

MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
FOWLER SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL
May 25, 2017

Present: Dawn Capello, Justin Hemm (Absent), Jamal De Vita, Mary Mertsch, Bethlyn Houlihan (Late)

Administrators: Robert J. Gerardi, Jr., Superintendent; Michelle Resendes, Business Manager, Jennifer Gaudet, Assistant Superintendent

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. De Vita to approve the minutes of May 11, 2017, as written. 2nd by Mr. Hemm. The motion passed 4-0.

Chairperson's Report

The town and school committee presented the Annual Employee Recognition Award to Colleen Moore.

Ms. Capello read the letter that Dr. Gerardi wrote nominating her for this award. Board of Selectmen Chairman, Chris DiSilva presented the award.

Superintendent's Report

Governor Baker attended the recent MASS Superintendent's Spring Meeting. He identified the economic recovery is not translating into additional revenue. He is concerned about municipal and school funding. He is committed to funding computer science curriculum and career and tech opportunities.

Student Representative Report

Janal, Olivia and Sophia were present.

Two weeks ago was the prom. It was a very successful night and a lot of hard work went into it. 200 students attended. Senior students are working on graduation June 10 at 4:00 pm. The baseball and softball teams made it to the playoffs. Students are anxious to get their schedules for next year.

Janal Carr thanked the school committee as this is her last meeting. The Senior class last day is May 31.

The student representatives reflected on some of the senior projects.

Citizen's Comments

Paula Copley, Middlesex Bank Manager, came to see the presentation on the trip to Guatemala. She was one of the judges on the senior capstone project this week. The seniors were fantastic. Her team judged three students. One did concussions in sports, one in the synthetic analysis, and one exchange student who did violence in video games. It was a wonderful job by all. Mary Brannelly was also a judge and had three panels. There was such pride for our students. There was so much research going into these projects. The students did a wonderful job.

Guatemala Presentation

Jen Adams is a Spanish at MHS. Five out of the six students came to the presentation tonight and attended the trip. A video was presented

Owen: He went on the trip to Cuba last year and then Guatemala this year. He studied the malnutrition crisis this year and brought 4 ½ years worth of daily dose vitamins to students. The internship portion was at the school. Some kids have one meal a day. Kids are happier than American students. He loved playing with the kids. He thanked the school committee for allowing them to take the trip.

Alex: Ms. Labelle suggested the trip. He also did the trip as a senior project. It was the most amazing trip. Thank you for the faith you have in the students, it was an incredible experience. Foreign travel changes your perspective when you get back to the states. It heightened my perspective of how we live in America. Everyday life is different. It was a huge help learning and knowing Spanish.

Ms. Houlihan: You said it changed your perspective of home. What were your thoughts? How much we take for granted and don't appreciate what we have. In Guatemala, there is not enough food or money, health care, and education. We have enough of everything. Many kids there were 100% enthusiastic of the school day.

Janel: She started researching standardized testing as her senior project. She shared a program on dental hygiene for this trip. They collected toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental floss and taught them how to brush their teeth, and how many time per day. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience. I didn't know what I was getting into. It was a lot more emotional in getting attached to the children. You wish you could stay and help. It was so hard to leave them. It was an amazing experience.

Adam: When I heard about the trip, I thought it would be a great opportunity. People were warning me that Guatemala is a dangerous country. I did not feel threatened there. He thanked the school committee and Dr. Gerardi for making this possible.

Mr. Hemm: When you look back in 10 -15 years, what will you remember most?

The kids. In America, we are so not enthusiastic to learn. The opportunity to learn is taken for granted.

Mary Finnegan: She is a speech therapist in grades 5-12. Thank you for allowing me to be a chaperone. So proud of their skills. It was something to be proud of and an incredible experience. Jackie Rodgers, Global Goods Owner: Thanked Ms. Adams. It has always been a dream of mine to now bring students to one of my projects. Thanks for your support, and all of Ms. Adam's hard work. I admired the fact that the students were so insightful as well. Every night we had a debriefing. It brought out so much in the kids. It was tremendously gratifying. To volunteer in a country is different than taking a tour.

Ms. Capello: I wanted to thank Jenn Adams and the chaperones. A great example of the teachers we want in Maynard. This is why we all do it. So glad you got the chance to go. Thank you all for making it happen.

Dr. Gerardi: He wanted to thank Jen Adams and chaperones. He wants to continue the service learning programs. Thank you for becoming global citizens.

Jen Adams – Thank you, Danielle Mannion, for the video.

Ms. Houlihan: What everyone experienced on this trip, you will bring with you and it will impact your lives. I applaud everyone because it connects our common humanity to move forward in such hopeful ways.

