

Maynard Public Schools
Minutes of School Committee Meeting
Coolidge School
February 28, 2008

Present: William Kohlman, Mary Brannelly, Ann Pratt, Brian Smith, Phil Berry
Administrators: Dr. Mark Masterson

Mr. Kohlman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m..

Chairman's Report:

Mr. Kohlman discussed the Inspector General's Report of February 8, regarding the Assabet Valley fiscal practices. Mr. Kohlman explained that he had discussed with the Chair of the Selectmen ways the published monies might be returned to Maynard.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Masterson requested School Committee members to participate in the March 4 Facilities Committee Meeting. A discussion followed on the role of a School Committee appointed committee and the 'long-term' facilities plan. The Committee ultimately has the responsibility to determine and to 'sell' to the community the "best" facilities concept for current and future students.

The Superintendent requested executive sessions following the regular meeting.

CASE:

Dr. Masterson shared with the School Committee a graph demonstrating costs avoidance in our participating in the CASE collaborative.

FY 09 Budget:

Dr. Masterson presented an overview of our FY 09 budget and requested that the School Committee not negotiate a final budget for Town Meeting below level service. The Committee had each reached that conclusion on their own, and easily came to consensus to seek an override.

2008-09 Start-date:

Dr. Masterson again recommended a pre-Labor day start. The Committee agreed, and a series of questions regarding early release days. Dr. Masterson suggested that Dr. Mayer had been working with the Principals to develop times and days that would allow for the most optimal professional development programs.

Re-appropriation of FY 08 Facilities Funds.

Motion: "To request that the Selectmen place before the voters in a May warrant to re-appropriate previously approved funds towards more immediate facilities needs."

- a. Article #14, \$30,000 is our estimated remainder from the boiler project.
- b. Article #17 is a combination of the previously approved \$20,000 for the MSBA study and the \$12,000 for the land survey.

After some discussion the SC voted in favor, 5-0

Motion: "To request that the Selectmen place before the voters a May warrant to appropriate and/or transfer from available funds or otherwise provide a sum of money to fund School Department facility improvements."

The Committee wishes to create a 'placeholder' for any facilities needs that may arise from the study in progress, or discussions with the Selectmen.

Additionally:

Recommended motion:

"To request that the Selectmen postpone the School Committee's previous facilities request for Green Meadow's heating controls from May '08 to May '09."

Dr. Masterson, consonant with the facilities committee's recommendation the previous evening, recommended the School Committee postpone their recommendation for the Green Meadow controls project until this summer's completion of the heating ventilators/fans construction.

After some discussion the Committee decided it was early in the process to withdraw any facilities requests. Agreeing with that thinking Dr. Masterson withdrew the request.

Connect Ed:

Dr. Masterson requested a brief discussion regarding the use of the Connect Ed email/voice mail system. Principals use the system in various ways to communicate directly with their students' parents. Dr. Masterson receives many community requests to communicate to the school community, not all directly related to the schools. Dr. Masterson suggested he consult with other towns re policy and that a spring survey would be appropriate.

Minutes:

The minutes of the February 7, 2008 meeting were approved 5-0.

Members' Questions:

Are the Fowler parent early release days well-attended? Members discussed a need to have a meeting outlining the budgeting and funding processes surrounding athletic and extra-curricular fees. The budget sub-committee will meet to design this meeting. Members requested an opportunity to meet the new Principal, Laura Chesson and to hear Art Dulong's perceptions of the Maynard High School.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. At that time, a motion was made by Mr. Kohlman to enter into Executive Session for a personnel issue discussion by roll call vote. Mrs. Pratt, Yes; Mrs. Brannelly, Yes; Mr. Smith, Yes; Mr. Berry, Yes, Mr. Kohlman, Yes. Motion seconded and approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

At 9:20 p.m. the Committee entered into a second Executive Session pursuant to CH39,S23(B)3. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

At 9:50 p.m. the Committee entered into a third Executive Session pursuant to CH39,S23(B)3. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Masterson, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools