

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES December 2, 2015

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Michael Welch, Superintendent
Cynthia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent - Absent
Samuel Rippen, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Recognition and Awards

None

Student Report

Kyle Fonseca and Kayla Haney

Riverdale

- On Wednesday, November 25th, Riverdale held its Second Annual Turkey Trot. Students and staff met for an assembly about staying healthy and fit during the holidays then moved outside to run laps around the back field while families came to cheer them on. The PTO and our School Adjustment Counselor, Elaine Sheehy, collected Thanksgiving foods and made baskets for Riverdale families in need for the holiday.
- This Sunday, the Riverdale Girls on the Run team will run the Girls on the Run 5K, which is being hosted here in Dedham. The girls are coached by three parents, Laurie Keogh, Cheryl Kerr, and Kim LaVita and have been meeting two times per week to train and complete team building activities.

Oakdale

- Under the direction of the 5th grade Student Council, the students at Oakdale donated two carloads of non perishable items for the Dedham Food Pantry. They also provided 20 Thanksgiving baskets to Oakdale families.
- Madeline Friday, a former Oakdale and now DMS student, supplemented the 20 Thanksgiving baskets with household items such as detergent, toothpaste, paper towels etc. as part of her service project for the Jr. National Honor Society.

DMS

- The DMS Fall Play is on Wednesday, December 3rd and Thursday, December 4th at 7pm.
- Principal drop in night is Thursday, December 10th at 7pm.
- Washington DC Fundraiser at PF Changs on Monday, December 14th. 100% of the day's sales at PF Changs are being donated to the DMS 8th grade trip.
- The Holiday concerts are on Tuesday, December 15th (Chorus and Orchestra) and Thursday, December 17th (All other bands) at 7pm.
- Teen fun night will be on Friday, December 18th from 6-9pm
- They report that close to 1500 items were donated to the Dedham Food Pantry as part of our annual drive.

DHS

- The Link Crew Dance was on Friday, November 20
- The National Honor Society Induction was on Monday, November 23
- The Powder Puff football game was on Tuesday, November 24 congratulations to the seniors on the win
- Winter Sports started this past Monday
- The Fall Booster Banquet was on yesterday
- The Winter "Meet the Coaches" night is Tuesday, December 8
- The DHS Holiday Concert is on Wednesday, December 9
- The DHS food drive is still underway and at last count we will be donating over 500 items to the Dedham Food Pantry.
- Progress Reports will be posted on Power School on Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Reports

MIDDLE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Principal Gately presented the Middle School Improvement Plan - the Improvement Plan will available on the Dedham Public School Website.

Ms. Gately acknowledged the School Council members:

Mrs. Meg Duncan - Community Representative

Mrs. Virginia Ferentinos - Community Representative

Dr. Julie Jeannetti - Parent Representative

Mrs. Ann Mercer - Parent Representative

Mrs. Lori Purdy - Parent Representative

Mrs. Kim Roslonek - Parent Representative

Mrs. Elizabeth Sieminski - Parent Representative

Ms. Susan Lyons - Teacher - Dedham Middle School

Mr. Christopher Nadeau - Teacher - Dedham Middle School

Victoria Horard - Grade 7

Kara Kilroy - Grade 7

Ryan Vassalotti - Grade 7

Lorenzo Lemasa - Grade 7

Dedham Middle school Mission Statement:

It is the mission of Dedham Middle School, with the support of our families and community, to prepare students to meet the demands of our local and global community, technological world, and an innovative education. We expect and encourage our students to apply their best efforts and creative abilities.

Ms. Gately stated the four major goals from the SIP from 2013-15

- Academically Challenging Environment
- Aligned Curriculum
- Data-driven decisions
- Engaged Community

Areas Of Focus v. Areas Of Strength were discussed

Goals for 2015 - 17:

- Student Learning Goals - Expand student learning beyond the classroom. Creating a school curriculum that incorporates the needs of the varied cultures of our school population into the daily curriculum.
- School Improvement Goals - Continue to create a school environment that provides a consistent foundation in academics and social-emotional support for students and teachers.

A video of several classrooms was shown. Dr. Fraczek spoke about the Lifeskills training program - a grant with Dedham Police Dept. - a program to voice the opiate addiction. Dr. Fraczek also spoke about PBIS - Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports. Students receive Bark Bucks to turn into fun things. Ms. Gately thanked every who helped put together this plan.

Questions followed from the School Committee members, Mr. Welch - spoke about the chromebooks, Dr. Fraczek spoke about the Washington D.C. field trip for all 8th grade students for 3 days to learn about government and community service. Dec. 14 PF Chang's fundraiser to help pay for the trip. Mr. Ryan stated he was very impressed with the School Improvement Plan. Hoping to add an additional language in the future. DMS Parent Ann Mercer commented saying the DMS Council was very collaborative. Parent concerns were taken seriously.

FALL ATHLETICS UPDATE

Mr. Traister - Athletic Director updated the School Committee with statistics over the last three years in:

DHS Fall Participation in all sports.

