

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES February 3, 2016

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Susan Butler, Vice Chair (acting Chair)
Mayanne Briggs
Steve Bilafer
Kevin Coughlin
Lisa Laprade
Rachel McGregor

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Michael Welch, Superintendent
Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance
Elizabeth O'Connell, Director of Special Education

Meeting commenced at 6:55 p.m.

Vote on Minutes from joint School Committee and SBRC Meeting held on February 1, 2016

Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2016 joint School Committee and SBRC Meeting for the ECEC Preferred Schematic Design, Mrs. Briggs second. No discussion, motion approved.

Roll call vote:

Kevin Coughlin- Yes
Mayanne Briggs- Yes
Steve Bilafer- Yes
Lisa Laprade- Yes
Rachel McGregor- Yes
Susan Butler, Vice Chair (acting chair)- Yes

Ms. Butler announced the postponement of the vote on the FY17 budget until February 10, 2016 when the entire School Committee could be present. Ms. Butler extended sympathies to Mr. Ryan and the Ryan family on the death of family member Anna Gels.

Mr. Welch sent thoughts and prayers to the Plathe family of Dedham. Eric Plathe was a thirteen-year-old Dedham resident who passed away suddenly. Eric was not a student of the Dedham Public Schools. Condolences were extended to Eric's family, friends and school. Counselors are on hand in the Dedham Schools for any student affected by Eric's death. A moment of silence was held.

Recognitions and Awards

Dedham Middle School principal Deb Gately recognized the following Dedham Middle School students who participated in the DMS National Geographic Bee: Grade 7 finalists- Rudecia Bernard, Nicholas Carroll, Ross Condry, Gabe Emerson, Jack Fonseca, Avery Miranda, Nicole Murphy (not present); Grade 8 finalists- Joshua Benadin, Dean Boecher, Tim Vaughan. Tim Vaughan was declared the winner. Tim will take a written test to qualify for the state competition. Mrs. Gately also recognized Lisa LeClair and Kim Randal for coordinating the event as well as all the Dedham Middle School Social Studies teachers. Mr. Welch also congratulated the students and staff on their achievement.

Student update by Kayla Haney and Kyle Fonseca

All Elementary Schools

- One Book, One School is underway at all elementary schools. Oakdale is reading *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*, Avery is reading *The World According to Humphrey*, Greenlodge is reading *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, and Riverdale is reading *Clementine*
- Students across all elementary schools will again be participating in Jump Rope for Heart program. The students will be raising money for the American Heart Association while learning jump rope and basketball skills in physical education classes

ECEC

- ECEC kindergarten teacher Mrs. Jennifer Wagtowicz gave birth to a healthy baby boy on January 29
- The Scholastic Book Fair takes place all this week. Students and families have the chance to peruse and purchase a wide range of age-appropriate literature. Thanks to Karen O'Neill for making all of the logistical arrangements and for helping the children and their families select great story choices

Riverdale

- The Riverdale PTO sponsored a Winter Social with dancing and pizza for students on Friday, January 29th. They are also hosting a night out for parents at Waterford's on Saturday, February 27
- The students at Riverdale have been making Valentines for the Vets at the VA Hospital. The student council will be delivering them to the hospital on the Friday before vacation.
- The Riverdale staff has been busy this year going to visit other classrooms in and out of the district to observe what other teachers are doing in their classrooms and bringing back solid teaching practices to apply in their classrooms

Avery

- Avery has successfully started the recycling/composting program
- The fifth grade is hosting another bottle and can drive on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- The Student Council is hosting a 'Race to 100' food drive. Students at each grade level have been encouraged to bring in a variety of food staples. On the 100th day of school the

food will be tallied to see which classes reached 100 items. The food will then be delivered to the food pantry

- This Saturday two teams of students, led by Mrs. Jen Shuley, will be participating in the Future Problem Solvers competition in Canton. The teams of students will compete in a Qualifying Problem in one two-hour period without the assistance of a coach. The top teams in the state-based on their responses to this problem will be invited to the State Bowl in April

DMS

- DMS successfully started its recycling/composting program this week at breakfast and lunch with the assistance of the Dedham High School Green Team
- Term 2 Report Cards were sent home on Tuesday, February 2 and are due back signed on Friday, February 5
- Students will be selling Candy Bars for the DC trip starting Feb 8. They are \$1 apiece and students earn the money towards their individual trip. No candy will be sold in school. They also have a 3v3 basketball tournament coming up on March 16 to help raise funds for the Washington trip

