

# ~ PLYMOUTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN ~

MONDAY, JULY 28, 2014

TOWN HALL, MAYFLOWER ROOM

The Selectmen held a meeting on Monday, July 28, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at Town Hall in the Mayflower Room.

Present: Anthony F. Provenzano Jr., Vice Chairman  
Mathew J. Muratore  
Sean P. Page

Absent: Kenneth A. Tavares, Chairman  
John T. Mahoney, Jr.  
Melissa Arrighi, Town Manager  
Michael Galla, Assistant Town Manager

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Provenzano called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **WELCOME OF OFFICIAL VISITORS FROM SHICHIGAHAMA, JAPAN**

Vice Chairman Provenzano opened a joint meeting with the School Committee to formally welcome an official delegation of officials and students from Shichigahama, Japan. Several Town officials were also in attendance to take part in the welcome ceremony.

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Dennis Begley, Chairman  
Debra Betz  
Margie Burgess  
Kim Savery Hunt  
Gary Maestas, Superintendent

### TOWN OFFICIALS

G. Edward Bradley, Fire Chief  
Lee Hartmann, Dir. of Planning & Development  
Elizabeth Sullivan, Assistant to Town Manager

Vice Chair Provenzano introduced present members from the Board of Selectmen, School Committee members, Town officials, and delegates from Shichigahama, Japan and noted that Tsutomu “Ben” Takahashi, Artist and Head of Cultural Affairs, would be providing an overview and an update regarding the tsunami recovery efforts. He also stated that Ms. Olivia Slayton, Coordinator of International Relations, would be translating for the distinguished guests from Shichigahama. Vice Chair Provenzano

provided a brief history, from inception to present, regarding the sister city relationship between Shichigahama, Japan and Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Vice Chair Provenzano introduced five children from Japan who are a part of the youth education exchange program. Each student came to the podium and introduced themselves.

Dennis Begley, Chairman of School Committee, acknowledged the hard work of those individuals involved in making the student exchange program the success it is today.

Tsutomu “Ben” Takahashi greeted the audience and gave a presentation on Shichigahama’s restoration efforts, following the earthquake and tsunami events of March 11, 2011. Mr. Takahashi highlighted Shichigahama’s location, population, and the areas damaged by the tsunami, noting that the earthquake was a level five (5) on the Japanese earthquake scale. He illustrated and defined the facts and statistics of those impacted by the disaster, and he acknowledged the recovery efforts of Shichigahama’s Mayor. Mr. Takahashi discussed Shichigahama’s cultural background and stated that the Mayor’s motto is, “We may be small but our Town shines.”

At the close of his presentation, Mr. Takahashi presented the members of the Board and School Committee with a book chronicling Shichigahama’s recovery efforts.

Vice Chair Provenzano thanked Mr. Takahashi for his presentation and commended the community of Shichigahama for its accomplishments towards the recovery efforts.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

On a motion by Selectman Muratore, seconded by Selectman Page, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting at approximately 10:50 a.m. Voted 3-0-0, approved.

*Recorded by Tracey McCarthy, Administrative Assistant, Office of Planning & Development*

*Formatted by Tiffany Park, Administrative Assistant, Board of Selectmen*