FY18 Budget

There were 30 minutes for public comments.

Ms. Sullivan: Concern about the .5 Assistant Principal at Fowler and the .5 at Green Meadow.

Ms. St. John: Question on the Fowler Assistant football coach in the list. That should be HS.

The .9 Guidance Counselor is this Fowler or HS? This will be worked out.

Justin – He went to the MEF celebration last week. He talked to parents about the budget process after the meeting. We take the feedback into account. Ideally, we would like to save everything.

Sean Cronin: The union representative for custodians and secretaries. Concerned about the secretaries and filling the 10-month position with 19 hours. How is the work going to get done?

Dr. Gerardi: We have been working with the town on new initiatives. We will have 12-month secretaries stay in each building. We will work together on their contract.

Ms. Brannelly: Concern with the mentors being cut. How are new teachers mentored?

Ms. Gaudet - All new teachers get a mentor. We have mentor leaders in each building. We have talked about the role changes in the buildings. We can shift some pieces to the mentor coordinators in each building. Also restored the teacher leader positions.

Ms. Capello began the deliberations. The discussion was open to the full committee. The committee can vote on this document as is, or you can make a change before the vote.

Ms. Mertsch: We had a discussion on this would like to hear from the other members, not on the sub-committee. Any thoughts further on the middle school sports?

Mr. Hemm: I reached the understanding that we don't have quite enough information on the middle school sports program to make a decision. The difference between community and school

participation has not discussed. I am willing to discuss in the future if we need to realize cost savings.

Ms. Capello: I asked Ms. Gaudet to ask Kevin Caruso about the cost today. It hasn't been on the list. The number is closer to \$12K.

Ms. Houlihan: Along the line of social emotional learning, we were looking at that as a district and the impact on that piece. The guidance counselor can really contribute to that piece. Clearly, an item to restore. Also, being on the curriculum committee, we are looking at the administrative side of things this time around. We are eliminating a special projects coordinator and what will that mean if we lose that.

Ms. Gaudet: There are 4 major components. He oversaw the English Learner issues and EL committee. Met monthly with teachers and he oversaw the coordinated program review. He did a comprehensive review of the English Learner program. This was a major project. It is a compliance piece and legal requirements from DESE.

Another piece he coordinated is the technology committee. Our tech director has resigned. The technology committee is the Digital Learning committee and they created the 10-year technology plan. Also, this committee increased teaching and learning.

He oversaw the Safety Committee (ALICE) and co-chaired that committee with a teacher and the police and fire to make sure we are up to date on our safety plans.

He has been a resident expert in certification and license issues for the faculty.

Priorities at central office: We will have to prioritize social emotional learning, English learners, and safety. It will be a challenge.

Ms. Houlihan: Just mulling that over and knowing the need that we are trying to support the teachers to move curriculum forward, what can we do to align without adding money? I would like to keep a partial piece of that position if we could. If the compliance takes priority over the other work, I would like to see a part of this job saved.

Ms. Mertsch: I like to look at staffing in other districts. In terms of the central office, Hopedale has a Superintendent, Millis has a Superintendent and Curriculum Director. West Bridgewater has both.

The position is already part-time, I can't get behind that, but I'm open to what others think.

Ms. Capello: We tend to disagree on this point. It is hard to know if other districts are getting it done. Is there a part-time option? I would be nervous if we weren't able to make the benchmarks.

De. De Vita: There are a lot of time and effort that has gone into this process. thank you to the budget sub-committee committee. We got some money from town meeting. We take into account our constituents and I feel comfortable with what is here.

Ms. Gaudet: The special projects position is currently 960 hours per year calendar year.

A motion was made by Dr. De Vita to approve the FY18 budget as constituted on the tally sheet 2nd by Mr. Hemm. Ms. Capello made a friendly amendment to say FY18 reduction recommendations. 2nd by Mr. Hemm.

Discussion

Ms. Houlihan: I look for ways to move forward. Even a little bit of help. Project based and inquiry based learning addresses the whole child. Everything on this list is important. Could we have this position as a consideration, if there is more money from the state?

Dawn if there is more money from the state, the administrative staff can make recommendations. We are doing our best with what we have.

No further discussion

The motion was approved 5-0 approved.

Member's Comments/Questions

Ms. Capello: It was a very long year, satisfying in some ways. We will have summer meetings, although limited. We are excitement to work more with the BOS. We are hopeful for next year. Thank you, everyone, for all your hard work.

Mr. Hemm will represent the school committee on June 10 for MHS graduation.

A motion was made by Ms. Capello to adjourn by roll call vote at 8:30 p.m. without the intent to return to open session. 2nd by Mr. Hemm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Moore

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools