

MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Minutes of School Committee Meeting
Coolidge School
November 16, 2006

Present: W. Kohlman, A. Pratt, M. Brannelly, B. Smith, P. Howes
Administrators: M. Masterson, D. Mayer, P. DiCicco

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Masterson recognized Nina Ford and Matt Fairweather as the top male and female scholars in the class of 2007. They will be recognized by the Worcester County Superintendents Association at the annual luncheon in January. Andrea Tobin will attend Student Government Day at the State House on April 27, 2007.

MCAS Results

Dr. Mayer gave a chronological perspective our MCAS test scores.

- For the past two years we have met all of the federal targets.
- For the first time in two years our students, on average, scored above the state average on the MCAS (see color coded trend analysis in Appendix A). The color coding shows the following: Five years ago our students scored significantly below the state average (1999, 2000 and 2001); three years ago they scored at the state average (2002, 2003, and 2004); and for the past two years students have scored significantly above the state average (2005 and 2006).
- Math used to be one of the weakest areas for us but this year at grades 3, 5, 7 and 10 our student's scored significantly above the state average. We are particularly proud of the fact that in 2004 only 21 percent of our 10th graders scored in the "advanced" level, in 2005 this jumped to 46 percent, and in 2006 we jumped to 53 percent. While the whole state has made progress in 10th grade math, our success is particularly pronounced relative to the state.
- Next Steps: We are not satisfied with the percent of students scoring in the advanced category on the MCAS.
- We are seeking ways to differentiate our instruction so that we can push students to achieve at higher levels.
- One way to push students is to extend the school day to provide enrichment classes as we will do through our new Arts and Academics Academy.
- We also need literacy and mathematics specialists just like they have in Littleton and Hudson and many other communities

Facilities Advisory Council Report

Dr. Masterson introduced Jerry Culbert, Chair of the Facilities Advisory Committee, to provide the monthly study update.

Members emphasized the importance of communicating the twin aspects of any renovation/construction; our goals are to renovate/construct to a current functional standard, e.g. locker rooms and to renovate/construct to a current (and future) educational standard, e.g. science labs. Our challenge is communicate this dual vision. Jerry explained the “30% trigger point,” an expenditure point expressed as a percentage of the assessed value of a building, renovation beyond which requires bring the entire building up to code, thus necessitating significant additional fiscal investment. He also discussed a concept of ‘linkage’, once a part of a system is slated for renovation, it’s more economical to renovate/construct the entire system, e.g. boilers, temp gauges wiring, intake and exhaust fans, etc., etc. In this context the Committee expressed reservations about publishing cost details for each system portion.

The Committee will be joined in its next work session, November 30, 2006 by the Facilities Advisory Council members.

Policies

Policies #103, 215, 404, 406, and 570

#103 District Goals and Strategic Planning

#215 Public Complaints/Concerns

#404 Staff Conflicts of Interest

#406 Gift Giving to Students

#570 Students with HIV Infection

The School Committee approved the above policies 5-0 at this second reading.

#645 Pregnant Students (1st Reading)

The first reading of this policy was discussed; Dr. Masterson agreed to revise it for the second reading.

Minutes

The November 2, 2006 minutes were passed 5-0.

Members Questions

Members expressed concern that MEF applications were down.

A motion was made and seconded to enter into executive session at 9:00 p.m. and not return to public session for the purposes of collective bargaining under Chapter 39,S23A(3). The motion passed on a roll call vote Bill Kohlman (Yes); Mary Brannelly (Yes); Ann Pratt (Yes); Brian Smith (Yes); P. Howes (Yes).

The regular School Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Masterson
Superintendent of Schools