

# DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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## MINUTES February 24, 2016

### MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Thomas 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 commenced at 7:01 p.m.

## Recognitions and Awards

None

## Student update by Kayla Haney and Kyle Fonseca

### ECEC

- The ECEC celebrated both the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day on the Friday before school vacation
- On February 23, Steve Lechner from 'The Science Works' presented a PTO-sponsored enrichment program centered on the amazing properties of water. The Kindergarten students learned a great deal from Steve's display of "water wizardry"

### Oakdale

- Oakdale celebrated the 100th day of school before vacation. Students in grades 1, 2, and 3 lined up and walked through a giant 100 sign to enter the building. The 100th student, Tessa Boudrow in grade 2, won a bag of goodies
- The One Book-One School reading incentive is well underway. Oakdale is reading *The Mouse on the Motorcycle*. The students are enjoying the book and the activities that go along with it

### Riverdale

- Riverdale also celebrated the 100th day of school. Eric Bowler was the 100th student to walk under the special banner made by paraprofessional Paul Sances and the students of Ms. Lisa Stanton's class. Eric won a gift card to Barnes and Noble
- On the Friday before vacation, the school wrapped up the One Book, One School reading of *Clementine*. The initiative was run by Literacy Specialists Shannon Findley, Lauren Shea and the Library/Media Specialist, Ingrid Mayyasi. Over three weeks of reading, students were encouraged to write to a selection of prompts based on the book. Those who did the writing were recognized at the wrap up assembly where Mr. Paris read the last chapter to the entire school
- Next Wednesday the school will be celebrating Read Across America Day which is held on Dr. Seuss's birthday

### Greenlodge

- In conjunction with the 100th day of school Greenlodge students have been participating in a Race to 100 food drive. The school is supporting the Dedham Food Pantry by bringing in needed food items assigned by grade. Students are working on each grade bringing in over 100 of each item. This project is sponsored by the Student Council and is one of many community service projects implemented this year
- Students are finishing up One Book, One School reading of *Mr. Popper's Penguins* to be capped off with a Penguin Spirit Day where everyone is encouraged to dress in black and white - penguin attire. Students will share what they've learned about penguins and enjoy a viewing of the film version of *Mr. Popper's Penguins*
- Read Across America will be celebrated on March 2 by inviting members of the community to come in during the day and read to a class, including school department and School Committee Members

### Avery

- In celebration of the 100 day of school, the Student Council sponsored the Race to 100 Food Drive. Each grade level was encouraged to bring in specified food items and tried to reach 100 items by the hundredth day of school. Student Council members delivered the items to the Dedham Food Pantry
- On March 2 students at Avery will be celebrating World Read Aloud Day in conjunction with Dr. Seuss' birthday. Leading up to the celebration, students in each of the classes are Skyping with authors and students across the world. Students are being encouraged to dress as their favorite storybook character for the all school assembly
- Avery is happy to announce that Wendy Garland, the school librarian, has been awarded the Harriet Goldin Award. This program provides a way for colleagues to recognize and praise the "unsung heroes" in classrooms as well as those persons in the community who evidence commitment to the growth of young people

### DMS

- The Winter Recognition ceremony will be held at DMS on Thursday, February 25. This ceremony honors students who achieved high honors, honor roll, perfect attendance and those who played a winter sport
- On February 29 there will be a "Dough-Raiser" for the DMS Band at Pizzeria Uno
- The DMS Guidance staff will be visiting the four elementary schools beginning on March 4 to start the transition process from grade 5 to grade 6. Visits to Oakdale and Riverdale will be on March 4, Greenlodge on March 7 and Avery on March 8
- Information about the TREK Summer program will be available to families by the middle of March

- A 3v3 basketball tournament will take place on March 16. All proceeds will go to benefit the 8th grade trip to Washington DC. Contact the school for details

