

# DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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## MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2015

### MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

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

### MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Michael Welch, Superintendent  
Dr. Cynthia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent  
Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance

### RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Principal Debra Gately recently received the Principal of the Year award from the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association. The annual award is given to an educational leader who is recognized for collaborative leadership and for advancements in education at the middle level. Ms. Gately was honored at the annual MSSAA Summer Institute at the Hyannis Resort and Conference Center on July 29. Mr. Welch thanked Ms. Gately for her tremendous hard work and stated that he attended the MSSAA conference and introduced Deb Gately to receive her award. Ms. Gately stated she is extremely honored to receive this award. Mr. Ryan congratulated Ms. Gately for all her hard work and tremendous accomplishments. On behalf of the School Committee, Mr. Welch handed Ms. Gately a bouquet of flowers and stated that in honor of October being Principal's month, he thanks all of the Principals in the district.

### STUDENT UPDATE - Kyle Fonseca and Kayla Haney

#### ECEC

On September 22, the PTO-sponsored enrichment program featuring "Johnny the K" visited the ECEC. This award-winning program teaches and reinforces the social skills appropriate for early learners through music, humor and fun. ECEC Back to School Night will be Thursday, October 8 from 6-8pm.

#### Riverdale

On Wednesday, September 23rd, students displayed their Pinwheels for Peace on the front lawn of the school to celebrate the International Day of Peace. The project was led by Art teacher, Bridget O'Leary. On Monday, September 28th, the Riverdale PTO brought in Dr. Jay Banks who presented an anti-bullying program to the students. The program encouraged students to avoid bullies, find friends to help, report bullying when it happens, and act confidently when standing up to bullies.

### Oakdale

On Wednesday, October 7th, students at Oakdale will participate in the International Walk to School Day. Students will meet at various locations around the Oakdale School area and walk to school together with parents and local police officers. The students will then gather in the gym and have a quick morning workout led by the PE Teachers. That afternoon, they will have their first annual Walk a Thon. .

### Greenlodge

The Greenlodge Open House took place on September 24th. Over 95% of all families attended. Parents visited classrooms for presentations from teachers on curriculum, daily schedules, discipline and communication.

### Avery

On Thursday, October 2nd, Sarah Mlynowski, author of the *Whatever After* series and her new release *Upside Down Magic*, visited Avery's 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. She spoke with the students about the process she uses in writing her books. She used an interactive presentation to engage the students in creating a character and story line during the assembly. Students were able to purchase her books and have their copies autographed.

On Tuesday, October 6th, first grade students traveled to Honey Pot Hill Orchards on their first field trip at Avery. Students learned about the life cycle and different parts of the apple, the types of the apples grown at the orchard, and the various products that can be made from apples. The day ended with a hayride, a taste of apple cider and apple donuts.

### Middle School

The Middle School has successfully implemented their 1:1 ChromeBook initiative over the past month with teachers and students actively integrating the technology into their daily work. They have also implemented PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) at DMS where they are recognizing the positive behaviors of our students by rewarding BARK bucks. The open house was held on September 29 for students in grades 3-5 where we had many attendees from our district elementary schools as well as from private schools. October 8 and 15 are parent conferences in which families were able to make appointments online beginning on October 5.

### High School

Last week was the high school's spirit week, the week concluded with a pep rally on Friday with the tape a teacher to the wall fundraiser. The fundraiser raised \$800.00 for a family in need.

The homecoming dance was held Saturday night. Open House for families with children in grades four to eight on was last night, with great turnout. Progress Reports were released last night, Parents and guardians need to log into Power School to check reports instead of being printed out in hope to become more eco-friendly. Link Crew leaders will be checking in with freshman tomorrow during x-block PSATS will be on October 14, 2015 for sophomores and juniors. The Massachusetts Education Finance Authority or MEFA will be making their presentation in the high school cafeteria on Monday, October 19, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. MEFA is an organization that assists families with financial counseling for college. Parent conferences will take place on October 20, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Mr. Welch clarified the open house for grades 4-8 ad in the Boston Globe was originally incorrect. The Globe gave 4 days of free ads for their open house in the Metro Globe.
- The MCAS scores were mailed home today and he will be mailing parents tomorrow stating the overview of what they are receiving.

