

**PLYMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MONDAY JANUARY 8, 2024
11 LINCOLN STREET PLYMOUTH, MA 02360**

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

- Ms. Michelle Badger-Chair, Mr. Luis Pizano-Vice Chair, Ms. Katherine Jackson-Secretary, Dr. James Sorensen, Ms. Kim Savery, Mr. Robert Morgan, Ms. Vedna Lacombe-Heywood

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE FROM 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- 7:02PM

1.1 Chairperson's Call to Order - Ms. Michelle Badger called the meeting to order and led the assembly into the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance -**7:02PM**

- "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."

2.0 Comments from the General Public

2.1 There were no comments from Community Members.

2.2 Principal Michael Spencer of NMES made tribute to Ms. Diane Surdam, a former Para educator for twenty years with a moment of silence who passed away.

3.0 Other School Committee Matters- 7:05PM

3.1 Legislative Update

Ms. Nicole Manfredi, Mr. Christopher Jean and Representative Matthew Muratore presented a Legislative update.

Representative Muratore informed the Committee that 9 C cuts that were made by the Governor will not affect education or local aid. He will begin working on the new budget soon.

Mr. Jean was representing Senator LaNatra as she had a prior engagement.

Ms. was representing Senator Susan Moran and gave an update on recent education policy and funding in Massachusetts.

3.2 Comments from the EAPC -7:21PM

Mr. Thomas Pinto, President EAPC, spoke to the Committee about his concerns on the current proposed 1.2 million dollar budget- specifically regarding teacher negotiations. He stated that many teachers and staff members are leaving the district due to higher wages in other districts. He asked the committee to reject the proposed budget.

Ms. Julie Hannon, a second-grade teacher and parent in the district asked the committee to increase the teacher salaries.

Ms. Katie Keely, a fourth-grade teacher at West Elementary School thanked the select board for their support. She asked the committee to consider staff pay and to increase the pay for teachers, as many staff are living paycheck to paycheck.

Ms. Rachel Fallen, teacher in the district, asked the committee to reject the proposed budget.

3.3 Comments from COBRA -7:35PM

Mr. Dale Webber from the Collective Bargaining Relief Association President, spoke to the Committee regarding COBRA workers. He asked the committee to vote down the proposed budget.

Ms. Badger thanked the EAPC and COBRA members for their presentations.

4.0 Budget

4.1 Conduct Public Hearing: Proposed FY25 Operating Budget

To convene a public hearing on the proposed FY25 Operating Budget in accordance with School Committee Policy 13.3.

There were no public comments.

4.2 Proposed FY25 Operating Budget 7:45PM

Dr. Campbell thanked the EAPC and COBRA members for the presentations.

Dr. Campbell stated that PPS does have a recruitment and retention problem due to lower pay for teachers and staff in the district.

Dr. Campbell stated that the district was asked by the town to work within the budget the town has presented. This budget meets current contractual obligations and maintains the level of staff currently at PPS.

Dr. Campbell stated that the district has made education for four years in a row to the level service budget.

Dr. Campbell stated there are not state and federal grants available to the district as there have been in the past. He stated that PPS would need supplemental appropriation or a reserve account.

Mr. Pizano stated that he agreed with all of the comments made by EAPC and COBRA. He questioned why support this budget when it is not the budget the district needs.

Dr. Campbell explained that negotiations need to take place first to determine what the amount is needed.

Dr. Sorensen spoke about the high quality of education in Plymouth. He stated that it is important to build into the budget what is needed to maintain that quality.

Dr. Campbell stated that the district needs millions of dollars more to maintain our current staff and not reduce any of the services we have. He stated that the committee can delay the proposed budget until the joint meeting on 1/16/24.

Ms. Jackson read a statement in support of PPS teachers. Ms. Jackson stated that she cannot in good conscience vote in favor of the proposed budget.

Ms. Savery stated that she is not comfortable voting on the budget until more conversations are had with the town.

Discussion among the committee continued about the changing needs in education, cost of living and salaries of teachers in Plymouth.

The committee chose to table this discussion until the joint meeting (with the town) on 1/16/24.

Break

5.0 Informational Items 8:30PM

5.1 Social Studies Update - Dr. Robert Powers

Social Studies Coordinator Dr. Rob Powers presented a curriculum update on the Social Studies Program within the Plymouth Public School District.