### DHS

- Boys' and girls' basketball teams and boys' ice hockey have qualified for the MIAA State Tournament. Pairings will be released at the end of the week
- Senior Sam Beaucejour won the Division 4 state long jump, finished 5th in the MIAA All-State meet and qualified for the New England Championships this Sunday at the Reggie Lewis Center
- Senior Hakeem Animashaun became the fourth boys' basketball player to score one thousand points during his DHS career versus Walpole on Monday night
- The Wrestling team finished 4th this past weekend in the MIAA Division 3 State Tournament. Senior Eric Reyes won his fourth state title. Senior Matt Dunn came in 5th and Sophomore Jonathan Cleveland finished 2nd. All three wrestlers qualified for the MIAA All-States this weekend in Reading. Eric Reyes has won an All State Title and New England Championship. Eric finished fourth in the Nationals during his freshman year
- The Drama Club will be competing in the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild Festival on February 27 at Framingham High School. The Drama Club will be performing *4:00 a.m.* by Jonathan Dorf
- The DHS Fine Arts Department will be conducting a Talent Show on March 1. Proceeds will go towards the band trip to New York City in May
- Parent Conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, March 8

## **Superintendent's Update**

### Superintendent Michael J. Welch Update

- Mr. Welch recognized Wendy Garland, the Avery School Librarian, for her nomination and receipt of the Goldin Award which is presented for excellence in education. Ms. Garland will be recognized Wednesday April 6 at Canton High School
- Mr. Welch and Mrs. Briggs attended the TEC Legislative breakfast. Topics of discussion included Chapter 70 Funding legislation and proposed Charter School expansion
- Mr. Welch and Mr. Rippin met with Town Manager and Finance Director to review the proposed 4.43% increase to the FY17 budget. Town's balanced budget will be presented to Board of Selectman on Thursday
- Mr. Welch has been going to each school delivering a 'State of School' address to explain and review the budget process with staff
- Held orientation meeting for 50 people at Dedham Middle School for the Blended and Digital Learning seminars. First full day workshop will be March 1
- Mr. Rippin has been attending Insurance Advisory Council meetings reviewing school insurance and Healthcare. Mr. Rippin said the focus has been on the West Suburban Collaborative which the town of Dedham is a participant. There was discussion of Dedham leaving the Collaborative, but at this time it appears Dedham will remain. Committee has been reviewing cost of offerings and the split between town and employees
- A Leadership Team meeting was held on February 23, to date 747 observations have been recorded by administrators and supervisors

- Mr. Welch attended the Boston College Career Fair today with Principal Ed Paris and Ron McCarthy
- Dr. Kelly is heading the Greenlodge Principal search. There are 13 people on the search committee and will review approximately 35 applications
- The Assistant Superintendent search will begin shortly. There are approximately 60 applicants
- Mr. Welch recorded the second installment of Ask the Superintendent today. The opportunity allows him the opportunity to talk about initiatives in the district
- Mr. Welch welcomed Victoria Rump, the new secretary at the ECEC and Jessie Elston, the new secretary in the guidance department at the High School
- The new online registration program, Registration Gateway, is diligently being worked on to be piloted at the ECEC in the upcoming weeks

#### Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cynthia Kelly Update

- February 29 is the final release (half) day of the year. Staff will be talking about gathering evidence to support their goals as part of the new evaluation tool
- Professional Development Committee will begin planning for 2016-2017 school year

## **Reports**

#### MCAS and Accountability Report 2015

- The MCAS and Accountability Report will be available on the Dedham Public School Website
- District Data Team- Kristine Holloran , Mark Carney, Debra Gately, Dan Rouse, Alison Guifarro, Holli Armstrong, Jeff Taylor, Paul Sullivan, Marjorie Goldstein- Fradin
- Original Goal under NCLB- All students would reach proficiency on the MCAS exam by 2014
- New Goal in Massachusetts 2012 Waiver- Each school/district will cut their proficiency gap in half by 2017
- Report uses- Use the data to identify and address concerns in student proficiency gaps; develop actionable recommendations designed to have a significant impact on closing the proficiency gaps; work to create an action plan to move children from underperforming populations, to the highest standards of achievement
- Proficiency Gap is measured by PPI (Progress and Performance Index) and school percentile
- Student Growth- Student growth measures how well students performed in comparison the their "academic peers" annually
- Levels- Districts and individual schools are classified as Level 1 -5 based on PPI and school percentile; districts will be classified in the same level as their lowest leveled school
- Avery, Greenlodge, Oakdale, Reiverdale and DMS are Level 2; DHS is Level 1
- A review of District and State comparisons was presented in ELA, Math, Science and Technology/Engineering for all grades
- DHS is ranked at a Level 1 school because they are meeting gap narrowing goals
- DMS is ranked a level 2 school because they are not meeting gap narrowing goals and low assessment participation (less than 95%); need to focus on ELL
- Transition from MCAS to PARCC scores was reviewed

