

MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Minutes of School Committee Meeting
Coolidge School
December 15, 2009

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

Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Mr. Kohlman, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., and provided a report on the WAVM Telethon's success.

Some members commented on the desirability of scheduling the High School Concert after the Holiday to avoid the Telethon altogether.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported on his afternoon meeting with the MSBA, believing the 8-12 option was most likely, and hopefully a 'build-new' decision.

The Superintendent then brought forward the two Selectmen requested budgets, a -5% and a level-funding, and the committee's requested level service. All were based on this year's budget, plus the Finance Committee/Selectmen's promised \$250,000. He also reviewed with the School Committee the differing accounting systems used by Town Hall and the school district, as well as the reporting spreadsheet the Business Administrator had developed in concert with a previous Finance Committee chair. The School Committee had a series of questions about the report document. The Superintendent explained that the 'comment' section was not yet complete, and that he would ask the Business Administrator to attend the next School Committee meeting for a discussion of specifics.

A lengthy discussion ensued about an appropriate level-service budget. The discussion focused on identifying the FY09 budget in relation to the FY10 budget cuts, and the impact of the stimulus funds. The Superintendent offered that the FY11 level-service was based on FY10, which had been reduced approximately \$365,000 from FY09. The Committee was specifically concerned about technology and curriculum reductions and directed the Superintendent to add \$50,000 to the technology budget and \$150,000 to curriculum. After much discussion, focusing on the School Committees desire to appropriately represents the true needs of the school district, the School Committee voted for to submit the following FY11 school district budgets:

- A 5% reduced budget of: \$12,616,603, per the Selectmen's request.
- A level-funded budget of: \$13,280,635, per the Selectmen's request.
- And a level-service budget of: \$13,807,812.

Each of these votes was unanimous, 5-0.

The committee requested that the Superintendent develop a history of school budgets for the last 10 years. Mark Howrey planned to match those increases against inflation over the period.

The minutes of December 3, 2009 meeting were amended to read "and" not and/or in the sentence.... and approved 4-0-1. Phil Berry abstained due to his absence December 3, 2009.

A teacher in attendance as a union rep requested that the Committee be sure that the budget information be shared with teachers in a timely fashion and that the Committee be more circumspect about investments in curriculum. The Superintendent responded that he had previously met with the MEA President and shared the impact of a -5% reduction; and neither felt that publishing such info the week before Christmas was appropriate or necessary, given it's preliminary nature.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mark R. Masterson
Superintendent of Schools