

**MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
FOWLER SCHOOL LIBRARY
OCTOBER 13, 2016**

Present: Dawn Capello (Absent), Justin Hemm, Jamal De Vita, Mary Mertsch, Bethlyn Houlihan
Administrators: Robert J. Gerardi, Jr., Superintendent; Peter DiCicco, Business Advisor,
Michelle Resendes, Business Manager, Jennifer Gaudet, Curriculum Director

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Mertsch to accept the minutes of September 29, 2016. 2nd by Ms. Houlihan. Motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Mertsch had a minor correction to the minutes of 9/29/16.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Hemm reported that the Maynard Police Department did a great job reporting on their social media on clowns in public places. They also posted information that the Leominster Police Department had shared.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gerardi thanked MaryEllen McCarthy, MHS PTO President for their meeting last night with the parent organization.

Dr. Gerardi attended the Middlesex Partnership for Youth Summit last week.

Student Representative Report

Olivia Palmer and Sofia Lappas reported on the Advisories being used this year at the high school.

Students are also doing a food drive this year run by student government.

There is a large group of students 7-12 doing cross-country this year and they thanked the committee for their support.

Citizen's Comments

None

Enrollment Projections

Mr. William Kohlman presented the present school enrollment projections. Comparisons for the last 20 years were analyzed (copy attached).

MCAS Presentation

Ms. Gaudet gave an overview of the accountability data. We are transitioning to PARCC. 2015-1016 PARCC in Grades 3-8 was presented. MCAS ELA, Math and Science were presented.

- **Growth & Achievement-**
 - **Division between Grade Level Content and Intervention/Extension instruction grades K through 7**
 - **Increase in Instructional Coaching model grades K through 7**
 - **Increase in Common Planning time grades 4 through 7**
 - **Writing goals in Fowler and High School**
- **Science Achievement**
 - **Science Curriculum Mapping**
 - **Nature Based program development at PK through Grade 3**
 - **Project Lead the Way Grades K-5⁶**
 - **Curriculum Revisions to Middle School Science & High School Programs**
- **Other initiatives**
 - **High School Schedule Committee**
 - **STEAM Task Force**

Central Office and 8th grade Relocation

At the School Committee meeting the idea of purchasing residential or commercial property was suggested. The least expensive house that would be ADA compliant and had parking would be approximately \$400,000 and the least expensive commercial property would be approximately \$650,000. Both of those options seem too expensive to consider at this time.

Another suggestion included purchasing a modular home to be located next to the Alumni Field House. The other was the Tech. Ed./Home Ec. area of Fowler.

The purchase of a modular home is still in investigation but the first quote received was \$142,000. We are looking into the additional costs associated with this proposal.

The first three are locations below that Dr. Gerardi thought the school committee should rule out for academic reasons.

1. The Band Room is more utilized than ever with the addition of Drama to the curriculum this year. As you can see, Band and Drama share both the band room and the Assembly hall now. Also, Health FASC, and Drama share room D118. These are unique curricular areas that need the space they currently occupy and Dr. Gerardi believes we should not pursue this area.

2. The Maynard High School A wing was specially designed for Students with Special needs. There is even a dedicated time out room in that location. While it is rare to need a time out room

at the high school level, should there be a time when it is necessary, it would be hard and expensive to duplicate in another area. For this reason, this location should be ruled out.

3. The Maynard High School main office/guidance/career center area is specially designed for the MHS administrative team to function as a team. Even though there were recommendations that the central office could be split up in several locations, Dr. Gerardi does not agree that is the most efficient and academically beneficial model for running a school system. Likewise, the MHS Administrative team functions in this area and would be dispersed in other areas.

Secondly, there are two teachers workrooms in Fowler and MHS (one on the first floor and one on the second floor). If we use this area we would be taking away the first floor teachers work room at MHS. This would affect approximately 20 teachers on the first floor of MHS.

The last two locations the Architect should develop drawings for are:

1. The vacant Fowler Technology Education Classrooms and the former Home Economics room currently occupied by CASE.
2. The Student Services area next to the main office area and foyer.

Dr. Gerardi asked the school committee to approve having the architect focus on these two areas of Fowler.

A motion was made by Dr. De Vita to take off the table the first three options leaving the last 2 for consideration. 2nd by Ms. Mertsch. Motion passed. 4-0.

Citizen's Comments

Ms. Sullivan reported that the 7th graders went to nature's classroom. Many teacher went and some had never been. They said that they really didn't know the kids until then. Some of the kids evaluations were; that they learned that they were able to work with others and some of the times were more difficult that they thought, but they had a lot fun. It was great to hear they were thinking how to live and work together. Dr. Gerardi thanked Ms. Sullivan and all the 7th grade staff.

Jean Labelle - High School Teacher gave her perspective on the advisory program. Teachers were excited to do something different with kids. It met the needs that NEASC recognizes in their reviews. Some of the topics: Stress relief through coloring, mindfulness, elections. CPR. Last night was the first meeting of the steering committee for senior projects. Chief Dubois, Jackie Rodgers, Paula Copley, and Jerry Culbert are members.

Members Comments

Ms. Houlihan wanted to continue the committee priorities discussion and possibly have Dr. Rao speak to the community.

Mr. Hemm wanted to see if we could get information on solar panels for the high school.

A motion was made by Dr. DeVita to adjourn the meeting by roll call vote at 8:30 p.m. without the intent to return to open session. Second by Ms. Mertsch. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Moore

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent