

MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Minutes of School Committee Meeting
Coolidge School
February 5, 2009

Present: William Kohlman, Mary Brannelly, Mark Howrey, Phil Berry, Amy Rebecca Gay
Administrators: Dr. Mark Masterson, Dr. Daniel Mayer, Peter DiCicco

The Chairman, Mr. Kohlman, called the meeting to order at 7PM.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Masterson shared an email that had arrived hours before the meeting from a National Superintendents' Organization warning that the projected state and local benefits from the federal stimulus plan may be drastically reduced. His point was that counting on federal assistance flowing to Maynard's school budget was at this moment in time, a hope, not a solution.

Excel Program:

Lois Cohen provided the Committee with a detailed overview of her excellent before & after school program, cf. attached. The Committee asked a series of questions about the program, specifically space issues, and complimented the whole Excel program.

WAVM Video:

Eric Arntzen and Kyle McCarthy showed a promo they had created to highlight High School offerings for 7th & 8th 'upday' this year. The Committee was impressed and requested like videos be added to each school's website.

FY10 Budget Planning:

1. Extra-curricular/sports: Mike Graceffa & Trish DeMars presented a considerable amount of data, describing the current fee structure, alternative structures and the challenges of finding a better system. After a series of questions the Committee asked the Athletic Directors to reinstitute a fee-committee with appropriate representation across users to study the best way to increase revenues or reduce costs, or a combination.
2. The Committee reviewed a draft of the 2/14 town presentation, made a series of recommendations for next Saturday. Mark & Mark will work out a draft together.
3. There was a brief discussion on value of the 65/35 agreement. Dr. Masterson recommended the agreement be maintained in the light of the current request, but reviewed and reconsidered by the School Committee and discussed with the Selectmen.

FY 09 Budget:

Motion: "To reduce the FY09, the current year, budget by \$125,000." The School Committee had anticipated some such request. Having been previously informed of the budget 'chill' and some pre-planning, they voted unanimously, 5-0 to make the reduction.

Youth at Risk Behavior Survey:

The Assistant Supt gave an excellent overview of a significant amount of data, helpfully graphed to assist the Committee. The Committee discussed the data at length, heard a report

about the parent presentation and suggested the data be added to the website with an email to parents advising them to review the survey.

Building Committee update:

Mark Howrey informed the Committee that the OPM/RFS had been received by the MSBA, that Amy's research regarding regionalization would be very helpful to both the School Committee and the Building Committee, and that an interviewing sub-group of the committee would be meeting soon. Dr. Masterson encouraged the Committee to take the lead in the regionalization portion of the feasibility study, since such study would require not only research, but quite possibly political interaction with other Districts elected officials; a task best not left to regular members of the building committee.

2009-10 School Year Calendar:

Having received the results of the poll showing 74% of the teachers preferred to begin the next school year before Labor Day, the Committee voted to have the first day of the 2009-10 school year be Tuesday, September 31, 5-0.

Family Medical Leave Policy (FMLA):

The Committee accepted the policy as a first reading and requested the superintendent to identify those areas that are specific to Maynard schools for the second reading.

Minutes of January 8:

The Committee voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of 1/8/09.

The Superintendent requested an executive session to discuss negotiations, CH39, S23B(3). The committee roll call vote to enter into executive session was 5-0, not to return to open session.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at approximately 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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