DHS

- Chris Herren spoke at the High School this past Monday. Mr. Herren was a former NBA player as well as drug addict. He spoke about his experiences and being a self advocate. DHS debriefed during X-Block on Tuesday where students wrote letters to Chris reflecting on his presentation
- Mid Year Exams were held last week. Testing has finished and report cards were issued yesterday
- February is Heart Awareness Month. Many activities are planned such as blood pressure screenings available for students and staff to check their blood pressure and become educated on what these numbers mean

Superintendent's Update

- Mr. Welch attended the M.A.S.S. Mid-Winter Superintendents' meeting. Over 300 people were in attendance. Many discussions centered around the on-going threats and the release of educator evaluation data for districts
- Mr. Welch met with representatives from Police, Fire, DPW, Fallon Ambulance, as well as the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager on Tuesday to discuss the on-going bomb threats in MA schools. Principals are also meeting with their staff members to discuss responses and the protocol when handling such incidents
- Mr. Welch is meeting with representatives of Teachers21 on Friday to discuss contracting with them to conduct a review of our preK - 12 efforts in ELA
- A preliminary meeting was held with the DEA Paraprofessionals union. The Paraprofessional contract expires on June 30, 2016. Mr. Welch would like participation from a member of the school committee
- Mr. Welch met with the DEA stipends review committee to review current stipends from the previous collective bargaining agreement. Have met five times over the last two months, and are nearing an agreement. Mr. Rippin and Mr. Traister have contributed to these discussions

- Instructional Rounds this week at occurred at the Oakdale School. Six teams of principals and central office administrators visited every classroom and recorded observations of teachers' clarity of instructional objectives and their ability to provide appropriate provisioning of materials for students to maximize instructional time
- Next Aspiring Leaders Academy meeting is Tuesday, February 9 at the MIT Endicott House. Invited guest is MTA President Barbara Madeloni
- Last Friday, Mr. Welch met with Representative Paul McMurtry and discussed pending legislation regarding Charter Schools and the increasing emphasis on expanding access to quality pre-K programming in the public schools
- Next week Dedham will be hosting the first orientation session for 45 educators from The Education Collaborative (TEC) Leadership in the Blended and Digital Learning initiative. Dedham is hosting the upcoming seminar series in this topic area that will begin late next spring and continue through into the fall of 2016
- Mr. Welch met with the entire Greenlodge faculty and staff today to discuss on-going initiatives and budget priorities. Also discussed was the upcoming Principal search. To date, the District has received 39 applications for Assistant Superintendent and 26 for Principal. Deadline for applications is February 19. Interview committee will be formed after February vacation. Will need a School Committee volunteer for each search committee

Reports

Elizabeth O'Connell, Director of Special Education presented a PowerPoint Presentation on DPS Special Education Update

- Mrs. O'Connell acknowledged her Special Education leadership team-Dr. Marjorie Goldstein-Fradin, Amy Muldoon, and Meredith Becker
- Also acknowledged Nancy Gonzales Chairperson of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council; Jeannie Jenkinson and Julie Towell creators of DHS Career Center
- Review of Federal & State Mandates- Pre-referral (Student Assistance Teams, RTI, etc.); Child Find; Early Childhood; evaluations and eligibility (additional requirements for Autism Spectrum Disorders); IEPs and placement (a free & appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment, ensuring educational progress ; school discipline & bullying prevention; assurances of Civil Rights; transitional planning
- Mrs. O'Connell noted that while the development of these laws has conceptually moved the education of targeted student populations forward, monies do not match the regulatory requirements
- Staff needed to support Special Education Program- Special Education Instructional Aides; Speech and Language Specialists; School Psychologists; Occupational/Physical/Vision/Mobility Therapists; BCBA/Behavioral Specialists; Administrative Support Staff; Special Education Leadership Team; Director of Special Education
- Special Education In-District Services- Inclusive Programs and Specialized Programs within each school:
 - ECEC- Inclusion & Integrated Programs
 - Riverdale: Access 2 & 3
 - Greenlodge: Specialized Teaching and Readiness (S.T.A.R.)
 - Oakdale: Student Achievement and Individualized Learning (S.A.I.L.)