To receive an update from the Curriculum Coordinator of Social Studies.

5.2 EDTV Update - Brian Byrne

Director of Educational Television Mr. [Brian Byrne](#) presented an update on the EDTV Program within the district.

Media and Communications Specialist Ms. Libby Hurley updated the committee on current social media platforms used by the district.

5.3 First Student, - Agreement for Student Transportation Services 9:45PM

To receive recommendations to approve the student transportation contract for FY25 between the Town of Plymouth Public Schools and First Student America, Inc., and take the necessary action.

Dr. Blaisdell explained the new agreement with First Student.

Superintendent's Recommendation: That School Committee approve the contract for School Bus Transportation for FY25 between the Town of Plymouth Public Schools and First Student America, Inc.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Ms. Katherine Jackson)** Moved, Member **(Mr. Luis Pizano)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That School Committee approve the contract for School Bus Transportation for FY25 between the Town of Plymouth Public Schools and First Student America, Inc.'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. the motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

6.0 School Committee Matters

6.1 Pearl Harbor 2024 Music Performance Trip, Honolulu, Hawaii, December 4-9, 2024

PPS High School Marching and Concert Bands - Pearl Harbor 2024 Music Performance Trip Request - December 2024

To receive recommendation(s) relative to the proposed Plymouth High School Marching and Concert Bands field trip to Hawaii and be accepted and approved as presented.

Superintendent's Recommendation: That the proposed Plymouth High School Marching and Concert Bands field trip to Hawaii be accepted and approved as presented.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Dr. James Sorensen)** Moved, Member **(Ms. Katherine Jackson)** Seconded to approve the **ORIGINAL** motion 'That the proposed Plymouth High School Marching and Concert Bands field trip to Hawaii be accepted and approved as presented'. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the vote was: Aye: **7** Nay: **0**. the motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

6.2 MASC Section E Policy Review 9:50PM

Dr. Rogers gave the committee policies to review.

Superintendent's Recommendation: That the recommended changes to Section E Policies be accepted and approved as presented.

6.3 MASC Section F Policy

Proposed changes to Section F Policies

To receive recommendation(s) relative to Section F Policies and take the necessary action(s).

Superintendent's Recommendation: That the recommended changes to Section F Policies be accepted and approved as presented.

7.0 Communications 9:55PM

A) Superintendent's Report

7.1 Reports and Proposals from the Superintendent

*Strategic Planning Update *Meeting with Executive Office of Education: Transportation *Podcast Recording: DEI *Coffee and Conversation: School Safety and Security

Discussion was had among the committee regarding the Eclipse on Apr 8, 2024.

This will take place from 2pm-4pm which is bus time for students.

There may be a shift of half day from 4/3 to 4/8 for safety purposes.

The district has purchased solar glasses for everyone in the district.

Dr. Campbell reminded the committee that the Unified Basketball team is playing at TD Garden on Sunday January 14th.

8.0 Reports 10:01 PM

A) Committee Member Reports

8.1 Committee Member Reports

Ms. Savery read at IBES, she presented a list to the committee from students at IBES of things they would like in the school.

Ms. Badger had a meeting with SEPAC.

Ms. Badger shared the yearly report from PAC.

B) Plymouth Building Committee Reports

8.2 Plymouth Building Committee Reports

Mr. Pizano stated that fire station 2 is complete.

Station 5 is well underway.

Elementary school roof project has a preliminary plan in place as soon as school is out of session.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

C) Personnel Reports

8.3 Appointments, Leaves of Absence, and Resignations

Mr. [Erik Cioffi](#) informed the committee of three parental leaves, two medical leaves, 5 resignations and six appointments.

9.0 Unfinished and New Business

There was no new unfinished business.

10.0 Approval of Consent Agenda

10.1 Approval of Consent Agenda

To vote upon all housekeeping items included in the Consent Agenda

Superintendent's Recommendation: That Plymouth School Committee approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

ORIGINAL - Motion

Member **(Mr. Robert Morgan)** Moved, Member **(Ms. Katherine Jackson)** 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: **7** Nay: **0**. the motion **Carried. 7 - 0**

Ms. Badger adjourned the meeting at 10:07 PM