

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES January 6, 2016

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION

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

Meeting commenced at 7:08 p.m.

Recognitions and Awards

Mr. Welch recognized Amy Hicks as the new Executive Assistant to the Superintendent replacing Paula Jacobs. Mr. Welch outlined the interview process. Mr. Ryan also welcomed Amy.

Superintendent's Update

- Draft of 2016-2017 School Calendar was introduced and will be discussed later in the meeting
- Supervision Evaluation Process- Since the start of the school year there have been 74 announced observations, 41 "walk-throughs", and 448 unannounced observations performed and recorded in TeachPoint management system by district administrators
- Later this month, Dedham will be hosting 45 educators for The Education Collaborative's (TEC) Leadership in Blended and Digital Learning initiative. Dedham is hosting the upcoming seminar series on this topic that will begin in the spring and continue through the fall of 2016
- Elementary principals will begin meeting and discussing the schedule for PARCC testing. A schedule will be set in the next few days and the tests will be ordered next week
- Internal DPS Budget discussions are on-going with operating budget needs assembled and discussed at the Budget Subcommittee meeting prior to tonight's school committee meeting. Principal's and Director's request for personnel and expenses have been compiled and analyzed. Public Hearing on Budget will be on January 27, 2016 at the Avery School
- Search will begin for Greenlodge School Principal and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment as Dr. Kelly will be retiring
- Second District Fundraising Committee will be on January 12, 2016 at the Dedham Middle School

Dr. Cynthia Kelly - CAPD Update

- Next meeting for Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Development Committees will be on January 25, 2016
- Dr. Kelly acknowledged the chairs of the committee Mrs. Sawyer, Mrs. Holloran, and Dr. Kobierski who were in attendance
- There will be an early release day for Professional Development on Friday, January 15, 2016

Reports

Principal Ron McCarthy presented a PowerPoint Presentation of the High School Improvement Plan for 2015-2017. The School Improvement Plan will be available on the Dedham Public School Website.

- Michelle Carty introduced the Student Advisory Council- Dan Rouse, Instructional Technology Teacher, Chair; Ron McCarthy, Principal; Marie Rose, Parent; Beth Emery, Parent; Michelle Carty, Student; Evan Landry, Student
- Ms. Carty also introduced the Department Chairs of Dedham High School, many of whom were in attendance
- Dan Rouse, Instructional Technology Chair, reviewed the Mission Statement, Core Values and Learning Expectations of Dedham High School
 - Mission Statement: In partnership with the home and the community, Dedham High School believes that the mission of the school is to prepare each student for life's responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities to thrive in the 21st century
 - Core Values: Rigor, Relevance, Responsibility, Relationships, Respect
 - Learning Expectations: Be active, engaged learners; Communicate clearly and effectively; Work independently and collaboratively; Use technology to access, evaluate and apply appropriate information for authentic learning opportunities; Use analysis, evaluation and creativity in problem-solving; Demonstrate character through: Personal responsibility, Appreciation of diversity, Ethical behavior
- Mr. Rouse described the extracurricular activities which are available on the website
- Principal McCarthy described changes in demographics, personnel, technology, AP classes, early admission, school-wide rubrics, semester courses, advisory and Link Crew
- Mr. Rouse continued with improvements in Technology- 1:1 technology; innovative efforts in professional development; technology coaches; blended learning initiatives; technology team; educational technology link on DPS website
- Areas of Strength- space needs addressed; fully accredited through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges; created school-wide rubrics to measure learning expectations; staff breakfast/lunch with the principal; coffee hours with the principal for parents; joined Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild Drama Festival; conduct open house for families in grades 4 to 8; completed Two-Year NEASC Follow-up Report; developed Two-Year School Improvement Plan; increased Advanced Placement enrollment; increased participation of juniors in SAT preparation courses
- Areas of Focus- Continue to improve use of technology both in and out of the classroom

- Student Learning Goals- Research, develop, and implement digital writing portfolios, create Professional Learning Communities that examine data relative to learner growth in writing; make the transition from piloting the use of school-wide rubrics to assess student work to comments on report cards; monitor progress made on student achievement on Advanced Placement Exams and SATs
- School Improvement Goals- review Mission, Core Values, and Learning Expectations; implement new educator evaluation tool; add Academic Awards program for freshman, sophomores, and juniors; research, increase mathematics graduation from three courses to four; increase MIAA learner-athlete and extra-curricular eligibility from four courses to five; revise the value added GPA for level two courses; implement an automated system to allow teachers to communicate with parents immediately and automatically through Power School; continue to offer opportunities for learners to learn more about the college application process through individual and group sessions; implement NEASC In Progress Recommendations
- Mr. McCarthy stated DHS remained a Level 1 status school in Massachusetts for MCAS
- Mr. McCarthy continued with follow up on NEASC Accreditation information- accredited in 2013; developed action plan for next accreditation; 5 year plan due March 1, 2018; recommendations need to be addressed
- Beth Emery and Marie Rose from the Parents Advisory Council spoke giving a parents perspective of DHS
Evan Landry (Sophomore), Kayla Haney (Junior), Michelle Carty (Senior) and Kyle Fonseca (Senior) spoke giving the students perspective of DHS
- Discussions followed with questions from the School Committee members
- Mr. Welch commended DHS for attaining a Level 1 status school
- Mr. Ryan thanked Ron McCarthy, presenters, parents and students for the DHS School Improvement Plan presentation

Principal Holli Armstrong presented a PowerPoint Presentation of the Oakdale School Improvement Plan for 2015-2017.

