

MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Minutes of School Committee Meeting
Coolidge School
September 4, 2008

Present: W. Kohlman, M. Brannelly, P. Berry, M. Howrey, A. Gay
Administrators: M. Masterson

Mr. Kohlman, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed the new School Committee Member Amy Gay.

Superintendent (Report attached) discussed the problems regarding the High School students' schedules not meeting the State mandated Department of Education 990 hour requirement. School Committee members reported concerns they had heard from community members. The Principal continues to work with the Student Council in addressing the problem, and the Superintendent is consulting with the Department of Education. There was request to re-visit the issue of graduation requirements in light of some seniors taking few courses.

Facilities update:

Mark Howrey and Dr. Masterson attempted to summarize the last several months of the Facilities Committee work. School Committee members that were present at the August 27, 2008 MSBA meeting then outlined the results of that meeting, in effect giving the School Committee permission to move forward its feasibility plan.

The School Committee voted 5-0 this motion: "To move forward to the October Town Meeting a 'stand-alone' warrant article to request \$350,000 to engage the services of an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and an architect to study the High School facilities problem and to identify the best solution."

A lengthy discussion followed regarding various grade combinations, facilities combinations, alternatives, advantages and disadvantages, etc. The members understand that the feasibility study will and must consider a full range of alternatives and ultimately settle on one which the MSBA will agree to cost-share.

MECC study:

Following the above discussion this grade re-configuration study was understood as a necessary segment of the much more encompassing feasibility study.

Policy 707, Advertising:

The Chair reviewed with the new committee members the history of this policy and requested that the members consider it as a 'first reading'. The current draft will be on the next agenda as the 'second reading'.

Minutes

Minutes of August 6, 2008 were approved 4-0-1, Amy Gay abstained.

Members Questions:

- A member informed the committee and the Superintendent that Clocktower Place was considering adding 300, 1-2 bedroom units; that 129 Parker St. was about to begin construction of 100 units; that there was a 40B construction project pending on the Acton/Maynard line, some of which would be in Maynard.
- Members shared information on an important meeting with the Selectmen on 9/17/08, and the Superintendent was requested to advance the facilities manager position at that meeting.
- A member raised the issue of dated and limited software in the business office. The Superintendent responded that software was an issue as was staffing, and that these issues would arise in the budgeting process.
- Members discussed the importance of coordinating PR responsibilities and agreed to invite the Facilities com to the next SC meeting, 9/18/08. That meeting would precede the PTO sponsored Facilities Forum on 9/25/08.
- A member requested a review of the Athletic Director's job description as an agenda item.
- A member requested a High School guidance services update, specifically regarding the guidance restructuring, encouraging students to apply to a broad range of colleges, and financial aid.
- Members discussed a School Committee/Selectmen booth at October Fest.
- A member raised the issue of topic continuity at meetings. The Superintendent will share with members in the future his planning agenda.

A motion was made at 9:10 p.m. to enter into executive session under Chap.39,#23B(3) to discuss collective bargaining, passed on a roll call vote, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Masterson
Superintendent of Schools