

**MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
FOWLER SCHOOL
MARCH 27, 2014**

Present: Amy Rebecca Gay, William Kohlman, Justin Hemm, Ken Estabrook, Ed Mullin
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. Kohlman to accept the minutes of March 13, 2014, with corrections. 2nd by Mr. Estabrook. Motion approved as amended.

Chairman's Report

Dr. Gay reminded the audience of the meeting process. There are two sections on the agenda for citizen's comments. There will be time for the audience to make comments, but they need to wait to be recognized. At that time, please recognize yourself.

Mr. Kohlman attended the recent charter review meeting. One of the changes is the term of moderator from one-year to a three-year term. The next Board of Selectmen meeting is April 1. Mr. Estabrook will attend.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gerardi reported that the Beacon Villager had three articles in the paper this week that highlighted the collaborative work of Art Teachers John Flynn at the High School and Sharon Santillo from Green Meadow. Another article titled "STEM embraces the real world" showed the work of STEM Coach John Mollica. The final article was on the High School production of Beauty and the Beast and the Director Cindy Blanchard.

Student Representative Report

On Tuesday, the High School had the Mr. MHS pageant. Emmet Karner won 1st place and Matt Lalli 2nd place. Spring sports have started. Students took the PARCC test this week. In addition, the Best Buddies prom was well attended.

FY15 Budget

- There was continuation on revisions to the priorities/reductions tally sheet. \$300,000 identified in offset reductions, minus the \$565,501 deficit results in a total reduction required of \$265,501.
Further recommendations by the Maynard Leadership Team totaled \$182,051.
- The MLT had a priority level to make the Assistant Principal permanent at a reduced cost, Summer School Budget, Reduction of custodians and Transportation.
- For every 1% that all four unions negotiate there will be an impact of an additional \$100,000 to the projected deficit.

The budget sub committee had asked Mr. Caruso to look at eliminating non-league sports events and the elimination of freshman sports.

Mr. Caruso reported the importance of athletics for both the student community and the Maynard community at large. He felt strongly against making any cuts to the existing athletic program.

- Interscholastic athletics are co-curricular activities and an extension of the classroom.
- The athletic department is rooted in the emphasis that athletics teach the importance of life lessons and core values.
- Discipline referrals by the reporting schools were lower for the athlete group than the non-athlete group.
- There are over 200 student athletes in grades 8-12 that participate in at least one High School sport.

Committee discussion:

Dr. Gay asked about what the fall sports were at Fowler.

Mr. Estabrook said \$23K might not be the end. In a resource constrained environment, what kind of program would you like to have.

Mr. Mullin disagreed saying \$33K is not a lot of money to keep athletics and is opposed to any cut.

Mr. Kohlman asked what the result of the elimination of nonleague sports is. What is the follow-up effect on the JV teams?

Mr. Mullin made a motion to take the \$33K for the elimination of non-league and freshman sports off the list. 2nd by Mr. Hemm. Further discussion ensued.

Community comments

Phil Berry. \$33K is less than 6% of what we are looking to cut. There are many benefits from youth sports. For the custodians, cleanliness would not be a concern, maintenance is bigger. Student and educational issues should be first.

Melissa Egan. We are having a large Saturday event at Maynard High School, where we are selling attributes of the school system. We are marketing our schools to other countries. How can we not offer sports? Cutting one sport effects Title 9. In favor of cutting transportation.

Ms. Cormier. Regarding the activity fees. Where does that money go? Ans: The money goes into all sports. We cannot budget on fees. These fees vary year to year.

Len mead. He is in favor of transportation. Both parents work. He would pay more for the bus. In favor of custodial cut.

Peter Luciano. He has a gifted student and feels his child could get a rigorous education elsewhere. He feels we have vibrant community. We have small class size and access to sports. We may see people leave.

Chris Bell. What sport would you cut? We are at the bare minimum with offerings. Other schools offer more. Our kids have access to all sports.

Diane Dahill. She has no children in the school. Diane runs Remembering Maynard's Own (RMO). She gets over 40 applications from the High School each year and at least 25 families said if the kids did not do sports, they would be in trouble.

