

**PLYMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Monday, September 23, 2024  
11 LINCOLN STREET PLYMOUTH, MA 02360**

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**ROLL CALL: THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Ms. Michelle Badger-Chair, Mr. Luis Pizano-Vice Chair, Dr. James Sorensen, Mr. Robert Morgan, Ms. Vedna Lacombe-Heywood, Ms. Ashley Shaw. Ms. Katherine Jackson- Secretary was not in attendance.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION WERE:**

- Superintendent, Dr. Christopher Campbell, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Dr. Stacey Rogers, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Erik Cioffi, School Business Administrator, Dr. Adam Blaisdell.

**1.0 Call to Order 7:00 PM**

1.1 Ms. Badger called the School Committee Meeting to order.

**1.2 Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Badger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

**1.3 Land Acknowledgement-**Ms. Badger read the Land Acknowledgement.

"We acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded ancestral homeland of Indigenous People whose enduring presence we humbly recognize. We honor the Wôpanâak People as the original stewards and the Herring Pond Wôpanâak as the surviving tribe indigenous to these lands. In our commitment to lifelong learning, we acknowledge historical injustices to the native people of this land and vow to educate ourselves, our community, and our students on the First Peoples and the hardships they endured. We offer this as a small, but essential, step towards building a culture of respect, truth, and accountability."

**2.0 Executive Session**

## **2.1 Executive Session - Collective Bargaining**

To discuss strategy concerning collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee and the chair so declares pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3), and take the necessary action(s).

Superintendent's Recommendation: The School Committee enters an Executive Session to discuss strategy concerning collective bargaining where an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee, under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3).

**ORIGINAL - Motion Member (Mr. Luis Pizano) Moved, Member (Ms. Vedna Lacombe-Heywood) Seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the School Committee enters Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining.**

## **3.0 Informational Items- 7:31 PM**

### **3.1 Contract Ratification - EAPC Teacher, Para Educators, and Educational Secretaries**

**To receive recommendation(s) relative to the EAPC Teachers, Para Educators, and Educational Secretaries with respect to Contract Ratification and take the necessary action(s).**

**Superintendent's Recommendation: That the School Committee move to ratify the EAPC Teachers, Para Educators, and Educational Secretaries' contracts (SY2025-2027) per the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement.**

### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

**Member (Mr. Luis Pizano) Moved, Member (Mr. Robert Morgan) Seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the School Committee move to ratify the EAPC Teachers, Para Educators, and Educational Secretaries' contracts (SY2025-2027) per the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0. The motion Carried. 6 - 0 \*Dr. Sorensen abstained from voting on the teacher contract.**

### **3.2 Community Donations**

Mr. Shawn Costa from the Education Foundation along with Ms. Kathy Babini presented a donation of \$2,500.00 to the South Shore Action for Hope-Go Gold For Hope campaign. Ms. Suzy Golden and her son AJ Golden accepted the check on behalf of the South Shore Action for Hope.

### **4.0 Comments from the General Public**

#### **4.1 Comments from Community Members**

Ms. Badger read the public comment statement.

Mr. Tom Pinto, EAPC President, and Ms. Lisa Murray EAPC Chair came before the committee to thank the school committee for supporting all the effort and work that was put into the contracts.

#### **5.1 Anna King - PNHS Student Representative -7:42 PM**

Anna King gave an update on the happenings at Plymouth North High School.

#### **B) Plymouth South High School**

#### **5.2 Shea Braz - PSHS Student Representative**

Shea Braz gave an update on the happenings at Plymouth South High School.

**Ms. Badger moved the Out of Town Field Trip Requests up in the agenda.**

### **7.0 School Committee Matters**

#### **A) Out-of-Town, Overnight, or International Field Trips 7:48 PM**

##### **7.1 PNHS Overnight Field Trip Request - Boston, MA - 1/30-2/2/2025**

Mr. David Clark, a Teacher came before the committee to ask permission to take students on an overnight field trip for Model Un.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** That the proposed Plymouth North High School overnight field trip to the Sheraton Copley, Boston to attend the Harvard Model United Nations be accepted and approved as presented.

