

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES December 16, 2015

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

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

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Dedham High School AVE Chorus performed holiday tunes with Mr. Nicholson, the DHS Music Teacher to the School Committee.

Abby Legendre, Riverdale 3rd grader was recognized as the winner of the Girls On The Run 5K Race winner. Her coach Cheryl Kerr spoke about the program and information regarding all the runners.

6th Grade Reading Teachers - Susan Lyons and Meghan Unger recognized the following Read, Write & Win Winners from the Middle School:

Leila Smadi - Grade 6
Aidan Healy - Grade 6
Charlotte Healy - Grade 6
Brendan Stamm - Grade 6
Connor Stamm - Grade 8

STUDENT REPORT

ECEC –

- The Early Childhood Education Center PTO hosted the annual Polar Express evening on Friday, December 11. They estimated that over 400 children and their families came to enjoy the reading of the classic story, enjoy a seasonal refreshment and take home a souvenir jingle bell.

Riverdale –

- On Friday, December 11th, the 5th grade students traveled to Dedham Savings Bank and Brookdale Dedham Senior Living to sing holiday songs they had been practicing.
- The Winter Concert will be on Monday, December 21st, with a show at 9:15 am and 1:00 pm.
- All grade levels have moved onto informational writing in the classroom. Students are working on researching topics such as Canada in Grade 4 and writing How-To's on building gingerbread houses in Grade 1.

Avery –

- The Avery fifth grade students performed holiday songs at Dedham Savings Bank on Elm Street and at Legacy Place on December 8th.
- The Avery Holiday Concerts will be held on Friday, December 18th at 9:15 am and 1:45 p.m.
- Avery School hosted the first Girls on the Run 5K race on December 6th. Girls on the Run is a program that encourages each girl to embrace her unique gifts and abilities, define her places as friend and teammate, and be an open-hearted and connected member of the community and the world. Avery was chosen as the site for the first ever 5K sponsored by the organization due to the teamwork and spirit shown by the Avery team in its inaugural year at the two community races held last year. This year Riverdale has joined Avery in the program.

Greenlodge –

- The Greenlodge Holiday Concert was held on Tuesday, December 15th with the band and each grade level chorus entertaining parents at each of the two concerts during the school day.
- Students have been working hard on personal narrative writing and have shared their final product by reading their work to students in other classrooms. This schoolwide sharing is highlighting “small moment” writing.

DMS –

- The DMS orchestra and chorus concerts were held on Tuesday, December 15th and their band concert will be held on Thursday, December 17th.
- Progress reports for term 2 were sent home today and are due back by December 18th.
- Teen Fun Night will be held on Friday night at DMS for all grades and is sponsored by the DMS Leadership Team.
- Tomorrow will be the first basketball games for the boys and girls teams at Wellesley Middle School.

DHS –

- Last week was computer science week at DHS. There were many activities and guest speakers all week. All students even learned to code during advisory on Thursday.
- DHS is in the midst of a Spirit Week this week. Today was America/Camo day to show support for the soldier drive currently underway. Tomorrow is red day in order to support the Blood drive that will be going on tomorrow. We currently have close to 60 students signed up. The week with an ugly sweater day.
- The very first Faculty versus Debate Club was held yesterday. The debate topic was whether or not it would be beneficial to make the school start time later. The students won and any student that attended will be able to use their ticket as a homework pass.

Kyle and Kayla congratulated Mrs. Jacobs on her retirement and presented her with multiple cards from the faculty, staff and students as well as a “diploma” from DHS. Kyle stated that this puts Mrs. Jacobs in an elite group of people that have 2 diplomas from DHS, being a graduate in the 70s.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Mr. Welch has been visiting each school and Principal to discuss individual goals
- DPS has conducted 328 official unannounced observations since October 1 and 68 announced observations
- Health and Wellness Committee is looking at defining wellness and gathering data, Dedham will be looking at conducting the Metro West Adolescent Health Survey
- Mr. Welch has had conversations with other Superintendents about DCF at Franklin High School recently
- Dedham will be hosting a Blended Learning workshop with eight different school districts
- Mr. Welch has been meeting with seniors conducting senior interviews
- Mr. Welch met quickly with MSBA and OPM Paul Griffin regarding the ECEC project
- Mr. Welch attended the Urban Superintendent's meeting today discussing grants

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

FY17-21 CAPITAL BUDGET - TECHNOLOGY AND FACILITIES

Sam Rippin outlined the Capital Budget requests starting Fiscal year 17

Technology - proposal for \$350,000

- Continuing Computer Refresh
- Student Chromebooks for every student in the Middle School
- Replacing current black boards with interactive white boards (70)
- Storage Recovery

Denise Moroney presented the outlined the School Facilities Capital Budget requests:

- FY14 and 15 projects that have been completed over the past year
- FY17 capital spending requests - 13 projects
- School security project - new PA system
- Renovation of DHS lobby security and vestibule
- Exterior doors
- Middle school re-commissioning repairs
- HVAC replacements
- Asphalt resurfacing crack and seal
- Bathroom renovations
- Shade replacements at DHS
- Exterior LED lighting

- DHS library and wood shop - schematic design funds
- Asbestos abatement program for floor tiles in schools
- Renovate DHS wrestling room to CAD lab and make existing CAD lab into a Fine Arts Classroom
- Replace basketball structure

