

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES March 23, 2016

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Tom Ryan, Chair
Susan Butler, Vice Chair
Mayanne Briggs
Steve Bilafer
Kevin Coughlin
Lisa Laprade
Rachel McGregor

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Michael Welch, Superintendent
Cynthia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent
Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance

Meeting location: The Avery School

Meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m.

Recognitions and Awards

Mr. Welch recognized the work of the Dedham High School Green Team under the direction of Advisor Christine Casali. Erin Gilmore spoke on behalf of the club. Other members include Chris Canavan (present), Melissa Celata, Amber Dillon, Amy Montiel (present), Connor Quinn, Patrick Rice, Hannah Romanish, Amber Shephard (present) and Tea Zylyftari (present). The team recently helped younger students at the Avery and Dedham Middle School during the first days of recycling and composting in the cafeterias. The next goal of the group is to remove all styrofoam trays from the cafeterias and replace them with something more eco-friendly. They are also creating "trash for treasure" in which art is made out of trash. Mr. Welch commended the Green Team for its initiatives and for educating younger students on the environment. Each student spoke about how the environmental club has affected them personally.

Mr. Welch recognized Eric Reyes for his success on the Dedham High School Wrestling Team. Eric's accomplishments include- an overall record of 164-4 (118 pins), senior year record of 44-0, 4 time State Champion, 2 time All-State Champion, 4 time BSC All Star, 4 time DIII South Sectional Champion, 2 time BSC Most Outstanding Wrestler, 3 time Boston Globe and Boston Herald All Scholastic, 2 time New England Champion and All-American Wrestler by Wrestling USA Magazine. Eric thanked his parents, Coach Campbell, Coach Carroll and Coach Ahern. Mr. Welch recognized Eric's inspiration and wished him all the best in the future. The School Committee wished Eric well at Nationals

Student update by Kyle Fonseca

ECEC

- Students from the Hansen Keohane School of Irish Dance visited the ECEC on St. Patrick's Day morning to perform demonstrations of Irish step dancing for their students and staff. Three ECEC students are members of the troupe

Riverdale

- Next month students at Riverdale School will be participating in *Fit and Lit* to encourage reading and exercise every day
- The spring session of the Riverdale after school enrichment program will begin the first week in April. There will be 13 course offerings including karate, yoga and junior gardeners

Greenlodge

- Greenlodge School will welcome the four principal candidates to the school next week, Tuesday through Friday. Each candidate will spend time at the school, meeting with parents, teachers and visiting classrooms. Fifth grade volunteers will escort the candidates during the school tour portion of the day
- Third grade students completed their solar system unit this week by displaying their projects, sharing planet facts, songs and knowledge with their families and guests at an afternoon presentation

Avery

- Avery first grade students attended a performance of *Caps for Sale* at the Boston Children's Theater on Thursday, March 10
- First through fourth grade students were entertained by former art teacher now illustrator, Kory Merritt. Students were able to purchase his latest work, *Mystery of the Map*, and have it personally autographed. This visit was made possible through the Blue Bunny

Oakdale

- This Thursday, Oakdale will wrap up the One Book- One School incentive with a whole school assembly. This year Oakdale enjoyed reading *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* together
- During the month of April, Oakdale students will participate in a reading challenge called "*Fit and Lit*". Students are encouraged to read and exercise each day. They will have a calendar on which they will be logging their minutes of reading and exercise each day of the month. At the end of the month, those students who participated will be entered into a drawing for a "Smart Bracelet Sports Fitness Tracker". There will be one bracelet raffled per grade level and one for the staff who participate. Also gift certificates for Launch will be raffled

Dedham Middle School

- All Town String Night will be held on Tuesday, March 29 at 7 p.m. in the DMS Auditorium
- Don Heald Night of Jazz will be held on Wednesday, March 30 at 7 p.m. in the DMS Auditorium

- Grade 5 students and Kindergarten students from the Curran Early Childhood Center will be attending a matinee performance of *The Wizard of Oz* at DMS on April 6. The evening performances for the play will be April 6, 7 & 8
- The entire middle school will be engaging in a full school infrastructure practice PARCC online test on April 5

