

Plainville School Committee Meeting
October 4, 2016
Regular Session

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Amy Abrams at 6:06 p.m. in the Wood School Learning Commons. Also present were Linn Caprarella, Maggie Clarke, Javed Iqbal, Charlene McEntee and Superintendent Raiche. The meeting was audio and video recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Charlene McEntee, seconded by Linn Caprarella to approve the September 27, 2016 School Committee Goals Meeting minutes. So voted.

MOTION by Charlene McEntee, seconded by Maggie Clarke to approve the September 27, 2016 Regular Session minutes. So voted.

MOTION by Linn Caprarella, seconded by Charlene McEntee to approve and hold the September 27, 2016 Executive Session minutes. So voted 4 in favor, 1 abstain (Iqbal)

SHOWCASE

None.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS AND FACULTY

None.

COMMUNICATIONS AND AUDIENCES

Mrs. Abrams said that she had received an email from the Education Support Professionals union for use at the last school committee meeting on September 27, 2016; however, she apologized for not reading the email at that meeting. Mrs. Abrams said she did not see the email until after the last meeting. The email was in regard to the Instructional Paraprofessional job description, in which a revision was approved at the September 27, 2016 school committee meeting.

COMMENDATIONS

None.

ITEMS FROM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. King Philip School Committee-Mrs. McEntee

Mrs. McEntee reported that King Philip School Committee met last night. Topics reviewed were:

- A request from Bill Rice to name a field at the high school after Gary Lombard, who was a long-time employee in the King Philip School District and was also a coach;
- Jim Hawkins, a representative from MTA, spoke at the meeting in regards to Question #2; MTA's stance is not to approve the lifting of the charter school cap;
- Appointment of a Public Records Officer;

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- DECA overnight field trips; and
 - MASC resolutions.
- b. Negotiations Subcommittee-Mrs. Caprarella, Mrs. Clarke
Mrs. Caprarella said negotiations will be discussed in executive session.
- c. Budget Subcommittee-Mrs. McEntee, Mrs. Abrams
Nothing.
- d. Communications Subcommittee-Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Ikbal
Mrs. Abrams reported that the Subcommittee met earlier this evening at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Raiche, Mrs. Whitaker, Technology Administrator, and Elizabeth Flavin, a parent, also attended this meeting. Discussed the way parents are notified about events at the school as there is some confusion on what events parents are invited to attend. In addition it is suggested that the district website provide quick and easy access to this information and also to have documents linked to an event; for example, for the Walk to School Day. The parent should be able to click on the date on the calendar that the Walk to School Day is scheduled and the permission form is available upon clicking on that date. Mrs. Abrams also said there was discussion about an electronic backpack.
- e. Town Building Committee-Mrs. Clarke
Nothing.

RESIGNATIONS, TRANSFERS, APPOINTMENTS AND LEAVES

- a. Appointment
Theresa Arnaudo, Custodian

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Spring 2016 PARCC Results
Superintendent Raiche shared a PowerPoint presentation about the results of the PARCC testing which was administered in the spring of 2016. He reviewed proficiency and growth rates for students in grade levels 3, 4, 5, and 6 and also for the subgroup, special education students, in the areas of ELA and math. Plainville students continue to demonstrate growth, and proficiency rates (percentage of students who achieved Proficient/Advanced in MCAS) and (percentage of students who achieved level 4 or 5 in PARCC) are as follows:

Over a four year period, 2013, 2014 (MCAS) and 2015, 2016 (PARCC), Proficiency Rates in ELA:

- All students, low of 63% to a high of 68%
 - Grade 6 students, low of 75% to a high of 80%
 - Grade 5 students, low of 64% to a high of 73%
 - Grade 4 students, low of 47% to a high of 68%
- ELA, Grade 3, MCAS scores ranged from a low of 54% to a high of 75% (2008 – 2014) and PARCC, 43% and 45% (2015 & 2016)

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Over a four year period, 2013, 2014, (MCAS) and 2015, 2016 (PARCC) Proficiency Rates in math:

- All students, low of 52% to a high of 67%
- Grade 6 students, low of 68% to a high of 84%
- Grade 5 students, low of 57% to a high of 67%
- Grade 4 students, low of 43% to a high of 60%

- Math, Grade 3, MCAS scores ranged from a low of 57% to a high of 70% (2008 – 2014) and PARCC, 37% and 60% (2015 & 2016)

For special education students the proficiency ranges in ELA are from 13% to 19% and growth rates range from 50% to 61%. For math, the proficiency rates are from 5% to 41% and growth rates range from 48% to 58%. Superintendent Raiche and Edward Clarke, Administrator of Special Education, both reiterated the need to improve the rates for special needs students and said a plan of action has been implemented. Some of the action items include: reviewing the direction of the inclusion model, role of paraprofessionals in the classrooms, coordinating the efforts of the classroom teacher and special education teacher, communication among all educators, and having classroom and special education teachers review assessments together.

Superintendent Raiche also shared the results of several classes (2015, 2016, this year's grade 6 students,--class of 2017, and this year's grade 5 students--class of 2018). In addition, he noted that overall, the **average** for all students who received either proficient or above in ELA **and** Math, ranges from 48% to 60% depending on the year. Superintendent Raiche said the district is moving in the right direction. Also, the state had determined that all students will be taking the MCAS 2.0 test in the spring of 2017.

b. 2016 District and School Accountability Reports

Superintendent Raiche reviewed information from the DESE website on the 2016 district and school accountability reports. In order to qualify as a Level 1 school, a score of 75 or above is required. Jackson School is a Level 2 school and Wood School is a Level 1 school. He also reviewed the Composite Performance Index (CPI) scores over a five-year period (2012 – 2016).

c. Educator Evaluation Regulations

Superintendent Raiche shared a memo from DESE, dated September 16, 2016, regarding the action plan to revise regulations on student impact rating. He said that as a district, Plainville is focused on student growth and proficiency. He is pleased that Commissioner Chester is leaning towards eliminating the separate student impact rating and instead including student learning within one or more of the standards of practice.

d. Interest-Based Bargaining Training

Superintendent Raiche informed the Committee that two dates have been set—November 15 and December 5, 2016. At these meeting representatives from the PEA union, ESP union and school committee negotiations subcommittee, along with Mrs. Ketchum, school business administrator, and Mr. Raiche, will be meeting to participate in interest-based training. Upon completion, the

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groups will decide whether to utilize interest-based bargaining or utilize the more traditional method currently used during negotiations. He expects negotiations to begin in January 2017.

e. School Characteristics and Student Achievement Survey Participation

Superintendent Raiche informed the Committee that as members of the TURN network, the administration, district teachers and education support professionals will be participating in a survey through Rutgers University on *Collaboration and Culture*. He said the results will provide the district with information on the joint commitment to improve communication, collaboration, and transparency throughout our schools.

f. Enrollment

Superintendent Raiche shared a document on enrollment which showed that total enrollment as of October 1, 2016 for students in grades K-6 is 667 students. As a comparison, the total enrollment in October 1, 2015 was 704 students. He will provide more enrollment figures at the next school committee meeting. He suggested that we hire NESDEC to complete enrollment projections in light of recent news of potential housing units to be built in Plainville.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion: The Walker Report

The Committee discussed the sections of The Walker Report that referred to Plainville. The four districts (King Philip, Norfolk, Wrentham, and Plainville) will hold a joint meeting soon to discuss the findings. They reviewed commendations, findings for Plainville and recommendations for Plainville.

b. Vote on resolution Pertaining to Question #2, Charter Schools

The Committee listened to a brief presentation by Jim Hawkins, MTA representative. He stated the reasons MTA is against question #2, and urged the Committee to take a stance and vote against lifting the cap on the Commonwealth's Charter Schools. Some of the reasons cited are: cost to Plainville, teachers in the Charter School do not have to be certified by DESE, and Charter Schools do not have an elected School Board. Mrs. McEntee stated that the financial impact is the biggest loss.

MOTION by Charlene McEntee, seconded by Linn Caprarella:

“**WHEREAS**, free public schools available to all students regardless of income, ability, need or English language proficiency are foundational to our democracy; and

WHEREAS, all of our students deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child, providing enrichment and addressing social and emotional needs in addition to core academic subjects; and

WHEREAS, local accountability for our public schools is necessary to ensure that schools are responsive to the needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS Plainville Public Schools is losing \$32,302.00 to Commonwealth charter schools and public school districts across the state are losing more than \$450 million this year alone — a

loss of funds that is undermining the ability of districts to provide all students with the educational services to which they are entitled; and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth charter schools are often approved over the objections of a majority of community residents and their elected officials and are not accountable to local elected officials once they are approved; and

WHEREAS, Commonwealth charter schools often fail to serve the same proportion of special needs students, low-income students and English language learners as the districts from which they receive students and often use high suspension rates to drive out students they don't want to serve; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth charter school system is creating separate and unequal opportunities for success; and

WHEREAS, lifting the cap on charter schools would greatly worsen the problems listed above and lead to a costly and divisive two-track school system;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Plainville School Committee opposes lifting the cap on Commonwealth charter schools.

So voted. Unanimous.

c. Legislative Update

Charlene McEntee is the MASC Chair for Division III.

d. Any item(s) not anticipated at the time of posting

Nothing.

Discussion:

Amy Abrams shared on the topic of Professional Learning Communities which she read about in the *American School Board Journal*. The conversation led to the relevancy of homework and Committee members briefly discussed their thoughts about homework. Mrs. McEntee said the Committee does have a homework policy which was updated a few years ago.

Mrs. Abrams also mentioned a program by Whirlpool, where washing machines/dryers are donated to schools. She said a study concluded that having clean clothes impacts student learning. The city that received donations was St. Louis, Missouri.

In addition, Mrs. Abrams mentioned that in Colorado, because of the legalization of marijuana, 35 million dollars went to education in that state.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Maggie Clarke, seconded by Javed Ikbal, to go into Executive session at 7:26 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining strategies which, if held in open session, might hurt the Committee's bargaining position.

Roll Call Vote:

Amy Abrams	Yes
Linn Caprarella	Yes

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Maggie Clarke	Yes
Javed Iqbal	Yes
Charlene McEntee	Yes

Returned from Executive session at 7:50 p.m.

INFORMATION

There was no discussion on any of the items listed in this agenda item. The agenda item was Enrollment, October 1, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Charlene McEntee, seconded by Maggie Clarke, to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. So voted.

Susan M. Rieger, Recording Secretary