- Avery: Team-based Learning Center (TBL)
- DMS: Adaptive Learning Center (ALC), Team-based Learning Center (TBL)
- DHS: Bridges & Alternative High School
- Programs limit costly out-of-district placements
- Special Education Trends-Special Education enrollment has declined in the past five years however DHS Special Education dropout rates have increased
- Out of District Placement has declined 14.3% in the past 5 years
- Some costs are offset through reimbursements and grants
- Priorities and Resource Request based on -Scope of disabilities, common characteristics; Decision Matrix, physiological and psychological health; the role of Psychologists in a school setting
- Transition Services- Preparing for adult life; mandated for students with disabilities, age 14-22
- Review of Budget requests (see Proposed Budget on website)
- Discussions and questions followed by School Committee Members
- The school committee thanked Mrs. O'Connell for her enlightening presentation
- Mr. Welch asked Mr. Rippin for the out of district cost per student, approximately \$100,000 per student including transportation
- Mr. Welch inquired about the trend of Preschool students on IEP's. Mrs. O'Connell expressed concerns about space and accessibility in the current facility to meet trending needs
- Mr. Welch thanked Mrs. O'Connell for her presentation

Principal Paul Sullivan presented a PowerPoint Presentation of the Dr. Thomas J. Curran Early Childhood Education Center School for 2015-2017. The School Improvement Plan will be available on the Dedham Public School Website.

- Mr. Sullivan recognized School Council- Mrs. Eileen Newell, Parent; Mrs. Carol ElKurdy, Parent; Ms. Margaret Wilds, Teacher; Mrs. Emily Hutton, Teacher; Mrs. Juliane Lally, Teacher
- Mission Statement- We are proud that the Dr. Thomas J. Curran Early Childhood Education Center serves as the gateway to the Dedham Public Schools and provides the first formal school experience for many of our students. Our Preschool and Kindergarten programs foster curiosity, the desire to learn, self-confidence in the ability to learn, the learning of skills, the application of skills learned, the willingness to take risks, and the acquisition of general knowledge
- History of the Capen School was presented, building built in 1931
- Enrollment 312 students, K and PreK students
- Goals from 2013-2015 highlights- Treasures, Everyday math, Social Skills, Social Thinking, improvement in technology, stabilize handwriting (Handwriting Without Tears), celebrate diversity, improved communication
- Areas of Strength- Highly qualified, caring, nurturing staff of focused early learning professionals; only grade level teams (PreK-K) together in one building within the DPS elementary system. Such connection facilitates collaboration with colleagues of the same professional focus; connected, participating, energetic, impressionable parents; excellent special subject teachers; on-site library on par with the children's sections of many municipal libraries; opportunities for the town's youngest learners to be surrounded by same-age peers and not have to worry about the "big kids"; centralized facility affords ECEC students the potential to form friendships with peers from all across town and not just within their 'home' neighborhood or district

- Areas of Focus- Dilapidated school facility and aging physical plant never intended to suit the needs of very young children; site location which makes student drop-off and pick-up challenging and which raises possible safety concerns; old and tired playground facility; limitations on technology and connections to technology because of the physical structure and infrastructure of the school in addition to the presumption that a new school facility is imminent; disparity between the full- and half-day Kindergarten programs; the range of considerations created by the offering of tuition-based programs within a public school
- Student Learning Goals- Improved Kindergarten performance on English Language Arts assessment including Letter Identification, Concepts of Print, Rhyme Production and Developmental Reading Assessment; improved student competencies in Mathematics through adherence to the updated Everyday Math 4 Curriculum in Kindergarten; improvement in student writing competencies as supported by the adoption of the Handwriting Without Tears program in Kindergarten; improvement in student socio-emotional competencies through support of Social Thinking curriculum in preschool and Social Skills, curriculum in Kindergarten
- School Improvement Goals-Adoption of free-for-all full-day Kindergarten programming by the beginning of the 2018 school year; work in collaboration with elementary schools and district leaders for a strong implementation of Response to Intervention strategies; continued focus on solidifying connections with elementary schools to provide the smoothest possible student transitions to grade one; build community support for and approval of the construction of a new ECEC facility at Dexter
- Discussion and questions followed by the School Committee Members- Many of the questions and answers revolved around the need for a new facility
- Mr. Welch thanked Principal Sullivan and staff for attendance and presentation
- Mr. Welch sees Dedham as an Early Childhood leader. MSBA member, Dianne Sullivan, contacted Mr. Welch to use Dedham as an Early Childhood model at a statewide conference
- Mr. Welch discussed data around half day vs. full kindergarten
- Mr. Sullivan stated that to date only 10 students have signed up for half day Kindergarten The Art and Music teachers would need to be displaced from their room to accommodate any need for an additional Kindergarten space
- Mrs. Carol Laurino, the ECEC School Nurse, gave a detailed description of her office located in basement that she shares with the food service staff (no cafeteria), custodian and boiler room. There are no bathrooms or handicap access in the basement

Principal Ed Paris presented a PowerPoint Presentation of the Riverdale School Improvement Plan for 2015-2017. The School Improvement Plan will be available on the Dedham Public School Website.