Dedham High School

- MCAS English Language Arts Testing is in progress for all sophomores:
 - Tomorrow is Session 3
 - Today sophomores completed Sessions 1 and 2
 - On Tuesday, sophomores wrote long compositions
- Seniors are hearing from colleges and universities regarding college admissions
- Spring Sports started on Monday, March 21
- Sophomore Semi-Formal and the Senior Spring Fling took place on Friday night
- College planning workshop for parents with children in grades 9 and 10 took place on Monday, March 21. It was the first time that the guidance staff conducted this workshop for these grades. The event was well attended and the parents reported that they appreciated the efforts of the guidance staff. Career workshops are now conducted for grades 9 to 12
- The guidance staff coordinated the Annual Career Fair on Tuesday, March 15. The event brought in community leaders, health professionals, lawyers, business men and women to speak with sophomores and juniors
- Link Crew nominations and the selection process will start soon

Chair's Update

- Mr. Ryan thanked Mr. Welch for not calling off school on Monday, March 21. Many communities called off school or had a two hour delay
- Mr. Ryan also commended Mr. Welch for his "MC" skills at the Dedham Booster's Trivia Night on Saturday. Mr. Coughlin, Mrs. Briggs and Mr. Bilafer were on the first place team

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Michael J. Welch Update

- Mr. Welch thanked Joe Flanagan from the DPW and Roger Lazdowski from the custodial staff who worked diligently in the early morning of March 21 preparing the streets and schools for staff and students to be able to attend school without incident. Mr. Welch explained why he chose not to call a two hour delay like some neighboring communities. He also encouraged parents to rely only on official media outlets for school cancellations. If school is cancelled a ConnectEd message along with an email will be sent to parents
- Mr. Welch attended his fourth meeting of New Superintendent's Induction Program. In May he will present on how Dedham is implementing the new supervision and evaluation process

- A Leadership Team meeting was held today. The team is working collaboratively around the new supervision tool to improve student learning. Currently over 900 observations with feedback have been entered into the system. Mr. Welch commended the directors, department chairs, and principals for all of their hard work
- Mr. Welch is currently working on midyear reviews with directors and principals. Individual goals are being reviewed and discussed to make sure everyone is on track and getting the support they need
- The Greenlodge School principal search is in its final phase. The committee (13 members) has selected four finalists who will be visiting the Greenlodge School and the district next week. The committee interviewed eleven people. Parents are encouraged to attend the "press conferences" at the Greenlodge School next Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30 am to meet each candidate
- The search for the new Assistant Superintendent has begun. There are 67 applicants for the position. The committee is in process of selecting candidates to be interviewed
- Mr. Welch has completed all of his "State of the School" addresses where he visited each school and explained the budget/process to staff
- Teachers21 visited with the Leadership Team today. An audit of Dedham ELA curriculum will begin soon. Teachers21 will attend the next School Committee meeting. Results of the audit will be presented in June
- The next School Committee meeting will be at Newbridge on the Charles on Wednesday, April 6
- Mr. Welch announced the appointment of Kathy O'Leary as the new Human Resource Administrator

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cynthia Kelly Update

CAPD Update- The three committees have been planning work for this summer. The Professional Development committee has been surveying staff to determine next year's PD. The Assessment group has been working in three areas that will be explained in tonight's presentation. Final meeting will be on May 3. Mr. Welch commended Dr. Kelly on her leadership of the CAPD committee.

Reports

ELL Students Update

- Presented by Dr. Kelly and Karen Mackenzie-Sleeman
- ELL Department Staff Members- Erin Ficarra, Avery; Colleen Fitzgerald, Riverdale; Donna Jovin, Oakdale; Karen Mackenzie-Sleeman, DHS; Brooke Petersen, DMS; Jennifer Robins, ECEC; Sharon Weidenaar, Greenlodge and Avery
- 142 ELL students representing 25 different languages
- FLEP (Former ELLs) by School-33

- ELL students differ from one another in numerous ways: language, country of origin, religion, English proficiency, educational background, number of years in the U. S., reason for emigration
- Testing
 - Entry testing- All students whose Home Language Survey indicates a 'First Language Not English' are required to be assessed by the school's ELL teacher (at ECEC this past fall, 60 of 185 incoming Kindergarten students were screened)
 - WIDA: ACCESS for ELLs- Federally-mandated standardized test for ELL students K-12 given every January-February; tests students in four domains (listening, speaking, reading, writing); paper versions administered K-5, computer-based administered 6-12; district-wide, 147 students were assessed (includes students whose families have opted out of ELL services)
- MCAS and PARCC testing- ELL students are required to participate in all MCAS and PARCC tests for their grade level. One exception is students in their first year in a U.S. school; these students are exempt from the ELA assessment only for that first year. They are required to take math and science if applicable to their grade
- WIDA proficiency levels (WIDA stand for World-class Instructional Design and Assessment)- Level 1: Entering; Level 2: Beginning; Level 3: Developing; Level 4: Expanding; Level 5: Bridging; Level 6: Reaching (Proficiency)
- Service Delivery Requirements
 - New Massachusetts guidelines from August 2015 mandate service delivery for ELLs based on WIDA ACCESS proficiency levels (students at levels 1 - low 3, minimum 90 minutes per day; students at levels high 3-5, minimum 45 minutes per day)
 - Services must be provided in a pull-out environment.
 - Services are not tutoring but use a specific English language development curriculum (K-5: *Reach*, National Geographic; 6-8: *Inside*, National Geographic; 9-12:*High Point*)
- Title III Funding- Limited amount of federal funding allowed for supplementing regular ELL instruction.
 - Funding is used for: before/after school tutoring of ELL students by ESL and content teachers; 4 week elementary and secondary summer school programs; family engagement activities
 - MATSOL (Massachusetts Educators of ELLs) Conference for district ELL teachers' professional development in May
- Coordinated Program Review- Between June 2014 and January 2015, data was collected to address 24 English Language Education (ELE) standards; DESE final approval for all ELE criteria received in December 2015; Translations completed for report cards and progress reports
- New ELL Progress Reports
 - All ELL students receive progress reports from both their classroom and ESL teachers.
 - New ELL progress reports have been developed for the 2015-2016 school year.
 - Translated into Albanian, Arabic, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.
 - Sent home three times per year (K-5) and four times per year (6-12).
 - Intended to clearly provide families with information about a student's progress in the English language.
- Discussion and questions followed by the school committee
- Dr. Kelly described RETELL which is a required endorsement that all core academic teachers need to have on their license. Beginning 7/1/16 teachers will not be able to renew their license without this endorsement. The district has offered and is currently

offering SEI classes for this purpose. Administrators need to take the class as well. In addition beginning July 1, all teachers will need 15 PDPs in ELL and 15 PDPs in Special Education in order to renew their license.

CAPD Review - Assessment Committee

- Presented by Kristine Holloran, Mark Carney, Margo Fraczek and Lauren Shea
- Members of Committee- Kristine Holloran, Math Department Chair; Holli Armstrong, Principal Oakdale Elementary; Deb Gately, Principal Dedham Middle School; Paul Sullivan, Principal ECEC; Margo Fraczek, Assistant Principal Dedham Middle School; Mark Carney, Director of Health, Wellness and Physical Education; Marjorie Goldstein-Fradin, Director of Elementary Special Education; Alison Guifarro, World Language Department Chair; Nancy Clement, Elementary School Math Coach; Ann Grant, Technology Teacher-MS; Carolynne Noel, Math Teacher-MS; Brooke Peterson, ELL Teacher-MS; Dan Rouse, Business and Technology Teacher-HS; Cheryl Scarsciotti, Reading Specialist-Avery; Lauren Shea, Reading Specialist-Riverdale; Maura Shevory, Reading Specialist-Greenlodge; Jeff Taylor, Music Department-MS
- Four Main Areas of Focus - Online Assessment Program; DRA Testing; elementary ELA Assessments, Treasures; elementary Math Assessments, Everyday Math
- Gathered information regarding the four main areas of focus; reviewed data; conducted further surveys as needed
- Conclusions- Change the Acuity program; focus on the ELA (English Language Arts) assessments; conduct elementary math summer trainings; administer DRA at the middle school
- Formed three subcommittees to establish data teams; research an online program to replace Acuity; analyze the elementary ELA assessments
- District Data Teams starting point- Review District MCAS data; collect information from individual data teams; Access district accountability data
- Individual Data Teams common focus- assess school demographics and assess the 2014-2015 MCAS, DRA, QRI; use data to support Special Education in the classrooms; use assessment to identify how data is driving instruction; use data to meet the needs of advanced students
- District Data Team Goals- improve student performance; help inform PD; expand ELA writing across the district
- District Data Team summertime- requesting Professional Development opportunity for representatives of each school's data team to meet during the summer (coordinate our movement as a district, schedule future training, develop 2016-2017 schedule, share information with staff)
- Online Assessment Team surveyed Acuity- test length, resulting data, ability to inform instruction, impact on student achievement
- Conclusions- existing tests were lengthy and cumbersome; data was sometimes useful but not used consistently, most teachers only used program for assessment
- Online Assessment Subcommittee finding a replacement- determined criteria for a potential program; reached out to other districts; narrowed the field to four for extensive review/pilots (Star 360, IXL, TenMarks, MAP); created a timeline; choose classes to pilot
- Factors in making a decision- data, time and function, student and staff surveys, cost, MCAS/PARCC predictor, skill building
- Online Assessment Team- requesting Professional Development opportunities (summer work); TenMarks training for teachers in grades 3-8; parent information night in September
- Elementary Assessment Team's main areas of focus- ELA assessments, RTI, next steps

