEI-podcast was filmed on December 14. Campbell thanked Jackson, Breaunna Hattab, Director of DEI as well as students Zariah (PNHS) & Andrea (PSHS). The next segment of the podcast series will be filmed on January 17. The focus will be College & Career Readiness and will include Guidance, CCTE Director (College, Career, & Technical Education) and two students from both academic and vocational programs.

Coffee and Conversation: School Safety and Security: This meeting was held on December 15; Campbell thanked Lt. Manfredi and Resource Officers Roth and Ireland for joining in on the conversation. The next Coffee and Conversation will be on January 18 and the topic will be Substance Use.

FYI: There will be a meeting with the Advisory and Finance Committee on January 16 . There has been discussion of the solar eclipse on April 8. If weather is clear, Plymouth might see 95% of the eclipse between 2-4:30. This is during the times students are being transported and may result in safety concerns. Safety glasses have been purchased for staff and students but there are continuing discussions as how best to handle this situation. The unified basketball teams from PNHS and PSHS play at TD garden on January 14; Campbell wished both teams well.

REPORTS

Committee Member Reports

Before Christmas, Savery was reading to the children in a 4th grade class at Indian Brook Elementary. She asked the students what would they advocate for, and she shared some of their responses with the committee members. Badger reported that there would be money coming back from PAC.

Plymouth Building Committee Reports

As of December 14, the elementary roof projects are trying to get remediation between project manager and contractor. The contractor gave them a preliminary plan to get all the rooftop units raised up as soon as school is out at the end of this school year. There were money disagreements but it was decided to take current route as opposed to legal ones

Personnel Reports

Cioffi reported: 2 certified appointments, 4 classified appointments, 3 parental leaves, 2 medical leaves, and 5 resignations.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ACTION

Home Education Plans #152-24 through #159-24. APPROVED

Disposal of Obsolete Equipment. APPROVED

Regular Session/Minutes of October 16 and October 30, 2023 School Committee meetings be approved. APPROVED

Accounts Payable Warrant #S120723 (\$2,443,603.15). APPROVED

Grants and Revolving Funds Warrant #G120723 (\$153,567.01). APPROVED

Accounts Payable Warrant #122123 (\$2,381,772.29). APPROVED

Grants and Revolving Funds Warrant #G122123 (\$613,956.13). APPROVED

Accounts Payable Warrant #S010424 (\$244,361.95). APPROVED

Grants and Revolving Funds Warrant #G01024 (\$125,194.02). 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.