

MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Minutes of School Committee Meeting
Coolidge School
March 26, 2009

Present: William Kohlma, Mary Brannelly, Mark Howrey, Phil Berry, Amy Gay
Administrators: Dr. Mark Masterson, Laura Chesson

Citizens' Comments

The Chairman, Mr. Kohlman opened the meeting by welcoming the larger than usual gathering of visitors. A group of teachers read a petition signed by staff to keep the Green Meadow Principal, and then presented it to the Superintendent. Several parents and staff spoke to the School Committee in behalf of the Principal. The Chairman thanked them for their comments and closed the comment period.

High School Attendance / Graduation Requirements

Principal of Maynard High School, Laura Chesson provided an overview of High School issues and her proposed changes, cf. attached. The School Committee asked a series of questions, discussed the problems and her proposals and then voted that:

1. "Students shall be allowed 7 unexcused absences (3 tardies count as one absence) per semester.
2. "Students with absences over this limit will receive an 'administrative F' for the semester. The quarter grades will still remain on the record, but the semester grade, which is used to determine the year end average will be a 55."

Passed: 5-0

1. "Credits should be earned on a yearly basis for full year courses.
2. "Students who have a year end average (average of both semesters) of 60 or better will earn a full year of credit for that course."

Passed: 5-0

"Students in their senior year must earn 20 credits (pass 4 out of 7 courses) in order to graduate."

Passed: 5-0.

The Committee thanked Mrs. Chesson and encouraged her for "raising the bar".

Senator Jamie Eldridge

Senator Eldridge introduced himself and was welcomed by the School Committee. Members discussed with him regionalization and MSBA, charter schools, hotel & restaurant taxes and Chapter 70 funding. He promised to return calls to elected officials w/in 24 hours. The Superintendent requested that he continue his predecessor's practice of meeting with the Committee and the area Superintendents' group.
Representative Hogan was unable to make the meeting.

WAVM Antenna (cf. attached):

Mark Minasian, WAVM Advisor reviewed the radio history of WAVM's wattage changes, explaining the need to construct the aerial by next summer. He also mentioned the \$200,000 designated for WAVM capital needs as a result of the Comcast agreement, and WAVM's significant existing equipment needs. Members thanked him for his presentation and expressed an understanding of the importance of completing the antenna construction.

Regionalization:

Members discussed the most recent draft of Amy's research paper (attached). Mark H. suggested he would share the draft with the Building Committee and the Selectmen.

Town / School Survey:

Both Mark Howrey and Dr. Masterson shared their analyses of the parent community survey. Mark Howrey handed out graphs of the data. While the discussion was not lengthy, it is clear that parents value academics primarily, want more info and more positive news about the High School needs to get to parents of children in the lower grades. Members requested a PR plan. The Superintendent informed the Committee he is further analyzing the data w/the principals.

The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:45PM by roll call vote, 5-0 to enter into executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mark Masterson
Superintendent of Schools