

MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
FOWLER SCHOOL
October 9, 2014

Present: William Kohlman, Amy Rebecca Gay, Justin Hemm, Jamal De Vita, Dawn Capello
Administrators: Robert J. Gerardi, Jr., Superintendent, Peter DiCicco, Business Advisor

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Hemm to accept the minutes of September 24, 2014. 2nd by Dr. De Vita. Motion passed 5-0.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Kohlman welcomed Dawn Capello to the School Committee. She was appointed October 7 to fill the open seat. Ms. Capello will also be on the budget and curriculum sub-committees.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gerardi recognized Maynard High School Seniors who were the recipients of the Adams Scholarship this year.

Dr. Gerardi attended the Middlesex Partnership for Youth School Safety and Security Summit on October 2. He also attended the Annual Middlesex Partnership for Youth, Chiefs and Superintendent's Breakfast with Police Chief Dubois and Fire Chief Stowers.

Student Representative Report

Janal Carr reported on recent High School activities including reporting that after school groups have started. The football team is up 4-0. The Foreign Exchange students have settled into their schedules.

Conor McCarthy reported that the Beacon Santa Telethon is gearing up for December. They have 8 hosts this year. Advisory groups are in place at MHS.

Selection of School Committee Vice-Chair

A motion was made by Dr. De Vita to nominate Amy Rebecca Gay as the School Committee Vice-Chair. 2nd by Ms. Capello. Motion passed 5-0

FY16 Budget Issues

Dr. Gerardi and Mr. DiCicco talked about the fixed costs going into FY16. Also discussed were contractual obligations, MassBay Programs, and Athletics.

Foreign Exchange Funds

Mr. Caruso did a survey to the Foreign Exchange Students and the results were very positive. The majority of students are feeling socially accepted and have the opportunity to participate in many activities.

The ideas for exchange funds use were: having a reserve fund, monthly school/community educational field trips; ELL professional development for staff; motivational speakers, increased sports programming.

There needs to be a budget for this program including reserve funds, activities, enrichment, professional development, discretionary funding.

Freshman Basketball

Mr. Caruso presented the Boys' and Girls' Basketball Program Overview. The basketball program has been growing stronger as a result of collaborative efforts between the schools and the B&G Club. This year, the freshman teams were eliminated and went back to providing the middle school program. There was parent concern about the exchange students increasing the size of the program and the large number of boys in the program. This led to the consideration of adding a boys freshman team.

There are 45 total participants in the program. Divided into three HS teams of 15 students, the teams could be organized as: Varsity (8-12); JV (8-12); Freshman (8th/9th grade); Middle School (7th/8th).

A motion was made by Dr. De Vita to approve the boys freshman basketball team for this winter season only. 2nd by Mr. Kohlman. Motion passed 4-1.

Superintendent Goals

A draft of the Superintendent Goals was presented.

Professional Practice Goal; Student Learning Goal; Strengthening Curriculum and Instruction as outline in the Academic 3-year Plan; Utilizing the Tenants of 21st century learning skills; Developing Positive and Respectful School Cultures. These will be brought forward to the next meeting.

Special Employee Status Request

Mr. Hemm recused himself for this discussion.

A School Committee member stepped up to be a host family for an exchange student. The reimbursement part of the expenses could be considered "Indirect Financial Interest" which could be considered a Conflict of Interest. The Committee wanted to get the approval of the Selectmen.

A motion was made by Dr. De Vita to request that the Board of Selectmen consider approving Special Municipal Employee status for the School Committee as a whole. 2nd by Ms. Capello. Motion passed 4-0.

Policies - 2nd Reading

- 140 Policies, Regulations, and Job Descriptions
- 152 Evaluation of Superintendent
- 171 Advisory Committees
- 303 Emergency Powers of Superintendent
- 204 Administrative Regulations
- 241 241.1 Duplication of Materials

303 School Committee Financial Actions
305 Public Bids
441 Substitute Teachers
642 Substance Abuse - Drug Free Workplace
643 Tobacco-Free Schools
207 207.1 School Cancellation, Delayed Opening, Early Dismissal

A motion was made by Dr. Gay to accept the policies as written. 2nd by Mr. Hemm. Motion passed 5-0.

Citizens Comments

A citizen whose daughter is in the fifth grade is disappointed in the handling of the 5th grade wing relocation. He had concern about using class time on moving and students watching a movie on the half day before the move.

Members Questions

Dr. Gay would like to have the Finance Committee come to a meeting for long-term planning. Mr. Hemm thanked the Committee for their support with the hosting of an Exchange Student. A motion was made by Dr. Gay to adjourn the meeting without the intent to return to open session at 9:10 p.m. 2nd by Dr. De Vita. Motion passed 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Moore
Administrative Assistant to the
Superintendent of Schools