- Ms. Armstrong introduced the School Council members- Maureen Blazejewski, Parent Representative; Kerry Doherty, Parent Representative; Kristen Cannon, Oakdale Teacher Representative; Katie deWit, Oakdale Teacher Representative
- History of the Oakdale school was presented
- Current enrollment 279 students
- Oakdale School Mission Statement and Core Values
- Mission Statement: The Oakdale School seeks to create a challenging learning environment that meets the unique needs of our diverse learners and encourages students to be confident and curious and achieve their personal best. Our school fosters an environment in which students are encouraged to be socially conscious and respectful in school, at home and in their community each day.
- Core Values: Oakdale Students pledge to be responsible, reliable, cordial and hardworking at school, at home, and in the community.
- Highlights from 2012-2014 School Improvement Plan- One book, One School reading program; each grade has moved to newer version of Everyday Math; using strategies from The Daily 5 philosophy (ELA); using strategies from Empowering Writers ;

Treasures & Everyday Math being used for test taking strategies; renovated boys bathroom, makeover to two teachers rooms

- Areas of Strength- 77% of students in Grades 4 and 5 scored 2 or above on ELA Open Response questions; 91% of students in Grades 4 and 5 scored 2 or above on Math Open Response questions; Students in the "All Students" category continue to exceed our PPI target
- Areas of Focus- More students scored in the Warning Category in 2015 than in years past in Grades 3 and 5; High needs students are not meeting our PPI target; Less than 70% of 3rd and 4th grade students scored Proficient or better on the 2015 ELA MCAS
- Student Learning Goals - Increase student achievement in writing of all genres; increase student achievement in the area of reading comprehension; increase student achievement in the area of math targeting deficiencies in specific Common Core State Standards as identified areas of need; to increase student achievement in the areas of test taking strategies
- School Improvement Goals- Continue to create and foster an inclusive, safe, and culturally aware learning environment for all students and their families; increase opportunities for academic and personal enrichment for all students; continue to maintain and upgrade learning environments and furniture to foster collaborative learning and meet the individual needs of the students; 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 followed with questions from the School Committee members
- Mr. Welch commended Principal Armstrong for her leadership of the Oakdale School
- Mr. Ryan thanked Principal Armstrong for her presentation of the Oakdale School Improvement Plan

Old/New Business

Preliminary FY17 Budget Discussion

- Steve Bilafer, Chair of Budget Subcommittee- Subcommittee met prior to School Committee to discuss FY17 Operating Budget
- The Superintendent will be engaging principals on their needs and will prioritize
- Subcommittee will meet again next week to discuss prioritized list
- Mr. Welch is focused on Principals having a clear understanding of the budget/process and prioritizing needs
- January 20, 2016- presentation of Budget to School Committee
- January 27, 2016- Public Hearing on Budget
- Mr. Welch discussed some resource needs- Substitute teachers, Professional Development, curriculum resources, weaning off of tuition based Full Day Kindergarten
- Mrs. Laprade questioned how Greenlodge School was being represented in the budget process since they have an interim principal. Mr. Welch explained that the budget development process was the same for all schools including Greenlodge.
- Mr. Welch recognized and thanked the tax payers for the support of the schools

Minutes

None

Donations

Mrs. Butler-Walko motioned to accept with grateful appreciation \$100 donation from Lueder's Environmental to the Dedham Public Schools, second by Mrs. Briggs, voted unanimous.

2016-217 School Year Calendar

- Mr. Welch discussed the Draft of 2016-2017 School Calendar
- 3 Professional Development Days
- Request School Committee input and vote in the next few weeks
- School Committee will take under advisement

Public Comments

None

Acknowledgements and Announcements

Mrs. McGregor announced she will not run for another term on the School Committee and encourages anyone to seek the opportunity.

Mrs. Buttler-Walko attended the monthly meeting for Dedham Coalition for Drugs and Alcohol Awareness. On Wednesdays there is a program at the Mother Brooke Arts Center called Learn to Cope to help residents of Dedham affected by substance abuse. The Coalition meets the first Tuesday of every month at town hall. Next meeting will be on February 2, 2016.

No Executive Session

Mrs. Briggs motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko, voted unanimous.

Meeting concluded at 9:30 p.m.