

# DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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## MINUTES January 27, 2016

### MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

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

### MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION

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

Meeting commenced at 7:03 p.m.

### FY17 School Budget Public Hearing

Mr. Coughlin asked Mr. Ryan if the meeting was to review Operating Budget. Mr. Ryan confirmed.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to open Public Hearing, Mrs. McGregor second, voted unanimously.

#### Public Comments

Jim Mahr, 22 Sherman Road, Coach and former parent of Dedham wrestler- voiced concern with the Capital Budget specifically renovating the wrestling room into an Art room. He continued expressing his concerns over where the wrestling team would practice, sharing of the gym, limiting practice time and the washing and storing of the wrestling mats.

Steve Heaslip, 82 Whitehall Street, father of wrestler- described the growth of the wrestling program. Explained how well the team was performing and expressed concern over the negative impact taking away the practice room would have on the players.

Paul Curran, 39 Whiting Avenue- Described the importance of wrestling during the college application process. He also offered his carpentry services to help renovate additional space for the wrestlers.

George Chu, 30 Wesley Street, former wrestler- described how wrestling builds character and discipline and he was in attendance tonight to support the team.

Charles Jenest, 51 Wentworth Street, parent of wrestler- explained the positive impact wrestling has had on his son's life, the college acceptance process and the strong bond of the team.

Laurie Sulinski, 87 Quincy Ave, parent of a wrestler- acknowledged her son and the team for attending tonight

Eric Reyes- Captain of the wrestling team- spoke about the memories, hard work and brother hood that the wrestling room represents

Mr. Maher gave a historical background of the wrestling room. It has been a classroom, ceramic room and 6 years ago became the wrestling room. Kindergarten age students through Middle School wrestlers practice in that room.

Mr. Welch gave an explanation on the need for additional Art space. Over 80 students were unable to take an Art class this year.

Discussions and questions followed regarding the Capital Budget process.

Mareyellen McDonough, 21 Heritage Hill- would like to see Latin classes reinstated in the High School. She stated students who study Latin perform 200 points better on the SAT. Latin is the basis for the English language and offering Latin could help retain students who may chose private or parochial schools.

Mr. Coughlin motioned to close the Public Hearing, Mrs. McGregor second, voted unanimously.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to adjourn, Mrs. McGregor second, voted unanimously.

Meeting concluded 7:33 p.m.