- Mr. Paris recognized the School Council- Tara Dignan, Parent Representative; Donna Mulvey, Parent Representative; Joseph O'Brien, Parent Representative; Jennifer Hitchins, Riverdale Faculty Representative; Ingrid Mayyasi, Riverdale Faculty Representative; Elaine Sheehy, Riverdale Faculty Representative; Susan Riley, Community Member Representative
- History of Riverdale Elementary School was presented
- Current enrollment 183 students
- Mission Statement- In partnership with its families and community, Riverdale Elementary School seeks to prepare its students for their future by providing a safe, nurturing and inspiring environment that fosters personal academic excellence and creativity. Empowered with a motivation for lifelong learning and self-discipline,

students will graduate prepared academically, socially and emotionally to thrive in a diverse, global community

- Core Values- Riverdale Students pledge to be respectful, responsible, hard working and positive at school, at home, and in the community
- Highlights from 2012-2014- Treasures, Everyday math, Daily 5 Strategies, purchase of new furniture, partnership with local organizations, before and after school programs, student jobs for 4th and 5th grade students and student council
Areas of Strength- Reading comprehension (Multiple Choice); Grade 4 Advanced/Proficient was up significantly in 2015 to 65%; 70% of Grade 5 students scored Proficient or Advanced in Science
- Areas of Focus- Open responses in the area of ELA are a weakness for the school; high needs students are not meeting our PPI target
- Student Learning Goals for 2015-2017- Increase student achievement in writing of all genres (narrative, informational and opinion writing) by increasing the number of students who consider themselves writers; increase student achievement in the area of reading comprehension, especially in the area of responding to reading; increase student achievement in the area of math by targeting deficiencies in specific CCSS as identified and student abilities to explain their logic and reasoning in writing.
- School Improvement Goals- Examine the drop-off/pick-up procedures at the school and make the appropriate changes to ensure that the safety of students and families is maintained; continue to make improvements to classrooms and the entire school in order to allow for a more student-centered and collaborative learning environment in which the needs of all students are met; explore and implement Social-Emotional learning methods that strengthen students' self-esteem, effort, courage to take academic risks, social thinking and ability to self-regulate; develop and begin implementation of a multi-faceted action plan to develop an inclusive community where a culture of respect, empathy and understanding of individual differences is fostered and celebrated
- Discussions and questions followed from the School Committee members
- Mr. Welch and Mr. Paris recognized Russ Poole, Riverdale Community Service Member and 1955 graduate of Riverdale School, who was in attendance
- Mr. Welch thanked the staff and Principal Paris for their attendance and presentation

Old/New Business

Discussion and VOTE: Revised 2016-2017 School Calendar

- An incorrect date caused revision of calendar
- Ms. Butler commented that she would be voting no this evening. She would like to see the start of the school year begin before Labor Day weekend, as this is the Commissioner's recommendation. Mr. Welch agreed and noted this would need to be discussed during contract negotiations

Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept the 2016-2017 School Calendar, Mrs. McGregor second. Ms. Butler, Chair voted no, 5 to 1, motion carried.

MOU Parks and Recreation Care and Custody of Fields Agreement between Dedham School Committee and Parks and Recreation

- MOU lays out responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Department and responsibilities of Dedham Public Schools in maintaining several school fields

Mr. Coughlin motioned to accept the proposed MOU between the Dedham School Committee and the Parks and Recreation and School Committee as presented, Mrs. McGregor second, voted unanimously. Motion signed by School Committee members.

Minutes

Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve the minutes of December 16, 2015 as presented, Mr. Coughlin, second, voted unanimously.

Mrs. Laprade voted to approve the minutes of January 6, 2016 as presented, Mrs. McGregor second, voted unanimously.

Budget Discussion

Mr. Welch discussed the Capital item request of converting the DHS Wrestling room into an Art room. Due to many discussions and conversations, the Art needs will be addressed by using existing Art space. Not pursuing the conversion of the Wrestling room any further. Budget request for \$90,000 funds will remain the same for renovations to Art space and supplies.

Donations

None

Public Comments

None

Acknowledgements and Announcement

- Mr. Bilafer announced DEF reception tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall where there will be a teacher recognition ceremony and the awarding of grants. All are welcome
- Ms. Butler and Mrs. Laprade attended the Mother Brook Arts and Community Center annual meeting last evening. Representative McMurtry and Senator Rush presented a donation in the amount of \$200,000
- On February 26 Rob Blaney, Director of Dedham Youth Commission, is throwing an 80's party at Victory Grill. Proceeds to fund a new playground at Veterans Road

- Mrs. McGregor mentioned the All Town Band Concert tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. at the DHS gymnasium

Mrs. Briggs motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Bilafar second, voted unanimously.

Meeting commenced at 9:44 p.m.