

MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Minutes of School Committee Meeting
Coolidge School
February 25, 2010

Present: William Kohlman, Mary Brannelly, Mark Howrey, Phil Berry, Amy Rebecca Gay
Administrators: Mark Masterson, Superintendent of Schools

The Chairman, Mr. Kohlman, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Capital Planning Committee

The Superintendent introduced two members of the Capital Planning Committee, Rob Horn and Vickie Denaro. They reviewed the committee's hope to lay-out for the town a calendar of capital needs so that both citizens and elected officials could plan significant future expenditures. They also questioned the Superintendent's September, 2009 memo regarding Maynard High School priorities. The Superintendent agreed that, given the January MSBA decision, the only High School priority might be the handicapped lift for the stairs to the music room. He indicated he had initiated an investigation into the student's course plans for next year; and that the Principal was reviewing room assignments for courses. Finally, the Superintendent emphasized the necessity to repair the Green Meadow roof this year and that the cost would likely be well above the \$50K figure provided in the memo. The School Committee members asked the Superintendent to be sure to include Fowler needs in the capital requests.

Representative Kate Hogan

The Chairman, Mr. Kohlman, welcomed our State Representative, Kate Hogan, and invited her to talk with the Committee about the current budget and likely state support for education. She was unable to make any definitive statements, since the House process was just beginning. She did suggest some aid reductions were likely, but stated she would only be guessing to provide a specific percentage. She talked about the "Ed Reform law" recently passed, which led into a discussion about the aid formula. There was a lengthy conversation about years of continual budget reductions and the impact on students' education. Everyone agreed that revising the formula was both a necessity and a political challenge.

WAVM fees for 6th graders

The Superintendent outlined the strengths and the fragility of the "Maynard fees system". He then articulated the limited activities available to sixth graders, and suggested that the Friends of WAVM co-chairs wished to speak to the Committee. Marie Kutlowski and Rhonda Bistany spoke about the possibility of recruiting more sixth graders. The School Committee then engaged the co-presidents in a discussion of the pros & cons of a fee change. After a lengthy conversation the School Committee decided not to decide the issue this evening, but to reflect on the change and move it to a future agenda. They requested the Superintendent to gather available data on the history of student participation in WAVM and to request that the Advisor come to a future meeting to discuss a possible change.

Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to pass the 1/07/10 minutes; they were approved 5-0. A motion was made and seconded to pass the 2/04/10 minutes; they were approved 4-0, 0. Mark Howrey was absent and abstained.

Recognition

Members strongly recommended and voted unanimously that the Superintendent nominate Jerry Culbert, Chair of the Building Committee, for the annual town recognition award.

Members Questions

Members requested that the new Fowler Principal come before the School Committee and discuss his entry plan. The Chairman, Mr. Kohlman, suggested the April 8th meeting.

A member questioned if there would be opportunities for community members to serve as tech advisors on the new school project. The Superintendent responded affirmatively and indicated he would soon publish a request in his Weekly Notes. Several members said they still were not receiving his electronic newsletter.

The meeting adjourned about 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Masterson
Superintendent of Schools