FY17 Capital spending requests:

- Install generator receivers for all elementary schools

FY 16 Capital spending progress:

- Completed 40% over the summer
- 12 items were approved
- DHS underground oil tank removal
- DHS parking lot resurfacing completed
- ADA lower gym entrance handicap parking design phase
- PCB transformers from the vault at the High School
- Capital security surveillance - Middle School amplifier
- Replaced Greenlodge PA system
- Installed new bell system at Riverdale
- Completed new guidance and nurse suite at the High School
- Middle school repairs - space issues between the windows
- HVAC repairs
- Bathrooms Upgrades - completed Oakdale boys bathroom
- Replaced all bathroom partitions at Greenlodge and Riverdale
- Completed resurfacing at Oakdale and Greenlodge front driveways
- Installed new shades in the Oakdale gymnasium and Greenlodge classrooms

FY17 and other future capital needs:

- Re-pointing of all masonry exterior and interior needs
- Heating system gas conversion

Questions and discussions followed.

Mr. Bilafer stated that the budget subcommittee approved the FY17 Capital Budget request in a prior subcommittee meeting. Mr. Welch's recommendation is to approve the FY17 Capital Budget request of \$1,025,000 plus \$523,015 (Technology)

VOTE: Mr. Bilafer motioned to approved the recommended FY17 Budget request, Mr. Coughlin seconded, voted unanimous. Budget approved.

FinCom operational budget presentation is March 8th.

PARCC vs. MCAS

The Dedham School Committee voted to adopt the PARCC assessment for grades 3-8 in spring 2016. The vote was in support of Mr. Welch's recommendation. This decision needed to be made before the December 18 state deadline, and the Committee spent the past month deliberating during two meetings. The Committee showed great concern and investment in educating themselves about this choice and how it would impact students, teachers, and the district. Mr. Welch provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Students in grades 6-8 will take the test using computers (Grade 8 students will take the Grade 8 math assessment rather than the Algebra test), and students in grades 3-5 will take the assessment using pencil and paper. This will allow us to adequately support the technology needs of a single school and capitalize on the middle school students' familiarity with Chromebooks used in the school's 1-to-1 initiative.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE MCAS vs. PARCC PRESENTATION - Superintendent Welch presented a powerpoint presentation - highlights below:

- Dedham can choose MCAS or choose PARCC
- Deadline is Friday this week by noon to make this decision, otherwise default to MCAS, decision by school
- Transition plan for student assessment
- 2016 transition year
- If the district chooses to switch to PARCC testing in 2016, a decision of paper base or computer base will need to be made
- Next generation MCAS will be more like the PARCC exam
- Held harmless - accountability level - we currently are at level 2 at the Middle School and level 1 at the High School, but the district is level 2 - no downgrading.
- Need to choose Grade 8 math test or algebra test
- Grade 5 and 8 MCAS science and technology engineering tests
- Grade 10 MCAS ELA and math tests
- High school MCAs science and technology engineering tests
- High school will have no change
- MCAS Alternative assessment will continue
- PARCC - Many test administration considerations are available to any student at the discretion of the principal
- What did 127,000 MA students say after taking the PARCC on line tests in 2015? 92% said they had enough time to finish, 6% rushed and 2% did not finish in time, 38% ELA and 47% Math said the test was harder than their normal school work, 27% experience problems logging into the test, 25% experienced technical problems during the test; 23% reported the computer worked slowly, 65% said they prefer taking the test online to paper
- Preparing students for computer based testing
- Superintendent Welch recommends we adopt PARCC for spring 2016 - Computer based for middle school grades 6-8 - Paper based for all elementary school grades 3-5, Choose grade 8 math test not algebra 1

- WHY? Next generation MCAS 2.0 will be quite "PARCC-like"; now that BOE decision is made, need to prepare students and teachers - Overwhelming support via anonymous vote from Dedham Leadership Team
- Discussions and Questions followed.

VOTE: Mr. Coughlin motioned to implement the PARCC testing in 2016, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, voted unanimous.

MINUTES

Mr. Coughlin motioned to accept the October 21, 2015 minutes, seconded by Mrs. Butler, voted unanimous

Mr. Bilafer motioned to accept the November 18, 2015 minutes, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous

Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept the December 2, 2015 amended minutes, seconded by Mrs. Laprade, voted unanimous. Amendments: Cynthia Kelly not present and change Jeff Powers to Jack Powers

DONATIONS

Mrs. Butler motioned to accept with grateful appreciation \$500 donation from the Avery to support the Avery School Library to purchase books, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous.

Mrs. McGregor motioned to accept with grateful appreciation \$611.32 from the Avery grade 5 class to purchase covers for the Ipads and Ipad cart, seconded by Mrs. Butler, voted unanimous.

Mrs. Laprade motioned to accept with grateful appreciation \$500 grant to the ECEC from Wells Fargo Bank - a grant matching funds from former parent, seconded by Mr. Bilafer, voted unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Welch and the School Committee members acknowledged Paula Jacobs, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent who will be retiring after 20 years working in the Dedham Public Schools.

Next meeting - address the Superintendent's compensation package

Mrs. Jacobs motioned to adjourn, voted unanimous.

