

**MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**COOLIDGE SCHOOL**  
**June 26, 2014**

Present: Amy Rebecca Gay, William Kohlman, Justin Hemm, Ken Estabrook, Ed Mullin (Absent)  
Administrators: Robert J. Gerardi, Jr., Superintendent, Peter DiCicco, Business Advisor

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

Chairperson's Report

None

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gerardi reported that the International initiative is doing well. After going through the RFP process, three companies were accepted.

Citizens Comments

None

Lease Agreement with Wellesley Management

Dr. Gerardi shared his on-going concern around finding alternative central office space. He has been researching options over the last three years that included retail space downtown and classroom space at Fowler. At this time, The Clock Tower has provided a very generous three-year lease that will be cost neutral compared with our annual cost at Coolidge.

A motion was made by Mr. Estabrook to approve the lease document. Second by Mr. Hemm. Mr. Chetwynd of the Maynard Board of Selectmen asked of the district had gone through the Chapter 30B procurement bid process. Because the lease is a multi-year contract, it needs to go through the RFP process. At this time, the motion was withdrawn.

Paraprofessional Contract

The paraprofessionals ratified the contract on July 9. A motion was made by Mr. Kohlman to accept the paraprofessional contract. Second by Mr. Hemm. Motion passed. 4-0.

Superintendent's Evaluation

The new evaluation system requires the school committee to rate the performance under two broad categories: progress towards goals and performance on standards, within which are several categories that are more specific.

In the progress towards goals categories, the committee determined Dr. Gerardi had significant progress and met his goals in areas including professional practice, student learning and district improvement. In the "performance on standards" categories, Dr. Gerardi was rated proficient in his performance in instructional leadership, management and operations, family and community engagement, and professional culture.

### School Committee Chair Discussions

Dr. Gay wanted a discussion on the goals and direction of the committee.

#### Goals and Direction

- Long term budget planning - conversations about it and incorporating elected officials. (Dr. Gay)
- The town is looking at its challenges, things that are funded and under funded. Collaboration is very important. We are talking more publically and more recently looking how deeply we need to cut if we go in a particular direction. This year, the focus was on classrooms, buses, music and art, but did not look at other programs. Look more broadly. (Mr. Estabrook)
- Continue to build and repair relationships with town boards and citizens. More joint decision making with other boards in town. Many of our decisions are involved with other agencies. We are all sharing the same pot, more harmony, communication, and contact. (Mr. Hemm)
- Looking at Maynard historically. In the 1950's and 1960's, we invested in properties. In the 1970's and 1980's, we were not investing in the properties being maintained. Many buildings were replaced at the same time. We played catch up in alot of areas. We need to view investment in the long run to attract people to town, and raise property values. Stop misconceptions. (Mr. Kohlman)
- Need to look at the infrastructure over last 10 years, families expectations around education. We need to look at differentiation - families are choosing to send children somewhere else. (Mr. Estabrook)
- Families are choicing students out. We have Mass Bay and many AP courses. We need to get the information out. (Mr. Kohlman)
- We have quality programs. Differentiation needs to start in the lower grades. Parents say kids are bored. We need to lay out the entire next year of meetings and talk more broadly and when we are going to start an agenda item. There needs to be greater transparency of what is coming. (Mr. Estabrook)
- We need a general plan for the year. There is a need to deal with policies, and a sustainable plan with Mr. Kohlman in his last year. Tap into Bill's expertise. i.e. enrollment projections. (Dr. Gay)
- Need a budget calendar and an annual schedule need. Good management tool. This is critical because, if we are talking about prop 2 ½, we need a schedule. In addition, future decisions 3<sup>rd</sup> grade move. Coolidge move. (Mr. Kohlman)
- Need to be mapping out big-ticket items. (Mr. Hemm)
- Clear Website - accessibility of information. (Mr. Estabrook)
- Where is the disconnect between Kindergarten and High School Long term goals. Would like to see us build upon the positive attributes we have, teachers and students, no cuts on teams, small class size. Paint us in the best light possible. Give ourselves exposure. The long term picture - have a lot to offer. (Mr. De Vita)

### Attributes of the Chair/Roles of Members

- Chair needs the initiative to start the conversation on Prop 2 ½.
- What are the priorities? Discussions among members, administrators, and principals, teachers, etc. and talking to the community.
- Maintain small class size. Community, others looking at taxes. Be transparent around issues.
- Chair leads the meetings, discussions with town boards.
- Understand what is involved in being chair, work with Board of Selectmen chair.
- Appreciation to public outreach.
- It is an important time at the schools, enrollment is growing, and we are on the cusp of something good.
- Look at the role, we are a public face, we are united not divided. Open to public debate, and be a calm voice.
- Make sure that the Chair keeps the School Committee as efficient as possible. Know when to move on. Fluidity. Good at facilitating.

### Roles of Members

- Yearly process.
- Committee more involved with larger conversations. I.e. other boards.
- Target our attendance at other board meetings.

### Citizen's Comments

None

### Member's Comments

Mr. Estabrook updated the committee on the 129 Parker Street sub-division planned.

The owner decided to pursue a solution using plans they had by-rite. The sub-division application will be reviewed by the Planning Board in July. They have 90 days to do it. There are many more housing units and bedrooms than the original plan.

Dr. Gay said this is an impact on the schools, and we need to get enrollment information to the Planning Board. We need to do different scenarios on numbers. For example, if we have 50 students from this development, or we have 100 students. What is the breaking point? What is the capacity? Additional teachers? Timeline: mid-to late July - we should initiate discussions.

Mr. Estabrook asked if the RFP selection for foreign exchange students was completed.

A motion was made by Mr. Kohlman to enter into Executive session by roll call vote at 8:45 p.m. without the intent to return to open session. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Estabrook.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Moore

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent