

MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Minutes of School Committee Meeting
Coolidge School
May 1, 2008

Present: W. Kohlman, M. Brannelly, A. Pratt, B. Smith, P. Berry
Administrators: M. Masterson, D. Mayer, B. McLaughlin, P. DiCicco

Budget Hearing

The Chairman, Mr. Kohlman, called the Budget Hearing to order at 7:00 PM. Since no one was in attendance for the Hearing, and the detailed Budget Presentation had been given on April 10, 2008, and shown on WAVM, he closed the Budget Hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Chairman Kohlman opened the regular meeting a 7:05 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

In addition to his written report, attached, the Dr. Masterson lauded the excellent presentation made by Ms. Labelle's Economics class at the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston that afternoon. He also expressed concerns he and the Business Administrator had regarding the citizens' petition warrant article for \$1M of field renovation. The wording of the petition places the responsibility for the work directly on the schools. School Committee members clearly understand the Administration is not equipped to take on these projects. Members expressed concern that citizens would assume the School Committee had advanced the fields' article surreptitiously via a citizens' petition. School Committee members asked the Chair to have a discussion with the Chairman of the Selectmen regarding all of these concerns.

Policy #516

Since the Elementary Principal was present with an elementary teacher, Mrs. Nance Messina, the Chair moved this item to first on the Committee's agenda. Ms. McLaughlin outlined the need for a definite number of absence days, 20 as proposed. Members agreed with the proposed change, suggested some clarifying language and suggested including language to address tardiness. Dr. Masterson was charged with developing a new draft.

School Calendar

Dr. Mayer & Ms. McLaughlin explained the rationale to change the traditional professional development times, memo attached, to regular and more professional development days with somewhat shorter amounts of time per day. The Committee expressed support for the change and emphasized the importance of communicating changes early to elementary parents and to the Police.

School Choice

Motion: "To accept choice students from other districts on a space available basis."
Approved: 5-0.

FY 09 Budget

Motion: “to approve the FY 09 Budget at \$13,395,635.” Approved 5-0.

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Approved 5-0.

Members’ Reports

Mrs. Ann Pratt raised the continuing concern of central office expanding workload, particularly on the Business Manager. Dr. Masterson responded he had been in conversation with Jerry Culbert and Pete DiCicco regarding a part-time facilities person. Additionally the Superintendent had planned a presentation this evening on increasing Department of Education (DOE) data demands on the central office, but had had to postpone it for a future meeting.

Mrs. Mary Brannelly reported on a very positive meeting with Governor Patrick’s Finance representative, regarding Maynard’s strengths and needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mark R. Masterson
Superintendent of Schools