

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES September 9, 2015

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Tom Ryan, Chair
Susan Butler-Walko, Vice Chair
Mayanne Briggs
Rachel McGregor
Steve Bilafer

MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Michael Welch, Superintendent
Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS:

Dr. Kelly stated that every year the Administrators vote two awards, the Ed Kelley Award and the Shad Araby Award. The Ed Kelley award is awarded annually to the Dedham School Dept. employee who demonstrates the characteristics that Ed Kelley demonstrated; compassion, insight and integrity. Ed Kelley was a sixth grade teacher at the Avery School who became an Assistant Superintendent This year's recipient is Susan Lyons, Dedham Middle School Teacher. The Shad Araby Award - Shad was a custodian at Dedham High School. This year's recipient is Paula Jacobs for her dedicated effort and support to the Dedham Public Schools.

STUDENT UPDATE

Kyle Fonseca, DHS senior provided DHS updates:

- The first day of school went smoothly for all, the freshmen were helped by the Link Leaders and the seniors enjoyed a filling breakfast to kick off their senior year.
- Seniors are busy meeting with their guidance counselors about their college search process.
- The first home football game is this Friday at 7:00pm vs Medfield
- Next Friday we will also be holding our summer reading book discussions
- The fall sports decal drive will take place this Sunday to help raise money for athletics
- Next Tuesday the school is planning to have all the clubs set up tables in the cafeteria to promote students to sign up and participate in extracurricular activities
- There will be an open house at Dedham High on Wednesday the 16th
- A senior college planning night will be held on Tuesday the 22nd

CHAIRS UPDATE

Mr. Ryan acknowledged receipt of the Cafeteria and Paraprofessional Intent To Bargain Document that was received today from Tim Dwyer, President of the DEA today.

Mr. Ryan and the members welcomed Mr. Steve Bilafer, the new School Committee Member. Mr. Bilafer stated.

Mr. Bilafer thanked the members of the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen for the opportunity to be part of the School Committee and looking forward to working with the members and leadership in the district to keep the district moving forward and to create a school system the community can be proud of.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE:

Summer Work - Dr. Kelly

Professional Development started June 24th with the K1 Transition Team deciding Hand Writing Without Tears is the district wide program. In July, Beth Sawyer's team met to discuss curriculum work. In August, Linda Kobierski's Professional Development Team met to talk about the professional development throughout the year. The Elementary Reading Specialists met on two days in August regarding the DRA 2 Plus, the new kid for Grades K - 7. Twelve participants met to discuss Every Day Math 4 training (EDM4). In-district training took place in August, one for K1 & 2 teachers and another day for 3,4,5 teachers.

Mr. Welch updated the School Committee:

- Tuesday, August 25th & 26th - the year 1 and year 2 teacher training was held at the Endicott Estate
- August 26th, the Dedham Education Association got together with the Administrators to plan the August 31 optional professional development day on the new Supervision Evaluation Process.
- Thursday, August 27, a luncheon was held for all secretaries and clerks in the Superintendent's office.
- Asha Marshall, the new Human Resource Manager had provided Mr. Welch with information about hiring over the summer months: There were 77 staff were hired, 43 Unit A teachers, 22 Paraprofessionals were all interviewed screened and hired over the summer.
- August 31st - Optional Day 1 - contractually with the DEA, an agreement with the DEA. Approx 90% of the Unit A Teachers attended. Ron Nobel, from the DESE.
- Mandatory day was Sept 1. which really benefited all teachers to have 2 days of Professional Development instead of one day.
- Professional Development Day on Sept. 4 - half day release day. Mrs. Kelly stated that 16 programs took place that day with all in-district presenters; 8 Elementary Reading specialists presented an introduction to DRA2. Math coaches Nancy Clement, Bonnie O'Neill and Jen Hawkins worked with the elementary paraprofessionals on EDM4. Wendy Garland and Katie DeWit worked with the Library Media Specialists, The School psychologists worked at the elementary level with Marjorie Goldstein-Fradin and Mike Monahan on case review, the nurses met with Gail Kelley working on documentation and SNAP.