**ORIGINAL - Motion**

**Member (Dr. James Sorensen) Moved, Member (Mr. Luis Pizano) Seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That the proposed Plymouth North High School overnight field trip to the Sheraton Copley, Boston to attend the Harvard Model United Nations be accepted and approved as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay: 0. The motion Carried. 6 - 0**

**7.2 PSHS International Field Trip Request - Quebec, Canada  
2/7-2/9/2025**

Ms. Patty Fry, PSHS Principal, and Ms. Kelly, Teacher came before the committee to request an overnight field trip to Quebec, Canada.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** That the proposed Plymouth South High School international field trip to Quebec, Canada be accepted and approved as presented.

**ORIGINAL - Motion** Member (**Dr. James Sorensen**) Moved, Member (**Ms. Vedna Lacombe-Heywood**) Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the proposed Plymouth South High School international field trip to Quebec, Canada be accepted and approved as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **6** Nay: **0**. The motion **Carried. 6 - 0**

**Ms. Badger moved 9.3 Reports and Proposals from the Charter Review Committee up in the agenda.- 7:55 PM**

Mr. Steve Bolotin, Vice Chair of the Charter Review Committee, and Mr. Len Levin, Clerk of the Charter Review Committee presented the School Committee with Charter changes that would impact Plymouth Schools.

Mr. Bolotin stated that the Charter Review Committee is proposing a reorganization of the charter.

Specifically, proposing a charter that groups things that belong together.

Three articles relate to the school committee. Article 21 changes to the reordered Chapter 2 of the proposed charter. The substantive change suggested concerning the school committee is that right now our town charter identifies four substantive things that the school committee does, three of which are dictated by state law and one of which is not. The one which is not is the responsibility for facilities maintenance equipment, and furnishings of the schools.

Ms. Shaw asked Mr. Bolotin if Ms. Lynn Barrett, Director of Finance for the town of Plymouth, and Dr. Adam Blasidell were included in these discussions.

Mr. Bolotin stated that Ms. Barrett was involved in the discussion and there were PPS representatives in the meeting as well.

Dr. Sorensen clarified that the PPS council agrees that the School Committee retains its authority with the change that the charter recommends. He stated that the council does see that the potential now exists that the school committee could lose authority by striking that section of the charter.

Ms. Heywood questioned the language of their proposal.

Mr. Bolotin stated that a town clerk explained to the Charter Committee that they have an outside consultant. He stated the need for significant updates to our town bylaws regardless of whether or not any charter changes are made. He stated that our bylaws in many instances currently conflict with our charter.

Ms. Shaw asked Mr. Boltin to cite where it states that the current charter disallows his statements.

Ms. Badger stated that it is important to remember that a couple of years ago the town asked PPS to take over their buildings. As a result, the school's money cannot go to operate the town buildings. Ms. Badger stated that this proposed change is unnecessary.

Ms. Heywood questioned the urgency of bypassing the current process.

Mr. Bolotin answered Ms. Shaw's question regarding citation; in our current chapter, chapter 4-3-2, sub-D. Which says that the school committee shall have general charge and superintendents of all school buildings and grounds and furnish all school buildings with proper fixtures, furniture, and equipment. That is not part of general laws, chapter 71, section 7. Which does identify the other A, B, and C of this particular chapter.

Ms. Shaw asked for more clarification, about the consolidation of services between the town and the school.

Mr. Pizano asked if this charter proposal would be presented at the town meeting.

Mr. Bolotin stated it would be presented at the town meeting on a chapter-by-chapter basis.

Mr. Pizano asked if the legal review had been done on the town side and if the proposed changes were legal.

Mr. Bolotin stated that a legal review has been done and the changes are all within the parameters of state law.

Ms. Shaw stated that if the charter review committee is going to continue to make people believe that it currently disallows PPS from consolidating services, The school committee's main focus should be to combat that message with the truth that we already do consolidate services under the current charter.

Dr. Sorensen stated he agreed with Ms. Shaw's statement.

