

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING January 22, 2024

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).

EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION Item

1) Collective Bargaining. 2) Special Education Laws and Regulations pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(x)

COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC -INFO Item

Brian Fitzgerald praised the Plymouth Public Schools on change that he felt was remarkable: Plymouth will be able to continue recruiting, attracting, and retaining educators. In reference to the school's budget proposal, Brian is looking forward to a school budget he can support as a town meeting member.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS -INFO Item

Hales (Plymouth North High School) stated that seniors' scholarship applications, via Google, are due by February 1. For students and family members, the Class of 2024 sign orders are due by March 28. DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) seniors, Gabby Lopes and Nicole Rytell produced a Financial Literacy app: Welcome to the Future of Finance. On Monday, January 8, the seniors watched the Beta version which is geared to middle school students. Report cards will be distributed on January 26. The Tech Expo and Program Studies, which is for grade 8 students and parents/guardians, will be held on January 26 6-6:30 PM. SATs for juniors will be held on April 10; must sign up by February 9.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS -INFO Item

Jim McLaughlin, Commanding Officer of the Naval Secret Unit @ Mass Maritime, gave an overview of their program. He then introduced two "shipmates", Kylie Wilson and Lincoln Renault, who shared what the program meant to them.

The members of the School Committee then took the opportunity to go to the library at Nathaniel Morton Elementary School and recognize students' artwork that was a product of the various elementary school students. The artwork was on display at Central Office.

OTHER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS -INFO Item

Velda Scott from the SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) gave an overview of the past year of their organization. Following her PowerPoint presentation, Christine Ricketts and Rose Calderone gave a more in-depth discussion regarding children with dyslexia. Following that, Holly Gay expressed the importance of inclusion for all disabled children. She expanded on what inclusion means for these children, and then gave examples as to how to improve the process.

PROGRAM UPDATES -INFO Item

Program Directors

Visual & Performing Arts(VPA) Program: Michael Caple, Coordinator, explained the mission of the VPA Program, as well the challenges, and Arts for All vs Conservatory Approach. Caple shared some of the highlights of the program and gave credit to the students and adults who worked to make the program successful. Caple also mentioned the components of Continued Curriculum Work and engaged in a question/answer/ comment dialogue.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS -ACTION Item

Policy, Adoption, Amendment, Review, and Appeal

To receive and accept changes to MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) and PPS (Plymouth Public Schools) Section E Policies and Sectioned F Policies. APPROVED
COMMUNICATIONS

Superintendent's Report

- Strategic Planning: Campbell stated that 10 forums, on youth substance abuse have been held. They included high school (2), middle school (2), elementary school (2), and community (2). A survey has also been sent out.

- Filming of PSA (Public Service Announcement) about Youth Substance Use.

Administrators from both middle and high schools, as well as Kelly Macomber (Family & Community Engagement Specialist) and EDTV collaborated on this PSA, which will be made available for parents late February/early March. The focus is the impact of vaping nicotine and marijuana.

- Coffee and Conversation Forums: The last forum, which included Macomber, focused on youth substance abuse.

- School Fees: The fees were brought forward as a point for discussion. Campbell said he would bring a comparison sheet listing what other schools are charging.

- Saturday Morning School Committee Meeting (Feb 3): Areas for discussion include School Safety & Security, Budget, Update on Campbell's goals, Fee Structure, State of FY25 Budget Proposal.

After a short discussion, it was decided that they would have a virtual meeting at 3PM on January to vote on the budget.

Human Resources: Cioffi indicated that Andrea Lavin (Indian Brook Elementary School) will be retiring after 31+ years.

He also shared Certified Appointments (2), Classified Appointments (7), Parental Leave (1), Medical Leave (7), and Resignations (5).

REPORTS -INFO Item

Letters

Savery has been in touch with educators/government officials in Shichigahama, Plymouth's sister city, in reference to their exchange program. They are planning on a virtual exchange program on March 29. This summer the plans are to have students from Shichigahama come here for 10 days (although 2 are for travel and one they will spend in Boston on their own). Host families are needed.

Jackson has had the opportunity to take advantage of many events the schools have to offer. She attended the Plymouth Youth Collaborative, the Acapella Concert, The Diversity Committee, Hedge Council Meeting, and the Coffee and Conversation forum. She praised each event she attended.

Heywood spoke about the annual Martin Luther King breakfast held at Plymouth South High School and expressed her hope that some of the speakers could come to our schools.

Committee Member Reports

Plymouth Building Committee Reports

Morgan stated that they have been cleaning and testing smoke alarms and also fixing doors. Future work will be done during April vacation and the summer.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA- ACTION items-ALL APPROVED

- 12.1 Regular Session Minutes November 27, 2023
- 12.2 Executive Session Minutes November 13, 2023
- 12.3 Executive Session Minutes September 30, 2023
- 12.4 Executive Session Minutes September 11, 2023
- 12.5 Accounts Payable Warrant #S011824

12.6 Grants and Revolving Funds Warrant #G011824

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.