- Mark Carney worked with his PE and health staff, Jeff Bolduc worked with the fine arts dept on a writing piece. Principal McCarthy worked with all the secondary paraprofessionals. Each Dept Chair worked with their departments on writing assignments and assessments and how to build literacy in their content area. The guidance counselors worked on the naviance curriculum with Michelle Springer directing that effort. Alison Guifarro worked on a communicative approach to language learning with writing and speaking as their focus. Dan Rouse worked with the computer and video staff on technological writing
- Mr. Welch stated that Dr. Kelly has worked hard with the three chairs of the Curriculum Assessment Professional Development Committees, working with the aspiring leaders to teach staff members internally.
 - Attendance on Sept. 4th was outstanding.
 - Mr. Welch showed his PowerPoint presentation to the School Committee from the opening day of school for staff. Highlights include the facilities updates and new furniture in all schools. Mr. Welch thanked Mr. Rippin for securing the furniture and provided the money and coordinated, smart boards.
 - Mr. Welch thanked Joe Flanagan for the newly paved Oakdale School and Greenlodge School and the side walk. Denise Moroney and the facility folks who removed the underground storage tank. DMS . The New guidance suite is complete with nurses and guidance staff all together in one long suite with individual offices. There are new stalls and ceilings in the Greenlodge School. The new turf has been placed at the Avery School. Mr. Welch thanked Denise Moroney and custodians working around the custodians.
 - Mr. Welch listed all the accomplishments in the district and the team approach, WE" not "THEY" approach.
 - 5-year strategic plan - Dedham's 2020 Vision.
 - Mr. Welch visited every school on the first day. It was very hot, and thanked the staff and PTO's for fans that have been provided. Water and ice were delivered by Food Service Director, Jeanne Johnson.
 - Mr. Welch, Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Rippin went to the MSBA today for a visit with the architects.
 - Mr. Welch met with the Tri County Superintendents today.
 - Mr. Welch thanked Don Langenhorst and his department and the teacher, as every student at the Middle School has a chrome book.
 - Don Langenhorst and Mr. Welch are the representatives from the tech districts as 1:1 initiatives. North Carolina State University on Sept. 28-Oct. 1.

VOTE FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR SBRC/DEXTER

Mr. Ryan stated the need to additional funding allocation for schematic design at Dexter which will be comprised of additional borings and testing to be done at the site.

Mr. Welch stated that KBA needs to be reimbursed for the work they are doing now.

VOTE:

Mrs. Briggs motioned: To increase the allocation for schematic design, the amount to be determined before we appear before the finance committee and submit the final version of the warrant article. This was seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko.

Voted unanimously.

Sub Committee Chair Assignments

BUDGET SUB COMMITTEE

1. Steve Bilafer
2. Rachel McGregor
3. Kevin Coughlin

POLICY SUB COMMITTEE

1. Mayanne Briggs
2. Lisa Laprade
3. Susan Butler-Walko

FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. Lisa Laprade
2. Steve Bilafer
3. Mayanne Briggs
4. Kevin Coughlin

STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Susan Butler Walko

DEDHAM 20/20 VISION STRATEGIC PLAN COMMITTEE

1. Susan Butler-Walko

SBRC COMMITTEE

1. Kevin Coughlin
2. Tom Ryan

TEC COOPERATIVE MEMBER

1. Mayanne Briggs

SUPTERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION PROCESS

1. Rachel McGregor

VOTE:

Mrs. Butler-Walko motioned to appoint Mrs. Briggs as the TEC Cooperative Member, Mrs. McGregor seconded, voted unanimously

RATIFICATION OF THE DEDHAM TRAFFIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Mr. Rippin stated the annual wage increased 2% for the Dedham Traffic Directors Association this year and increased by 2.5% for FY 17. The longevity changed - starting 10 years of service, the increase of \$25.00 from \$175 to \$200. With 15, 20, 25 years of service, the increase goes up \$50.00

VOTE:

Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept the agreement between the Dedham Traffic Directors Association and Dedham School Committee effective July 2015 through June 2016 and July 2016 through June 2017. This was seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko.