- District Summary- Next Steps: Administrators and Data Teams examine every question and/or standard that students struggled with, these are shared with educators to determine the next steps; administrators, teachers and Data Teams meet to review the progress of each of the high needs students; next steps for each student are determined
- District Strengths- Above the state average in achievement for all grades and subject areas at proficient and advanced; DHS was classified as a Level 1 school for the past two years; DMS has shown consistency or growth in mathematics in all grade levels; DMS has shown gradual growth in Grade 8 Science MCAS; ELL student performance in all subject areas; increased percent of students scoring advanced in English and math; student growth in mathematics in Grades 6 and 10; student growth in ELA in Grade 5
- District Areas of Focus- Increase the number of ELA scores in the advanced range; narrow student growth gap in specific subgroups- High Needs students; DHS focus on high needs subgroup; DMS improve reading and writing performance for all students through the analysis of data and modification of the curriculum in all subject areas
- Looking Ahead- Focus on PARCC assessments this year, implementation of an online assessment at the Middle School; decision for a replacement for the Acuity online assessment program; ELA audit district wide; Expansion of RTI program across all grades
- Mr. Welch discussed the ELA assessment coming this spring
- Ms. Gately went to a PARC training today and described her experience
- Discussions and questions from the School Committee followed
- Mr. Welch and the School Committee members thanked the Assessment team for their hard work on their comprehensive presentation

#### FY17 Budget Process Update

- Mr. Welch reviewed specifically what was included in the 4.43% FY17 budget increase request. This includes level service contractual increases, additional personnel requests (which will help to prevent outside placement), increase district capacity (phase 2 of tuition reduction toward free full day kindergarten) and additional supplies and materials
- Mr. Rippin described the facilities preventative maintenance contracts which increase in price over time

### **Old/New**

None

### **Minutes**

Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve the minutes of January 20, 2016 as presented, Ms. Butler second, committee voted unanimously.

Mrs. McGregor motioned to approve the Executive Session minutes of January 20, 2016 as presented, Ms. Butler second, committee voted unanimously.

Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the minutes of January 27, 2016 as presented, Mrs. Briggs second, committee voted unanimously.

Mrs. Laprade motioned to approve the minutes of February 3, 2016 as presented, Mr. Coughlin, second, Mr. Ryan abstained (not present on February 3), committee voted unanimously.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve the minutes of February 10, 2016 as presented, Mrs. McGregor second, Mr. Bilafer abstained (not present on February 10), committee voted unanimously.

### **Donations**

Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept with grateful appreciation a \$500 donation from Wells Fargo Bank a matching gift from Ms. Virginia Melendez to be gifted to the ECEC, second by Mrs. McGregor, committee voted unanimously.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept with grateful appreciation the recycling stations at Avery Elementary and Dedham Middle Schools, valued at \$12,000, built and donated by Mr. Georgio Petruzzello of Supreme Companies, Mrs. McGregor second, committee voted unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Acknowledgements and Announcement**

Mrs. Butler announced that Friday night a Trivia Night is being held to benefit the All Night Graduation Party at the American Legion. Please contact Ms. Susan Butler or Mrs. Kim Rutherford for details.

Mrs. Butler also announced that on Friday night a benefit is being held by the Youth Commissioner to support the Veteran's Road playground.

Mr. Coughlin motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Butler second, committee voted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.