

MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Coolidge School
April 7, 2005

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

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman's Report

Mrs. Pratt addressed the Committee regarding the difficult times the District is in and the Committees work on the budget over the past several weeks.

Superintendent's Report

At this time Dr. Masterson asked to Committee to let Mr. Madow speak to the Committee regarding an issue he has had with the District. Mr. Madow began by stating that he has both a son and daughter graduate from Maynard High School and a son moving to the High School next year. The basic issue to the Committee was to address a concern that stemmed from their experiences working with the school and administration to solve a problem. After a series of meetings starting in November 2004 thru April 2005, the Madow's wanted the Committee to know that the process in which parent feedback on any topic is received, processed and acknowledged is severely broken. While they understand that not every situation can be resolved in a way to make all parents happy, but that every situation should be acknowledged and every parent feel they have been heard. They believe the schools and parents have to work in partnership.

Dr. Masterson continued with his report stating that a special needs student from another district is starting in our preschool at the end of April. The other district will pay tuition to educate the student.

Dr. Masterson recognized Bob Bradway for donating material and services for our athletic fields.

Dr. Masterson cited information from MASS about state aid reductions since FY02.

- 6,000 teachers (8% of teachers statewide) have been removed from instruction while we experienced light enrollment growth between FY02-05.
- The State Aid portion of support for public education has fallen from 43% to 37%.
- Local Aid cuts resulted in an "extra \$330M burden on property taxpayers across the state"
- Over 14,200 (5.2%) of municipal jobs have been lost (Mass Taxpayers Foundation 10/04)

Student Representative Report

Spring sports started on March 24. The first track meet is on April 13. There will be a softball car wash on April 9. The MHS Band leaves for Florida on April 14. SADD had a seatbelt drive. Personal Awareness Week was held last week. MHS Spirit week is April 11-13.

NEASC Update

Mr. Lent stated that the Commission voted to accept the 2-year progress report on Maynard High School, removed the school from warning status for the Standard of Accreditation for Mission and Expectations for Student Learning, and continued the school's accreditation. The school remains on warning status for the Standards of Accreditation on Curriculum and Community Resources for Learning.

Some of the commendations that were cited:

- the Work of the School Facilities Standing Committee to gain approval of funds to upgrade science labs
- the effective reorganization and improved use of the library, existing storage spaces and parking areas
- the development of course outlines, rubrics and expectations for all courses in the Program of Studies
- the training for and scoring sessions of MCAS practice prompts by all faculty members

Also the commission was pleased to learn of:

- the sequential and continuous replacement of outdated textbooks and supplemental materials through structured, rotating inventory processes
- the increased effective visibility of administrators in the classrooms
- the increased student access to technology through the increase of labs, streamlined procedures for lab use, and on-line card catalogs

The next task will be the Progress Report due July 1, 2005.

Business/Actions

School Choice

A motion was made by W. Kohlman for the district to continue in the School Choice Program. 2nd by M. Brannelly. Motion passed. The Committee wanted the advertisement to go in the Action Unlimited as well as the Beacon Villager Newspapers.

Case Agreement

A motion was made to approve the January 2005 amended CASE Agreement. 2nd by M. Brannelly. Motion passed.

Class of 2006 Graduation Date

The Class of 2006 would like to hold their Graduation on Friday, June 9, 2006. The Committee took no vote tonight. The date will be brought up again at the April 28 meeting.

Budget Priorities

A motion was made by W. Kohlman to accept the proposed plan for budget cuts. 2nd by M. Wood. Motion passed; 3-2.

The Committee had much discussion and concern over the following.

- Reductions in French and extra-curricula.
- Inequity of High School athletics.
- We can re-program line items if class sizes change. We need to be able to free-up reserve monies.
- Need to be consistent with our goal setting and make decisions on those. We cannot cut core curriculum.

At this time the Committee opened up discussion on the floor.

Minutes

A motion was made by W. Kohlman to accept the minutes of February 15, February 28, March 15, and March 22, as written. 2nd by P. Howes. Motion passed.

Members Questions

The committee asked Dr. Masterson to ask the Selectmen to have the election date changed prior to the students getting out of school.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m. to Executive Session Ch39, S23A(3) by roll call vote without the intent to return to open session. (W. Kohlman (Yes); M. Brannelly (Yes); M. Wood (Yes); A. Pratt (Yes); P. Howes (Abstained).

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Moore
Superintendent's Secretary