

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING—August 27, 2008
Lower Conference Room, Town Hall

PRESENT

Tracy Driscoll, Chair
Margaret Matthews, Vice Chair
David Roberts
Margaret Connolly
Joanne Flatley
John Healy

ADMINISTRATION

June M. Doe, Superintendent
Cynthia Kelly, Asst. Superintendent

Michael La Francesca, Business Manager

Convened: 7:30 PM

Adjourned: 8:17 PM

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

We've had a busy summer, but we're ready to open. FT teaching positions are staffed. Filling some additional openings for Aides and covering maternity leaves.

Held opening day welcome for new staff and returning 2nd year teachers on Tuesday 8/26/08 and also a professional development day for new teachers. The Technology professional development day was today. Opening day: Tuesday, Sept. 8:00 coffee – opening session 8:30 am. in MS auditorium. Please join us if possible. Chairman MacDonald will be available to attend.

Thank you to Asst. Principals Mr. Murray and Mr. Rivera – freshmen orientation 8/21. Over 200 of our incoming 9th grade students attended. This included, tours of building, refreshments, skits performed by upper class volunteers. Mr. Santamaria and Mr. Arria – spoke to group. Thanks also to the many student volunteers and staff volunteers.

Mr. Arria and Mr. Brogran are pleased to announce nearly 300 students participating in fall athletics, marching band and cheerleading.

Mr. Arria and coaching staff – held a mandatory meeting – all athletes & parent

Dr. Greg Dale –Professor of sport psychology – guest speaker

In the SC folders are copies of Master Planning Update.

Draft: Strategic Plan – review and Ms. Doe will hold office hours all week. I would like you to make notes, suggestions and feedback and would like to have final copy ready to go by the next meeting.

Ms. Driscoll recommends having a working session for SC

Ms. Doe would like to accept asap because teachers have to write their goals based on the strategic plan. It is ambitious plan – definitely a road map with focus on academic excellence. We can edit and add to it as we go along.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

Executive session w/BOS concerning ongoing negotiations:

Ms. Driscoll read letter stating that the entire School Committee is disappointed that we are starting the school year without new contract but that the current contract with all the rights and benefits including health care remains in effect. Approximately 66% (2/3) of our current employees are not at their maximum pay rates and will receive step increases and lane changes and will be paid on time. We met in July and our next scheduled meeting is September 8th. The SC and Superintendent value each and every one of our employees and values their contributions and will continue to bargain in good faith.

Also, reminder there is Master Plan meeting on September 9th at 6:30p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

M. Butler: Because we have not negotiated a new contract, is there any talk of teachers going work to rule immediately? Ms. Driscoll replied not to our knowledge.

M. Butler: I've heard rumors that we lost nurse at HS?

Ms. Doe responded: Yes, we have 1 position that was grant funded and the state has not renewed the grant. One nurse is on career leave with us for a year. Gail is the nurse supervisor but is also filling in and providing coverage. Buildings are covered, need to locate substitute nurses. Discussed with Gail feel there is adequate coverage. Plan in place when someone is out. Position is shared with MS.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

STATION 250 ENROLLMENT AND SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT

Ms. Doe reports that enrollment remains at 1 family with set of twins entering grade 3. We will continue to update as changes occur. Students are enrolled at grade 3 Oakdale

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

Ms. Driscoll: Received draft tonight. Discuss plan to review.

ACTION ITEMS:

Assignment of currently enrolled students at Station 250

MINUTES

Acceptance of June 11, 2008 minutes - move to accept: Mr. Roberts, second, Ms. Flatley
Passed: Unanimous

Acceptance of August 6, 2008 minutes – postponed until next meeting

DONATIONS

Dr. Linda Kobierski at DMS – donation of 30 copies of a new AP Biology text book ,1st edition.

Mr. Eric Widmaier – co-authored the book, estimated cost well over \$4000.00

Dr. Kobierski spent countless hours previewing the book this summer and is excited to incorporate into teaching in class. Thank you to Dr. Kobierski.

Ms. Flatley made a motion to accept donation w/grateful appreciation, 2nd Ms. Matthews. Approved: Unanimously

Athletic Director received donation cheerleading squad - \$500.00 Healthcare Foundation Harvard Pilgrim Health Care.

Motion: Ms. Flatley made a motion to accept with grateful appreciation, 2nd Ms. Connolly. Approved: Unanimously

Mr. Campbell is leaving for his new position in Plymouth – message to parents – next Thursday 1-2:30 at MS reception. Parents are welcome to come and wish him well.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Liaison meetings – remind at next meeting

Agenda for upcoming year any items or topics

SAT update prior to MCAS coming out – October, early November.

MCAS presentation differently – HS/MS/Elementary split it two different nights. Prior to meeting send connect ed to parents to look at information.

Plato (?)

Science Curriculum

Monthly updates on initiatives

New Staff reception – at SC meeting on 9/10, 6:30 – 7:00.

Hold at Town Hall – ask for both rooms

Total new staff: 35 teachers, majority MS/HS

VNA lease letter – assurance extend lease for 2nd year of their extension to 6/2010.

Mr. Healy – abstain from discussion – conflict of interest.

Mr. LaFrancesca – written as 3 year lease with 2 year extension. At completion of 2nd year extension – lease will not be renewed, will have to go out to bid.

Ms. Doe - Don't foresee other use prior to 2010. Process – renovations timeframe would be beyond 2010.

Motion: Mr. Roberts, motion to allow Administration to enter into negotiations. Ms. Flatley, 2nd.

Approved: majority with 1 abstention

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Strategic Plan work and possible vote

New teacher reception and introduction

Report on opening of each school

OTHER, IF ANY

Ms. Kelly: discuss items in packet

Study Skills program for grade 8

Eight Grade Seminar – library media specialist, developmental guidance, guidance staff

Ms. Doe: JFY Networks – math and science labs – targeting 8th grade – pilot science program at no cost

Encouraging gains in preliminary raw data in MCAS

Preliminary results on English Language Arts, Math (AYP) getting closer – we're on the mountain. Info is still confidential at this point.

Ms. Matthews – article in paper this issue seems to be at the MS level in towns state-wide.

Ms. Doe: we're getting better at what we're doing.

Summer Reading

Summer Math

District Calendar – request to put school committee dates on calendar – due to admin assistant opening.

The open session concluded. The committee resumed its executive session.