

MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Minutes of School Committee Meeting
Coolidge School
February 4, 2010

Present: William Kohlman, Mary Brannelly, Phil Berry, Amy Rebecca Gay, Mark Howrey
(Absent)

Administrators: Mark Masterson, Superintendent

Chairman's Report

The Chair, Mr. Kohlman, recognized the recent tragedy of a car accident killing the father of a kindergarten student. The Superintendent added that he had visited student's class, that the teacher and Principal had made exceptional efforts to support the child and the family.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent explained some delays in paying vendors had caused some to no longer do business with the District, and emphasized the importance of at least three members stopping by the office each week to sign warrants.

Senator Eldridge and Representative Hogan called in from a late session at the State House explaining they were unable to attend and would reschedule.

MHS Tardies/Graduation Credits:

The High School Assistant Principal, Mike Testa, accompanied by the High School Art teacher, John Flynn, made a presentation to the Committee on the initial results of the attendance policy changes. He reviewed the data (attached) showing reductions in tardiness and absences in relation to previous years. The Committee asked several questions, and were supportive of the efforts being made to address a historical and significant problem.

Mr. Testa also discussed several psychologically very fragile students and how the school responded to their needs. He also reviewed a recent cell phone policy and discussed the challenges of maintaining an appropriate school environment in an age of increasingly simple communication. Lastly, he related the administration philosophy and practice of having drug-dogs check lockers and cars during a lock-down.

MSBA & Capital Maintenance

Committee members briefly discussed the importance of a facilities manager and an appropriate budget to maintain school and town facilities over time. Committee members believed there was a consensus among Selectmen to budget appropriate monies for school and town buildings.

FY 11 Budget Sub-Committee Update

There was little new budget information at this time, other than the most current town projections suggesting a level-funded budget.

Superintendent's Goals

The Superintendent presented a mid-year review of progress towards his goals.

Executive Session

At 8:30 p.m. members voted unanimously by roll call, 4-0, to enter into executive session under Chapter 39, S23B(3) to discuss negotiations, not to return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Masterson
Superintendent of Schools