

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**SCHOOL BOARD WORKSESSION**  
**NOVEMBER 3, 2008**

The Manassas Park City School Board held an expulsion hearing prior to the worksession on November 3, 2008 in the School Board Meeting Room at the City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by the Chairman. Present were: Michael Wine, Dana Williams, Elizabeth Judd, Brenda Foster and Rachel Kirkland. Also present were: Thomas H. DeBolt, Division Superintendent; Lois D. Steele, Clerk of the Board; Bruce McDade, Associate Superintendent; Patti Townsend, Director of Financial Services; Tracy Shaver, MPHS Principal; Laura Cross, MPHS Assistant Principal; Police Officer Karin Bakken, School Resource Officer; Mike Martinez, Translator. Also in attendance for the worksession were: Mike Rolen, Director of Special Services; Virginia Bowerman, Director of Reading; Eric Neff, MPMS Principal; Melissa Pitts, MPMS Assistant Principal; Jon Mamon, Data Systems Manager.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Brenda Foster moved to approve the Agenda. Rachel Kirkland seconded the motion which carried 5 – 0.

**Closed Meeting:**

Elizabeth Judd moved to go into a closed meeting to discuss personnel and a student matter in accordance with Section 2.2-3711(A)(1)(2) of the Code of Virginia. Rachel Kirkland seconded the motion which carried 5 – 0. The Board entered the closed meeting at 6:32 p.m.

**Return to Regular Session:**

Elizabeth Judd moved to return to regular session at 8:28 p.m. Rachel Kirkland seconded the motion which carried 5 – 0.

**Certification of Closed Meeting:**

See attachment to the minutes.

**Motion Out of Closed Meeting:**

Brenda Foster moved to expel the student discussed in the closed meeting, and offer a placement in an alternative school on a credit-by-credit basis. Elizabeth Judd seconded the motion which carried 5 – 0 by roll call vote.

**MPCS Communication from Schools to Parents:**

The Superintendent stated the School Board had asked him to put together the things we are doing, and what we will be doing, regarding communication from schools to parents. He said some things will be implemented fully next year. We work hard at school-community

relations. He asked each principal about things they put on our website, as well as take-home materials, newsletters, etc. He gave the Board a list of guidelines we try to work with. He said, “We have never been perfect, but we are getting better.” School events will be put on the website. This is working well now. Back-to-School Nights will be publicized through newsletters. Letters are sent to parents 10 days before the event. We try to watch the expenditure of postage. Elementary school children take things home better than high school students. Only 25% to 50% of high school students actually take things home. We are trying to mail more things using bulk mail. The principals are reasonably frugal in watching postage. We have a phone call-out system, but we don’t want to overuse it. We will use it for big events. The flyer system works well for elementary schools, but not the high school.

Dr. DeBolt said we have some people who will not come to the schools. Parents are more interested in talking directly to the teachers, not the administrators or the School Board. We can make sure they know about special events. He handed out samples of the materials each school uses to communicate with parents.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman will ask the city if we can use the electronic message board in the median to advertise special events at the schools.

### **Student Achievement Data Analysis for MPMS/MPHS:**

Dr. McDade said Mr. Mamon had prepared a presentation on student achievement data analysis for MPMS and MPHS. Mr. Neff and Mrs. Pitts jointly addressed the “slides” on the presentation for MPMS which covered the following:

- Targeting the Needs of Different Subgroups/Raising Scores
- SPED Pass Rate Comparison 2007/2008 (Math and Reading)
- LEP Pass Rate Comparison 2007/2008 (Math and Reading)
- Hispanic Pass Rate Comparison 2007/2008 (Math and Reading)
- African American Pass Rate Comparison 2007/2008 (Math and Reading)
- Economically Disadvantaged Pass Rate Comparison 2007/2008 (Math and Reading)
- Increase Science Scores
- Science SOL Scores (5 years of scores showing increases/decreases)
- Tracking Data
- Math SOL Scores (Pass rates for Grades 6-8, Algebra I and Geometry for last 3 years)
- Math SOL Scores (Pass rates for Grades 3-8 for last 3 years)
- Math Seminar Increases (Grades 6-8)
- Reading SOL Scores (Pass rates for Grades 6-8 for last 3 years)
- Reading SOL Scores (Pass rates for Grades 3-8 for last 3 years)
- Reading Seminar Increases (Grades 6-8)
- SOL Scores Per Subject 2007-2008
- Areas of Improvement (Increased % of Pass Rate, Increased # of Pass Advance Students, # of Students who increased with a 600 Score, in 6 content areas)
- Comparison of Surrounding Schools (Our scores were higher than PWC and Manassas)

Mr. Shaver and Mrs. Cross jointly addressed the “slides” on the presentation for MPHS which covered the following:

- Math (Pass Percentages in Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry for last 2 years)
- Science (Pass Percentages in Earth Science, Biology and Chemistry for last 2 years)

- Social Studies (Pass Percentages in World Geography, Early World History, US/VA History for last 2 years)
- English (Pass Percentages in Reading and Writing for last 2 years)
- Pass Advanced v. Pass Proficient (Percentages for Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Early World History, US/VA History, World Geography, English Reading, English Writing, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry)
- MPCS: SAT Mean Scores (For last 5 years)
- AP Results (For last 4 years)
- Transition Rates (Pass percentages for last 2 years)
- Senior Successes (Post secondary transition and scholarships)
- Challenges for 2008-09 and Beyond

The Chairman said to the administrators, “You folks amaze me. You are awesome. Thank you for being here.” Mr. Shaver thanked the School Board for their support.

**Board Members’ Comments:**

Mr. Wine asked the Board to think about topics for the parent forum. He asked if we partner with anyone like Big Brothers. Dr. McDade said we do mentoring at the high school. There is a need for mentors. Mr. Wine asked, “Can we partner with Big Brothers?” Dr. McDade said they had a cohort to work with some students at the high school.

Mrs. Williams asked if we should start talking about the budget with the principals and administrators. Mrs. Townsend said she is looking at different data to see how we can save money next year. We know we will get a hit next year. There are many ideas out there.

Mr. Wine said he had been contacted by Parks and Recreation and they think they have provided what we need. Mr. Wine would like to give the Superintendent authority to approve the site plan. Dr. DeBolt said there is a note that the path is to be completed before construction can begin. The space is only 12 ft. wide between the school and the construction fence. We need the space to be 30-45 feet. The present site plan does not specify this. The other issue is the blacktop playground needs to be completed prior to construction. Brenda Foster moved to give the Superintendent authority to act on behalf of the Board to approve the site plan when it is correct. Elizabeth Judd seconded the motion which carried 5 – 0.

**Adjournment:**

Rachel Kirkland moved to adjourn at 10:30 p.m. Brenda Foster seconded the motion which carried 5 – 0.

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Chairman of the Board

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Clerk of the Board