

## Observer Corps Report



### School Committee

December 1, 2025; Mayflower Room; Administration Building, Lincoln Street

**Members Present:** Luis Pizano-Chair, Katherine Jackson-Vice Chair, Robert Morgan, Secretary, Ms. Vedna Lacombe-Heywood, Ms. Ashley Shaw, Ms. Christina Bryant, Mr. Paul Samargedlis

**Members absent:** None

**Overall Summary:** After listening to the public speak, the School Committee members affirmed their support of the new sexual-health curriculum. They promised greater transparency in the future. The videos that will be shown to the middle schoolers and the summary of lesson plans are now available on the Plymouth Public Schools website at:

[https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/3919/PPS/6152170/Lessons\\_Videos\\_for\\_Families-8th\\_grade\\_Sexual\\_Health\\_Unit-2025-2026\\_1\\_.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/3919/PPS/6152170/Lessons_Videos_for_Families-8th_grade_Sexual_Health_Unit-2025-2026_1_.pdf),

and a parental guide at:

[https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/3919/PPS/6145306/PPS\\_Website-Information\\_for\\_Families-8th\\_Grade\\_Sexual\\_Health\\_Education-2025.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/3919/PPS/6145306/PPS_Website-Information_for_Families-8th_Grade_Sexual_Health_Education-2025.pdf)

Written notifications of dates the sexual-health units will be presented will go out at least a week in advance and parents will be able to opt out.

*It is this Observer's opinion that some of the criticism could have been avoided with better preparation of the roll-out of the new sexual-health curriculum. When parents were unable to see the whole curriculum or were told that they could not see it due to copyright issues, they were rightly concerned and rumors circulated. On the other hand, there appeared to be parents who strongly believe that the home is the only place where sex-education should be taught and would likely not approve of any curriculum that did not consider abstinence as the only way to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.*

**Summary of Meeting:** The Mayflower room was packed with people who came to discuss and/or observe the Health Education program update. Public comment was somewhat evenly divided between those favoring the proposed sex-education curriculum in the middle schools and those opposing it. Opposition speakers raised concerns such as lack of transparency, appropriateness of content for middle schooler that parents, not the schools should be teaching about sex. Those in favor of the new curriculum cited research showing lower teen pregnancy rates, less risky behavior, and decreased sexually transmitted diseases for teens who have had comprehensive health and sex education. Consent and setting boundaries, not just in sexual situations, is an important part of the proposed curriculum.

The middle schools have not had any sex-education program in many years.

**Issues relevant to LWV position/programs:**

The League of Women Voters has long backed health and family life curricula including sex-education on the national, state and local level. No action is needed at this point, but League members should be aware that there are organizations that would like to populate the School Committee with individuals who do not see a separation between church and state or would not support sex-ed in schools. The League should also follow the roll-out of the curriculum.

Open Meeting Law (OML) concerns	Yes	No
Meeting held in accessible location?	X	
Name cards identifying Members in place and readable by attendees?	X	
All speakers audible to all attendees?		X*
All visuals visible to all attendees or handouts available?	X	
Motion wording, motion maker names, and votes audible to all attendees?	X	
Minutes from previous meeting posted per OML?		X**
Opportunity for public comment?	X	
All attendees were courteous to each other?		X***
Executive Sessions were for one of 10 reasons per OML?	N/A	

\* Speakers sitting at speaker microphone were not always audible. Chair did not consistently ask speaker to get closer to the mic.

\*\* Last minutes posted were October 6, 2025.

\*\*\*In general, attendees were respectful of all speakers. There were some outbursts and from a few in the audience.

**Observer name and date:** Lyle Lawrence, December 1, 2025.

- When the official minutes from this meeting have been approved, they will be available on the Town website at <https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/agendacenter>