Do not cut sports. They are looking at other sources of income. They have applied for a grant from Dicks Sporting Goods and they will match program dollars. There are many grants out there for sports tying into health. Can our roofs support solar panels?

Mr. Mullin made a motion to take the \$33K for the elimination of non-league and freshman sports off the list. 2nd by Mr. Hemm. Motion failed 2-3

Other Items

Transportation

The committee discussed moving from four buses to one. There are safety concerns for students walking and snow removal could be an issue. Can we add additional fees?

What if we cut bussing and receive additional monies in the fall?

Custodians

There should be a certain number of custodians per building. How does that fit?

We added half-time custodians this year. With the High School design and construction, there are vast amounts of glass to clean and the configuration of the cafeteria makes it difficult to clean. In addition, the tremendous usage of the building in the evening and on weekends makes it hard to clean. We have agreements with the Mass School Building Authority (MSBA) on High School maintenance.

Secretaries

Dr. Gay asked if it had to be three positions. Reducing to two would be \$89K.

Paraprofessional staff

The Kindergarten grant covered all of the Kindergarten paraprofessionals. Now it covers 1/2 person per class in kindergarten. We presently have three full time and three part time paraprofessionals. May affect NYAEC accreditation.

Title I Reading Program

Originally the grant funded a full Reading Specialist and four paraprofessionals.

Right now, the funding is three paras and one Reading specialist. Grant does not fully fund paraprofessionals anymore.

Fee Survey

The committee looked at a draft survey to the community asking about transportation fees, activity fees, non-profit organization fees, and student parking fees.

Administrative Regulation #705.1 – Use of School Facilities

Appendix A

Mr. DiCicco analyzed the chart of neighboring community fees for for-profit organizations as requested at the last school committee meeting. While the fees were raised to be more in line with our neighbors, we were conscientious about not charging more than the other district and tried to stay in the middle.

The committee felt what we were charging and considering our new High School, the new charges were reasonable. The Superintendent can waive or negotiate a fee for theatre groups, etc. School Committee members approved the regulation 5-0.

Override Discussion

The Department of Revenue procedures were reviewed. The members wanted to know what the timeline was to start the process. Dr. Gay wanted the override discussion on each agenda.

2014/2015 Holiday Calendar

There are 14 holiday dates proposed for the next school year. A motion was made by Mr. Kohlman to approve the 2014/2015 holiday calendar. 2nd by Mr. Hemm. Motion passed 5-0.

2014/2015 School Calendar

A motion was made to approve the 2014/2015 school calendar. 2nd by Mr. Estabrook.

Mr. Kohlman is not in favor of a Good Friday holiday. Can we make it early release?

Dr. Gay wanted to add December 22 and 23 as vacation days. Also, move April 1 and April 2 to April 2 and April 3 early release days. Could there be evening parent conferences?

There needs to be a larger conversation on time and learning. Calendar was not approved.

Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest and Disclosure by Non-Elected Public Employee of Travel Expenses Serving a Legitimate Public Purpose

Dr. Gerardi and Purnima Vadhera are invited to visit China between April 17th and 20th to visit five schools and the Wenzhou Education Bureau to develop global learning initiatives and increase foreign exchange programs.

The recommendation is for the School Committee to determine that the superintendent and assistant principal's acceptance of reimbursement costs for their trip to China on behalf of the

Maynard Public Schools serves a legitimate public purpose and the public purpose outweighs any special non-work related benefit to the employees or the people providing the reimbursement. A motion was made by Mr. Hemm to approve the trip for Dr. Gerardi and Purnima Vadhera to Beijing as a legitimate educational purpose. 2nd by Mr. Kohlman.

Mid-Term Evaluation Review of the Superintendent

The evaluation was tabled to the next meeting.

Citizen's Comments

None

Members Questions/Comments

Mr. Kohlman asked about the school play participants in high school activity. Fowler and Green Meadow students participated. We have WAVM 6th and 7th graders pay the activity fee. Is there an activity fee for the musical?

The meeting was adjourned to executive session by roll call vote at 10:02 p.m. without the intent to return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Moore
Administrative Assistant to the
Superintendent of Schools