DMS Fall Participation

Fall Accomplishments

DHS Fall Records

DHS Winter Participation

DMS Winter Participation

User Fees

MIAA Waivers:

2014-15: Girls Freshman Basketball

2015-2016: Swim and Dive, Freshmen Field Hockey (Not used), Girls Freshmen Basketball, Girls Varsity Ice Hockey, and anticipate Boys Varsity Tennis and anticipate Freshmen Softball

Mr. Traister introduced 4 outstanding student athletes:

Elizabeth Balzarini, Christina Mitchell, Jack Powers, Jonathan Cleveland

Each student spoke about their personal accomplishments. Questions followed

Discussions took place regarding league options.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- MCAS vs. PARCC decision - additional information provided by Commissioner Mitchell Chester yesterday via e-mail. Mr. Welch participated on another DESE conference call with member of the Leadership Team last week with over 180 other school districts. Complication regarding "Level 5" status and its reverse meaning for student performance on PARCC vs. current school and district performance via DESE labeling system.
- CAPD Updates - next meeting = December 8. Half day on Friday, January 15, then again on Monday, February 29.
- Sad to announce the impending departure of HR Manager, Asha Marshall. She has accepted a position in the private sector and will be leaving the Dedham Public Schools later this month. Mr. Welch met with Town's HR Director (Miriam Johnson) earlier today to discuss the next steps in filling this position, and a plan will be set for next week.
- 35 applicants for the position of Executive Assistant to the Superintendent (Paula's position) have been received. Position was posted on November 2 and all candidates were sent an electronic survey to complete to help us narrow down the field. A committee will be meeting to screen the applicants and select those to be interviewed in the next week. Mr. Welch would welcome the participation of a school committee member in this process.
- The School Committee was given a preliminary draft of the 2015-16 school year calendar.
- New substitute pay rate was implemented on Monday, November 30th. New substitute appraisal form developed being issued to all teachers and building principals. Analysis of substitute teachers during November was given to all School Committee members.
- Mr. Welch attended the Dedham High School Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Dedham Holiday Inn on Sunday, November 22. DHS athletes were inducted as the Class of 2015, presided over by Committee Chair Robert Lynch.
- The Leadership Team meeting was held on Tuesday, November 24 with 21 members in attendance. On-going supervision work was shared and reviewed to continue refining calibration across the district.

- Mr. Welch thanked all school committee members who attended the annual Thanksgiving Day football games hosted at Alumni Field. The Dedham Public School tent was manned with bumper stickers and tri-fold promotional brochures. Norwood Superintendent Jim Hayden received a bag full of goodies and trinkets from DPS.
- National Honor Society Induction was held at the High School on Monday, November 23. Thirty-three students were newly inducted by advisors, Katherine Dearborn and Carol Margolis. Representative Paul McMurtry attended along with guest speaker Dan Withrow, DHS Class of 2007, who was inducted in the DHS Athletic Hall of Fame the night before.
- Supervision continues moving along, in the last seven days, there were 34 announced and 60 Unannounced observations performed and recorded in our TeachPoint management system by district administrators.
- Mr. Welch continues to meet with the senior class as a part of the on-going "exit interview" process. Meeting with 8 seniors every Tuesday and Thursday to get to know them and ask them about their experiences in Dedham and how we can improve, it has been very insightful.
- Mr. Welch and Don Langenhorst participated on a national conference call with the Education Collaborative's (TEC) leadership in blended and Digital Learning Initiative. Dedham is hosting a meeting next week to plan for the upcoming seminar series in this topic area that will begin late next spring and continue through into the fall of 2016. There are currently 37 principals and superintendents signed up to participate, and Dedham will be hosting these workshops.
- Instructional Rounds meeting held at Avery School yesterday. All Central Office and Principals attended to view teaching across the school. Seven teams of 2-3 visited all 15 standard classrooms as well as special education sub-separate programs, music, art, and physical education classes. Participants shared observations about "teacher centered" vs. "student centered" instruction, and information about the degree of technology integration to support student learning in each classroom.
- Internal DPS Budget discussions are on-going, with Capital (facilities and technology) being discussed at the Budget Sub-committee meeting prior to this evening's School Committee meeting. Principals' and Directors' requests for personnel and expenses are due by December 4. These will be compiled and prioritized internally, then discussed with Budget Sub.
- There has been continued internal discussions about the on-going town efforts to respond to the opioid crisis. Mr. Welch provided a copy of an e-mail from D.A. Mike Morrissey sent yesterday encouraging schools to send all school nurses and athletic trainers to a summit on December 16. Gail Kelley has drafted some preliminary policy information for the district but it has not been reviewed by the Superintendent.
- Snow and Ice season - discussions on how the district will call off school in the Superintendent's 30-day update.

Discussions followed.

MCAS VS PARCC UPDATE

In preparation of the vote at the next School Committee meeting on December 16, Mr. Welch provided the School Committee with information on how to move forward to take a vote that is needed by December 18 to choose which test to choose for grades 3-8, all high school students will continue with the current MCAS test this year and at least next year.

All administrators were polled and all voted for PARCC testing. Questions and discussions followed.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

None

MINUTES

None

DONATIONS

- Mrs. McGregor motioned to accept with grateful appreciation a donation of an iPad Air 2 to the Greenlodge Elementary School for use by Special Education Teacher, Nicole Spadoni from the John Thomas & Special Friends Fund on behalf of April and Shawn Wilmar, seconded by Mrs. Laprade, voted unanimous.
- Mr. Bilafer motioned to accept with grateful appreciation \$100 donation from the Class of 1965 to be used to purchase a LaCie (external hard drive) for the video production courses, seconded by Mrs. Briggs. This donation is made in the name of Frank Litchfield who was a graduate of the Class of 1965 and was killed in action during the Vietnam War.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

Mr. Ryan stated the need to enter into Executive Session under exception 1 to discuss litigation.

Roll call vote taken:

- Mr. Coughlin- Yes
- Ms. Briggs - Yes
- Mr. Bilafer - Yes
- Ms. Laprade- Yes
- Ms. McGregor - Yes
- Mr. Ryan - Yes

We will not be coming back into the general meeting.