

**MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
FOWLER SCHOOL LIBRARY
MARCH 16, 2017**

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

Administrators: Robert J. Gerardi, Jr., Superintendent; Michelle Resendes, Business Advisor

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. De Vita to accept the minutes of March 2 as constituted. 2nd by Ms. Houlihan. The motion passed. 3-0.

A motion was made by Dr. De Vita to accept the minutes of February 16 as constituted. 2nd by Ms. Houlihan. The motion passed 3-0.

Chairperson's Report

Mr. Hemm is filling the role of Chairperson in Ms. Capello's absence. The MHS Boys Basketball team is competing for the state championship this Saturday in Springfield. We all wish them well.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gerardi reported that last week our application for a CH74 program at Maynard High School was submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The department received eight applications for this program. Thank you to everyone that worked on the program application.

Dr. Gerardi, Kevin Sweet, Andrew Scribner-MacLean and Michelle Resendes attended a meeting at the Acton Town Hall on the possibility of a 40B project on the Acton/Maynard line. The proposed project sits on both Acton and Maynard land. The projection is for 250 units near the Assabet River.

Mr. Hemm explained that because it is shared project, there will be 80-84 two to three bedroom apartments for Maynard. We will be looking at the impact to the school department.

Student Representative Report

MHS has foreign language week coming up. Students have been going to Green Meadow and Fowler to work with Spanish Immersion and 7th grade Spanish students. Everyone was excited to work with the younger kids. MHS Student Council went to the recent MASC conference. Olivia said it was a great experience. Kyle Morgan ran for president. He did not win but the workshops were interesting. The students are trained in areas of leadership, allowed to network with

students from across Massachusetts, and celebrated as student leaders for their achievements throughout the year. Next year we are thinking of a re-boot of student council at MHS. Monday we had a guest speaker about healthy relationships for teens.

Ms. Houlihan commented how excited she was that you could network with other students at the meeting.

Mr. Hemm thanked Olivia for sharing on the healthy relationships presentation. There is another presentation is on Tuesday on "Navigating the Cyber World".

Dr. Gerardi shared the Middlesex Partnership for Youth has been bringing these programs into the district. Last week we also had the "Life Animated" presentation at the Fine Arts Theatre.

Citizen's Comments

Larry Shultz - as a follow-up from a past meeting he expressed a desire for Maynard citizens to have a "march for science day". Since that time, he appeared before the BOS and they requested he present a formal proposal. He is on the agenda for next Tuesday. Alumni field is booked for April 29 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and WAVM will cover the event. He has talked with the building principals and all the science teachers. He has the support of these people for the event. He has been inviting speakers and anticipate having exhibits. His request from the school committee is that the members sign his paper in support of this day. Plan A will be events at the field and to march downtown. Plan B is to have the celebration in the field itself. Committee members then signed the document in support.

Mr. Hemm recently saw a TV commercial for STEM that applied to young women. Very excited. Thank you for coming out.

Ms. Houlihan asked who are your speakers for the event? He is still looking.

High School Advisory

Jean La Belle, Emily Dowd, and Nancy Griffin presented.

As a result of the 2012 New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) audit, the High School was directed to document progress in a development and implementation of a formal program through which each student has an adult in the school, in addition to a guidance counselor who knows the student well and assists the student in achieving the school's 21st century learning expectations.

In 2014, the advisories began with class meetings and some content that was grade-based.

In 2015, students were assigned to grade-based sections and provided lesson plans to teachers,

In June of 2016, the students were given a survey because the last two year advisories were not successful.

In 2016, a new committee was formed. A few of the goals were:

- To promote a fun, positive and collaborative school culture where student interests are considered and promoted.
- To support students in developing or increasing mastery in a variety of skills.

- To develop the practical and educational use of 21st-century skills.
- To increase students' willingness and openness to learning.
- To engage students in structured community service projects.
- To increase student and teacher interest and involvement in the advisory model.

This has been the most successful model.

Questions

Can you speak about the structured community service? What are you doing in that?

Ms. Doktorov: On April 7, we will run a community service advisory. We will make it student driven. It is not decided yet whether it is school, town or state. Last year they did custodial appreciation.

Dr. De Vita: This is great. I know that from the student representatives all speak highly on advisories and how it has improved since the start, and what they get exposed to. Students are getting valuable skills and this is one of their favorite parts of MHS. Congratulations.

Ms. Houlihan: Kudos to these teachers. Everyone seems much more energized. It is really great.

Recess Policy – 2nd reading

Dr. De Vita made a motion to pass the School Policy #540 as currently constituted. Second by Mr. Hemm.

Ms. Houlihan said Ms. Capello sent comments to make sure that Fowler recess was covered and on the administrative regulations that the statement that recess is not to be held as a disciplinary consequence. The motion passed 3-0.

Secretary/Custodian Holiday Calendar

The committee reviewed the 14 holidays for the secretaries and custodians for the 2017/2018 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. Hemm to approve the 2017/2018 calendar as currently constituted. 2nd by Dr. De Vita. The motion passed 3-0.

FY18 Budget

Dr. Gerardi related that the budget sub-committee decided to add layers of voice to the tally sheet that was started. The administrative leadership team, teachers, and union leadership have joined the meetings. We are still reaching out to the custodian, secretary, and paraprofessional unions. All school department employees will have a voice in the process.

Ms. Resendes said that there are some additional special education costs to take into consideration this year. We are keeping that in mind.

Ms. Houlihan asked how long will the process take for the discussions?

Dr. Gerardi said that by the next meeting on April 13, the budget sub-committee will have met.

Citizen's Comments

Ms. Duddy said it was great to see the High School students come back to Green Meadow for their advisory. We would like them to stay longer next time. They only stayed 40 minutes at Green Meadow.

Member's Comments/Questions

None

A motion was made by Mr. Hemm to adjourn the meeting by roll call vote Mr. Hemm, Yes; Dr. De Vita, Yes; Ms. Mertsch, Yes; at 8:01 p.m. without the intent to return to open session. Second by Dr. De Vita. The motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Moore
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent