

PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Palmer, Massachusetts 01069

Regular School Committee Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, October 21, 2009
PLACE: Palmer High School Library
KIND OF MEETING: Regular Meeting
MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Mary Salzmann, Mr. David Lynch, Mr. James St. Amand, Mr. Robert Janasiewicz,
and Mrs. Maureen Gallagher
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Gerald Fournier, Mr. Thomas Charko, Mrs. Bonny Rathbone, Mr. David Stetkiewicz,
students, parents, staff, and members of the press.
CALL TO ORDER: The Chairman called the meeting to order at _____ p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Salzmann requested to move items 6a. and 6b. to follow the Student Representative's report to honor students and staff for their academic achievements and recess for a short reception to honor them and return to the regular agenda.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Tyler Mastalerz reported the following:

- Band students attended the Big E and performed on September 29th.
- Band students performed at UMASS for band day on September 26th.
- SAT tests were given on October 10th.
- PSAT tests were given on October 14th.
- "Rachel's Challenge" was presented to students on October 16th prompting students to perform acts of kindness towards others.
- Career Day was held on October 16th.
- Interact Club held a fundraiser for the "Rays of Hope" where students donated and were allowed to wear wigs to school.
- Junior Week will be celebrated the week of November 9th with each day having a different theme.
- Fall Sports teams are doing fantastic! Football team is 3-3 with the Pathfinder game on October 23rd.
- Girls' Soccer team made the playoffs.
- Boys' Soccer team is in first place with a 12-2-1 record.
- Golf team is 9-7 and will compete in the WMASS tournament.
- Field Hockey team is 5-3 and at the top in the league.
- Boys' Cross Country is 4-0 in the league and if they win the next match will be undefeated in their league which they haven't done since 1998.
- Girls' Cross Country improved and had their best times in the PV tournament.
- National Honor Society Induction will take place on November 5th.
- Report cards will be distributed on November 6th.
- Fall Sports Banquet will be held at the Lusitano Club on December 9th.
- Senior Citizen computer classes are taking place with the help of the SaTL students.
- Palmer football team received \$500 from the Patriot Alumni Club grant for a pop up blocking dummy.
- College Fair for parents will be held on October 27th at 7:30 a.m.
- College Fair trip for students to Holyoke Community College on November 4th.

- a. Recognition of Students with Perfect AP, SAT & MCAS Scores

Students were called upon and congratulated for their achievements. A list of students is attached to the minutes.

- b. Recognition of the PHS' English Department for its NCTE Commendation

Staff members were called upon and congratulated for their achievements. A list of staff members is attached to the minutes.

1 Mrs. Rathbone also was pleased to announce the students who qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarships which
2 entitle them to free tuition at any state college. A copy of the list of recipients is attached.
3

4 Mrs. Rathbone was also pleased to announce that she received verbal communication that Palmer High has received its
5 Accreditation status from the NEAS&C committee. Periodic reporting will have to be done with the next evaluation taking
6 place in 10 years.
7

8 MEETING RECESS 9

10 Mrs. Gallagher moved, and Mr. Janasiewicz seconded a motion to have a brief recess to have a reception for those receiving
11 awards this evening.
12

13 Motion unanimously approved, (5-0-0).
14

15 Following the brief recess Mrs. Salzmann read a letter regarding the deficit in the cafeteria account. She acknowledged that
16 the account is in the red however it is only \$11,000 as opposed to the reported figure of \$60,000. Mrs. Salzmann requested
17 that the account be corrected at the town hall to show deposits that were previously made and not reflected in the report.
18 There was some discussion regarding the lunch account and the cause of the deficit. There are families who have outstanding
19 charges and the cost of food and the charges for commodities from the government have increased to name a few. The
20 School Committee has responded by raising the lunch prices in the schools and for Club 55.
21

22 PUBLIC COMMENTS 23

24 a. Letters/Communications from the Public 25

26 Mr. Gary O'Brien addressed the committee again regarding the cost of operating the pool. He reported he contacted National
27 Grid and other vendors regarding the figures noted in the report of the pool operating costs. Mr. O'Brien felt that the cost
28 was inflated by 25-50%. He also indicated that the money that the Palmer Strippers provided to the school department should
29 cover 85-90 % of the pool costs. He requested that the Committee re-evaluate their decision to keep the pool closed. Mr.
30 Muniec, Director of Facilities, indicated that Lagrant Electric has placed monitoring devices on various motors and will
31 prepare a report of their findings. Mr. Muniec did report that one of the motors monitored did show a 12 % decrease from the
32 figure he used in preparing his report of pool costs. He indicated that currently the monitors are running under optimum
33 conditions and that keeping the water (210,000 gallons) at a consistent water temperature of 80 degrees is not cheap.
34
35

36 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT 37

38 c. Rescheduling of November School Committee Date 39

40 Dr. Fournier indicated he had a conflict with the next meeting and requested a change in date. The new meeting date will be
41 on November 4th.
42

43 PERSONNEL REPORT FOR CERTIFIED STAFF 44

45 The Superintendent recommended that the School Committee acknowledge the actions as listed on the Personnel Report for
46 Certified Staff as presented in the PERSONNEL section of the School Committee Meeting of October 21, 2009. There were
47 a few questions to which the Superintendent responded that there were no new volunteer coaches and that the assistant
48 football coach is shared by two individuals splitting the salary for the position.
49

50 PERSONNEL REPORT FOR NON-CERTIFIED STAFF 51

52 The Superintendent recommended that the School Committee acknowledge the actions as listed on the Personnel Report for
53 Non-Certified Staff as presented in the PERSONNEL section of the School Committee Meeting of September 23, 2009.
54

55 BUDGET 56

57 Mr. Charko was present to address budget questions. Mrs. Gallagher inquired as to what expenditures are in the food
58 services budget. Mr. Charko indicated that charges were for salary, food, repairs, clothing, longevity and gas expenses at the
59 middle school. He indicated that we are still pursuing collections for charges owed from last year and noted that many of
60

1 those families who owed from last year qualified for free lunch this year. Mr. Charko indicated that free/reduced lunch
2 numbers are up this year and that the cafeteria frequently reminds parents during the year of the free/reduced program.
3

4 Mr. Janasiewicz requested that when preparing budget documents for the next fiscal year he would like to see last year's
5 appropriation and spent figure for each line item.
6

7 **BUDGET TRANSFER**
8

9 Mr. Janasiewicz moved, and Mrs. Gallagher seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:
10

11 **RESOLVED**, that the School Committee approve the budget transfer reducing line item 9400-700 by \$49,818 and increasing
12 line item 9100-700 by that amount.
13

14 Motion unanimously approved, (5-0-0).
15

16 **DELIBERATION ON THE APPROVAL OF A DISTRICT ACTION**
17 **PLAN FOR CONVERSE MIDDLE SCHOOL**
18

19 Mrs. Gallagher moved, and Mr. Lynch seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:
20

21 **RESOLVED**, that the School Committee approve the FY 10 District Action Plan for Converse Middle School.
22

23 Dr. Fournier responded to many questions regarding professional development, Title I services, supplemental services, etc.
24 Students scored better than ever. Dr. Fournier reported that MA has the highest education standards in the country and
25 students here score better than their counterparts.
26

27 Motion was unanimously approved, (5-0-0).
28

29 **DELIBERATION ON THE APPROVAL OF A DISTRICT ACTION**
30 **PLAN FOR PALMER HIGH SCHOOL**
31

32 Mrs. Gallagher moved, and Mr. Janasiewicz seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:
33

34 **RESOLVED**, that the School Committee approve the FY 10 District Action Plan for Palmer High School.
35

36 Motion was unanimously approved, (5-0-0).
37

38 **DELIBERATION ON THE APPROVAL OF THE 2010 DISTRICT**
39 **MCAS IMPROVEMENT PLAN**
40

41 Mr. St. Amand moved, and Mrs. Gallagher seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:
42

43 **RESOLVED**, that the School Committee approve the FY 10 District MCAS Improvement Plan.
44

45 Motion was unanimously approved, (5-0-0).
46

47 **DELIBERATION ON THE APPROVAL OF THE 2010 OLD MILL**
48 **POND MCAS IMPROVEMENT PLAN**
49

50 Mr. Janasiewicz moved, and Mr. Lynch seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:
51

52 **RESOLVED**, that the School Committee approve the FY10 Old Mill Pond MCAS Improvement Plan.
53

54 Motion was unanimously approved, (5-0-0).
55

56 **DELIBERATION ON THE APPROVAL OF THE 2010 CONVERSE**
57 **MIDDLE SCHOOL MCAS IMPROVEMENT PLAN**
58

59 Mrs. Gallagher moved, and Mr. Lynch seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:
60

1 RESOLVED, that the School Committee approve the FY10 CMS MCAS Improvement Plan.

2
3 Motion was unanimously approved, (5-0-0).

4
5 DELIBERATION ON THE APPROVAL OF THE 2010 PALMER
6 HIGH SCHOOL MCAS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

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8 Mr. St. Amand moved, and Mr. Lynch seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:

9
10 RESOLVED, that the School Committee approve the FY10 PHS MCAS Improvement Plan.

11
12 Motion was unanimously approved, (5-0-0).

13
14 DELIBERATION ON THE APPROVAL OF AN OUT-OF-STATE
15 FIELD DAY TRIP TO RHODE ISLAND FOR PHS STUDENTS

16
17 Mr. Lynch moved, and Mr. St. Amand seconded a motion to approve the following resolution:

18
19 RESOLVED, that the School Committee approve the request for an out-of-state field day trip to Johnson and Wales
20 University, Providence, RI on December 3, 2009.

21
22 Motion was unanimously approved, (5-0-0).

23
24 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

25
26 Mrs. Gallagher requested copies of all policy changes approved recently. She also wanted confirmation from the
27 Superintendent regarding the freezing of the budget. Dr. Fournier confirmed that he froze the budget on September 24 in
28 anticipation of the shortfall in tax revenue at the state level. He indicated this was a precautionary measure in case there were
29 additional 9C cuts.

30
31 Mr. Janasiewicz congratulated Bernie Fontaine who was named "Coach of the Year" in basketball. A celebratory dinner will
32 be held at Holy Cross.

33
34 Mr. Lynch noted that MIAA no longer sends out written materials and requested that someone download the information
35 from the MIAA web site regarding the latest listing of fees for officials and provide him with a copy.

36
37 Mr. St. Amand requested that the Athletic Sub-Committee schedule an upcoming meeting. The date was set for November
38 9th at 10:30 a.m. at the high school.

39
40 Mrs. Salzman congratulated students, teachers, parents and administrators for their part in all the awards given tonight. A
41 great job was done by all.

42
43 ADJOURNMENT

44
45 Mrs. Gallagher moved, and Mr. Janasiewicz seconded a motion to adjourn from the Regular Meeting at _____ p.m.

46
47 Motion was approved by a unanimous vote, (5-0-0).

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49
50
51
52 Respectfully submitted,
53 Deborah Smola, Clerk