- November 17, the Board of Education will vote on either the PARCC Assessment or the MCAS testing
- Staffing - our payroll clerk accepted another position and is moving to a position the Parks and Rec Dept. Mr. Rippin is working hard to fill the payroll position.
- Mr. Welch worked with the custodial unions today, waiting for the attorneys to draft the contract and hopes they will ratify next week.
- Dr. Kelly updated the School Committee on the CAPD committee. Friday afternoon will be the next release day. Reading specialists will be working on the common core state standards.
- Greenlodge is hosting first and fifth grade, Riverdale is hosting fourth grade, Avery is hosting second grade, Oakdale is hosting third grade.
- Reading Specialist, Lauren Shea is working at the ECEC. Paraprofessionals will be attending with the elementary teachers.
- Secondary departments 6-12 working on the writing initiatives.
- High School Assistant Principal, Kristy Yankee and Dan Rouse will be working on technological writing.
- Math Dept, Fine Arts, PE and Health are also participating in writing workshops.
- School Psychologists are working on WISC 5.
- Adjustment Counselors are working on case sharing.
- CAPD committees still continue to meet and working hard on the full day PD day.
- Mr. Welch thanked Dr. Kelly for working hard on the CAPD Committees. The theme this year is "We" not "They" as we are doing the professional planning.
- The ECEC project moving to schematic design stage.
- There was a SBRC meeting last night. Moving toward a February timeframe for a March vote. Still on target for a vote next May at town meeting. The next SBRC meeting will take place Tuesday October 27th at the Middle School - reaching out to the abutters.
- Supervision Evaluation moving forward - goals were all due Oct. 1, starting to do unannounced observations, trying to promote continuous improvement.
- School Committee Retreat scheduled for the MIT Endicott House next Tuesday, October 13th. The 2nd retreat may be scheduled for October 19th, discussing goals etc.
- Don Langenhorst and Michael Welch just got back from North Carolina at a 1:1 Blending Learning Environment Conference, talking to educators from across the country. They had been chosen from The Education Cooperative as a team to talk to Principals and Administrators.
- All DMS students were issued a chrome book, changing the way we provide instruction with 21st century skills.
- Mr. Welch and Mr. Rippin attended town Department Heads meeting today, discussing upcoming budget cycles.
- Mr. Welch met with George Cariofiles, President of Dedham Youth Soccer and Dan Maher, President Dedham Youth Baseball to talk about the use of fields needs and will be coordinating a time to meet with Bob Stanley from Parks and Rec so we are all on the same page.
- Mr. Welch met with Dian Barry Preston, regarding Livable Dedham Project - met with Diane. Mr. Welch thanked Mr. Bilafer for stepping forward to represent the School Committee.
- Mr. Welch thanked the Dedham Education Foundation for Bernie's run, huge fundraiser for the Dedham.

## **CHAIRS UPDATE**

Mr. Ryan stated that there was an article in the Globe South on Sunday regarding the Dedham High School nickname and mascot/symbol. The matter is under review, reaching out to the Dedham Historical Society discussing the relationship and name Marauder and historical events in the past. Will be presenting the findings to the Boosters Assoc, Alumni Assoc., Dedham High School Council, and student body at some point later this year.

## **REPORTS**

None

## **MINUTES**

Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the September 23, 2015 School Committee minutes, seconded by Mrs. Butler, voted unanimous.

## **DONATIONS**

Mrs. Briggs motioned with grateful appreciation the donation from Shaw's Supermarket "We love our School campaign" for \$400 to Avery School and \$400 to the ECEC, seconded by Mrs. Butler with grateful appreciation, voted unanimous.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Steve Bilafer stated that the DEF grant process is accepting application in October.

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

Meeting ended at 8:06 p.m.