Ms. Badger thanked Mr. Bolotin and Mr. Levin for coming before the school committee. She stated that if the committee has any additional questions or concerns, they will reach out. Ms. Badger stated that the school committee would talk to some town meeting members to let their opinions be heard. Ms. Badger noted that it is the people in ten or twenty years who are going to be impacted and the decisions we make today.

Mr. Larry Pizer, former Plymouth Town Clerk came before the School Committee to state that he was not in favor of the Charter Committee's proposal to change/delete the policy.

## **6.0 Program Updates**

### **A) Program Directors**

#### **6.1 Special Education Director Update**

Ms. Christine Smith, Special Education Director presented an update on the Special Education Department in PPS.

Mr. Pizano thanked Ms. Smith for her presentation and for coming to our district.

Ms. Shaw asked about the monitoring of out-of-district placements.

Ms. Smith reported 32-35 students placed in different settings across Massachusetts. The Special Education District Coordinator is responsible for conducting all of those meetings and making sure that services are being provided.

#### **\*5 Minute Break**

### **B) Curriculum Coordinators**

#### **6.2 Early Literacy Data Presentation**

Dr. Lisa White, ELA Coordinator presented on Early Literacy data.

Ms. Shaw asked about how students' AAC devices and students who read in braille are being assessed. (and other special education services)

Discussion was had regarding the ELL Learners and assessments.

Ms. Badger asked if data could be collected for ELL students to track their progress.

## **8.0 Communications**

### **A) Superintendent's Report**

#### **8.1 Reports and Proposals from the Superintendent**

Dr. Campbell presented on the following topics:

- ❖ Visit from the MA School Building Authority

- ❖ FY26 Budget Discussion with Town
- ❖ MA Service Alliance Grant: Creating a Comprehensive Volunteer Program
- ❖ Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative Implementation Grant (Year 2)
- ❖ No Place for Hate: MLK Breakfast
- ❖ Plymouth North HS: National Banner Recognition, Special Olympics North America

## **9.0 Reports**

### **A) Committee Member Reports -8:40 PM**

#### **9.1 Reports and Proposals from Committee Members**

Ms. Badger attended the play Six and congratulated the students on an amazing performance.

Ms. Badger reminded the committee to email her with any topics to be discussed at the October 5, 2024 school committee meeting.

Ms. Badger commended the PNHS students for their recycling event.

Ms. Badger attended the Manomet School Council.

Ms. Badger stated that there is a budget meeting on 9/24/24. Following that a continuation of the conversations that were mentioned tonight about consolidation, how to move forward with the town, and having those conversations, whether it's a study or how are we moving it forward.

#### **9.2 Master Planning Committee Update**

There was no update given on the Master Planning Committee.

#### **9.3 Reports and Proposals from the Charter Review Committee**

*MOVED up in the agenda.*

### **B) Plymouth Building Committee Reports**

Mr. Pizano gave an update on the Building Committee.

#### **9.4 Report from the Plymouth Building Committee Liaison**



Mr. Pizano gave an update on the Building Committee.

## **C) Personnel Reports**

### **9.5 Appointments and Resignations**

#### **Personnel Report**

Mr. Cioffi shared one certificated appointment, five classified appointments, and nine resignations.

### **10.0 Unfinished and New Business**

There was no unfinished or new business.

### **11.0 Approval of Consent Agenda**

#### **11.1 Approval of Consent Agenda**

**To vote upon all housekeeping items included in the Consent Agenda**

**Superintendent's Recommendation: The Plymouth School Committee approves the Consent Agenda as presented.**

#### **ORIGINAL - Motion**

**Member (Mr.Luis Pizano) Moved, and Member (Ms. Ashley Shaw) Seconded to approve the ORIGINAL motion 'That Plymouth School Committee approve the MMDDYY Consent Agenda as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: 6 Nay:0. The motion Carried. 6 - 0**

### **12.0 Items Pulled from Consent Agenda**

No items were pulled from the Consent Agenda.

### **13.0 Adjournment**

#### **13.1 Chairperson's Adjournment**

Ms. Badger adjourned the meeting at 9:54 PM

