

**MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Coolidge School**  
**February 3, 2005**

Present: A. Pratt, M. Brannelly, M. Wood, W. Kohlman, P. Howes  
Administrators: M. Masterson, D. Mayer, J. Lent

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Chairman's Report

Mary Brannelly and Ann Pratt attended a discussion on School Funding in the Commonwealth sponsored by the Acton League of Women Voters.

Superintendent's Report

- Maynard's Food Service Director has been requested to submit his initiatives around fresh fruit and vegetables program from local farms for a national award.
- MHS Peer Leaders are coordinating with Clock Tower and Oxfam America, an initiative to assist the Tsunami victims.
- Mike Stevens and Jim Adams are in a training course for teaching via Virtual High School (VHS).

There was no Student Representative Report. The students' will report once a month.

Business / Actions

Foreign Language Requirement at MHS

Mr. Lent reviewed his findings with the MHS Lead teachers, and Dr. Mayer, citing that 85% of the students are already taking at least two years of a foreign language. The recommendation was "that there be no specific foreign language requirement for a diploma from Maynard High School. It is recommended that all students be advised and counseled to complete at least two years of a foreign language and that students be advised and counseled to complete more years and/or additional language study based on their post-secondary plans and requirements/recommendation of colleges and universities." After much discussion, the Committee asked Dr. Mayer to look at enhancing Foreign Language starting at Grade 7 and its cost. There was no vote taken.

MHS Spanish Field Trip

Mrs. Waldron discussed with the Committee her intent to take the Spanish Club students to Puerto Rico in June, 2005. A motion was made by P. Howes to approve the Spanish Field Trip. 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Kohlman. Motion passed.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

This survey was implemented with students in grades 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in seven districts during March, 2004. Students responded to questions, which fall under general categories of risk behaviors including: safety, violence, suicide, tobacco use, alcohol use, drug use, gambling, HIV/AIDS education, sexual behavior, dietary behavior and physical activity. Emerson Hospital and the seven school districts contracted with Northeast Health Resources (NHR) to assist in the design of the instrument and to carry out the tabulation and an analysis of the data gathered from the Survey.

Dr. Mayer presented the findings and recommended a community conversation be started to discuss these findings, including PTO's, the Boys and Girls Club, Police Department, and Emerson Hospital.

Dr. Mayer met with Mr. Brooks, and Mr. Lent and discussed the survey and statistics. They will be reviewing the Health Curriculum to see where adjustments could be made.

The district is using money from the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Grant to purchase the "Say It Straight Program" which can be used in grades 3-12.

The Committee would like an update on the Health Curriculum at a future meeting. Also, the Committee wishes to thank Lisa MacLean for her work on this project.

The Survey is on file in the Central Office.

#### Curriculum Update

Dr. Mayer presented a curriculum update. The Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment has the following responsibilities:

- Setting and implementing standards to ensure that the District is staying on course.
- Analyzing data to ensure standards are being met and suggesting curriculum adjustment as needed.
- Directing professional development programs which is a critical piece of keeping the teachers up-to-date and professionally engaged.
- Writing and managing grants.
- Enforcing compliance with state and federal regulations.
- High School and Kindergarten Accreditation.

Over the past four months the areas of focus for Dr. Mayer have been Technology, Data Analysis, Mathematics, Needs Improvement Status, Gender Gap, The Whole Child, and Kindergarten Accreditation.

#### Minutes

A motion was made by W. Kohlman to accept the minutes of January 20, 2005. 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Wood. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session by roll call vote at 9:00 p.m. without the intent to return to open session. Chapter 39, Section 23A(3). W. Kohlman (Yes); M. Wood (Yes); A. Pratt (Yes). P. Howes abstained from negotiations conversation.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Moore  
Superintendent's Secretary