- Elementary Assessment team- requesting Professional Development opportunities (summer work); RTI training for staff in elementary and middle school
- Discussion and questions from the School Committee followed

Dedham Athletic Department Budget Review and Winter Sports Season Review

- Presented by Steve Traister
- Mr. Traister reviewed the Athletic Department budget allocations, user fees, and participation numbers for DHS and DMS for FY15
- Dedham user fee is \$125, significantly lower than surrounding towns
- Winter participation breakdown- Fall total 343 for DHS and 97 for DMS, winter total 228 for DHS and 27 for DMS
- 32% of DHS students participated in a winter sport
- Breakdown of winter records was presented. Overall record 41-67-2 (38% wins)
- DHS achievements-
 - Boys Basketball- qualified for DIII South Tournament; Hakeem Animashuan- 1000 point scorer and BSC All-Star
 - Girls Basketball- qualified for DIII South Tournament; Nina Heilmann- BSC All-Star
 - Wrestling- finished 2nd place in Bay-State (9-2); Jason Sulinski- DIII South Tournament Champion and BSC All-Star; Matt Dunn- DIII South Tournament Champion and BSC All-Star; Jonathon Cleveland- BSC All-Star
 - Boys Hockey- qualified for the DII South Tournament
 - Girls Indoor Track- Elizabeth Balzarini- BSC All-Star
 - Boys Indoor Track- Sam Beaucejour- Won DIII State Long Jump and BSC All-Star
- Spring participation breakdown totaling 287 students (season has just begun)
- Comparison of Bay State League size to Tri Valley League size- Dedham is 12 (out of 12) in Bay State League. Dedham would rank 7 (out of 11) in size in the Tri Valley League
- Dedham currently has 719 students. Bay State average number of students is 1,499. Tri Valley League has an average of 763 students.
- Mr. McCarthy has reached out to the Tri Valley League for participation information. Tri Valley has presented certain requirements for Dedham to move to apply in their league including a written request and acknowledgement vote by the School Committee. There is not an open invitation to join.
- In the Tri Valley League Dedham would be playing schools relative to its own size
- Current safety of playing larger schools is an issue for changing leagues
- Discussion and questions followed by the School Committee on what should be the next step
- An additional School Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 30 for public comment and opinion on the change
- Ms. Butler commented that the tennis courts that were removed years ago and promised to be reinstalled still have not been delivered and would like to see them incorporated into future athletic plans

Old/New Business

FY17 Budget process Update

There have been ongoing discussions with town manager to discuss the School Department's requests as well as ongoing discussions around capital.

ECEC Project Update

Mr. Welch will be meeting with the MSBA next Wednesday. The full board will be meeting to vote on the final grant amount for the construction of a new ECEC. At the previous SBRC meeting the committee voted to approve a reduction of 3.4 million dollars from the working budget. They voted to change construction oversight process from Construction Manager at Risk to Design Bid Build. This brings the final total down to around \$29 million. If the MSBA votes for an estimated \$11 million grant, the town's cost would be approximately \$18 million. The project goes before the Finance Committee under Article 20 for appropriations from the Robin Reyes fund. There will be no raising of taxes to fund project. The FinCom meeting is on March 29.

ELA Audit Update

The ELA Audit update was covered in the Superintendent's Update.

Minutes

Ms. Butler motioned to approve the minutes of March 9, 2016 as presented, Mrs. Briggs second, Mr. Ryan abstained (not in attendance at 3/9/16 meeting) committee voted 6-0, minutes passed.

Donations

Mrs. McGregor motioned to accept with grateful appreciation a \$500 donation from Dedham Education Partnership in support of the Class of 2016 Snowball Dance, second by Mrs. Laprade, committee voted unanimously.

Public Comments

None

Acknowledgements and Announcements

None

Ms. Butler motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mrs. McGregor second, committee voted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.