

**MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Minutes of School Committee Meeting**  
**February 2, 2006**

Present: A. Pratt, P. Howes, M. Brannelly, B. Smith, W. Kohlman  
Administrators: M. Masterson, D. Mayer, J. Lent, Mike Graceffa

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Chairman's Report

Mrs. Pratt initiated a discussion on the Chapter 70 base line proposal and the discussion at Acton/Boxborough the previous Monday. B. Smith also talked about the proposal and explained the political intent. A brief discussion ensued as to the wisdom of this particular strategy.

Gene Carlo – Superintendent of Assabet Valley Tech

Mr. Carlo introduced Ellen Ronzio, the Director of Pupil Services and Maryjo Nawrocki, Principal. Mr. Carlo handed out several documents to the Committee and talked briefly about the change brought about by the Ed Reform Law to AVT. He explained that there were now two guiding lights for vocational schools, one was MCAS and Accountability – new to vocational schools, and the second was a technology curriculum that would provide students with career opportunities. He articulated the challenge for a voc school for students who may enter not prepared to pass the MCAS, required 18 months after their arrival. Further, he explained the trades themselves were demanding higher academic standards, that it was necessary to prep vocational students who are really ready for the workforce with the academic demands they require. He emphasized the lifelong learning that was necessary to be successful over time. He explained that Tech Ed was more expensive than regular education as a result of the costs of necessary materials and teaching needs particular to a Tech School. He then explained the State's assessment criticizing the funding formula itself, but explaining how it specifically hurt Maynard over time. This prompted a discussion with the Committee about the foundation formula itself. There was some discussion of their admissions policy and Voc Tech requirements. After responding to questions from the Committee, Mr. Carlo thanked the Committee and left.

8<sup>th</sup> Graders \* JV Sports

J. Lent and M. Graceffa were introduced. Dr. Masterson explained as part of his direction to Mr. Graceffa, in the event of a 3% reduction in the budget, Mike would have reduced 8<sup>th</sup> grade fall sports teams. In the event of that situation, he had sought a waiver from the MIAA which would allow 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in football, soccer, field hockey and basketball to play at the high school level. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the wisdom of mixing 8<sup>th</sup> graders with high school students. Eventually the committee focused on the guiding question "What parameters should exist under which 8<sup>th</sup> graders would be able to participate at the high school level?" As an aside, in part of the conversation the Committee raised the issue of charging fees for students to raise revenue at football and basketball games. Mr. Graceffa explained the practice that he had in place. The Committee felt the students should not be charged and a motion was made to not charge any students entrance fees to athletic events.

Motion passed. 4-1.

### Citizen's Comments

Jim Fuerst and Mark Terranova approached the Committee with a petition for a freshman boys' basketball program beginning next year. They explained they were central mass basketball coaches, that they had coached teams through the middle school years, were involved in AAU leagues and really felt it was important to have a freshman boys' basketball team. The Committee asked a series of questions, specifically what would be the cost, travel expenses, coaches, etc. and the schedule? Also, would it be a boys' only program or would it include girls' basketball? Would there be any Title IX implications? Dr. Masterson requested Mr. Graceffa to report to him.

### School Year Start

Dr. Masterson presented the results of the teacher survey. The recommended motion that the first day of school for 2006/2007 begin before Labor Day on August 29 passed unanimously.

### Policy 516 Retention

There was discussion on which specific dates those worked with a few minor policy changes. The Committee needs to understand why the specific date for the Middle School notification is June 5. Why not the end of the third term? Why that late in June for notification? Dr. Masterson agreed to discuss the issue with the Middle School Principal and report to the Committee at the next meeting. He specifically explained that the Principals would begin to act upon this policy, understanding the Committee intended to support the new policy, their concerns being limited to the last notification dates for parents.

### Policies #636 and #404

Postponed until the next meeting

### Minutes

The minutes of January 19, 2006 were approved with a vote of 5-0.

### Executive Session

The Committee voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 10:06 p.m. by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Masterson  
Superintendent of Schools