Roll call vote taken:

Mr. Bilafer - Yes

Mrs. Briggs - Yes
Mrs. McGregor - Yes
Mrs. Butler-Walk - Yes
Mr. Ryan - Yes
Voted unanimously

Note: Mr. Ryan then left the meeting and Mrs. Butler-Walko chaired the remainder of the meeting.

MASC Annual Conference on Nov. 4, 2015

Mr. Welch offered information about the four day conference to the committee. Mrs. Briggs has attended the last 5 years and provided information about the workshop .

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Mr. Rippin spoke about the article and handout - he read the following memo:

Please accept this memo as my report of Dedham Public Schools School Transportation protocols, School Committee policies, user fee benchmarking data, ridership and cost data along with Massachusetts General Laws covering this topic.

Please note that this issue is being discussed in light of community interest in how we determine prices for bus passes along with what students qualify for a waiving of the bus fee. I believe that the following narrative and attachments will clear any confusion going forward.

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71 Section 68 requires that every town shall provide school bus transportation for students living more than two miles from their schoolhouse in Grades K through 6. This law also states that any student eligible under the free and reduced lunch program will not be charged a fee.

DPS Protocol is to offer School Bus Transportation to all students in Grades K through 12 that are not within walking distance of a schoolhouse. This can vary but walking distances are shorter for younger students and longer for older students. We comply with MGL in not charging anyone a bus fee who is eligible for free and reduced lunch and additionally provide free busing for all Kindergarten students regardless of distance from the ECEC.

With respect to our fees for a round trip bus pass, we charge \$260 per year which places us 6th among 10 benchmark communities with a range of a low of \$180 to a high of \$395. Additionally the top 5 highest priced districts fees range from \$450 to \$575. I have provided detailed data as an attachment but am of the opinion that we are priced appropriately. Additionally, another attachment shows ridership and revenue generated along with budget resources and expenses for your review.

ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

- Total ridership 692 students K-12 145 K students riding free
- 547 Grade 1-12 students riding of which roughly 400 bought passes generating \$96,353 of revenue For 2015-2016
- Total ridership 631 students K-12 but that number is growing daily,
- 125 K students riding free

- 506 Grade 1-12 students riding with receipts to date of \$65,137.
- Total buses used:
3 Kindergarten buses at \$46 per bus or \$24,840
9 Regular buses at \$341 per bus per day or 552,420
Total cost projected not counting late or athletic buses \$577,260
- Projected revenue for FY16 \$100,000
- FY16 Budgeted Transportation \$424,500
- FY16 projected shortfall \$52,760 will be covered by fund balance.

Mr. Rippen stated this summer had a smooth opening regarding the transportation. The district has a new Transportation Coordinator - Trish Sullivan. Connolly Bus Company and Wanda Wood, the dispatcher have been very accommodating. Mrs. Butler Walko thanks Mrs. Sullivan.

School Committee Meeting Goal-Setting Retreat

Discussions took place regarding the Fall School Committee Meeting Goal-Setting Retreat which will take place on October 5 and 13 at MIT Endicott House for School Committee goals and strategic planning objectives.

VOTE SUPRPLUS BOOKS

Mrs. Briggs voted to have the Everyday Math 2007 and 2012 series surplus books at the Riverdale School, Mrs. McGregor seconded. Voted unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION

Mr. Welch previously had provided an analysis of his goals to the School Committee as well as rubric thru the new supervision and evaluation process. Mr. Welch has spoken to Mr. Glen Koocher who would like to come to a training session with the School Committee at a 6:00 time frame on either Sept. 23 or Oct. 7 meeting to talk about the Superintendent's evaluation. Mr. Welch suggested that he go forward and contact Mr. Koocher to speak to Mrs. McGregor regarding that upcoming training.

MINUTES

Due to a few absent School Committee members and Mr. Bilafer abstaining, three sets of minutes need to be tabled until the next meeting.

DONATIONS

- Mrs. McGregor voted to approve a donation of \$250 from the Baystate Antique Auto Club, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimously.
- Mrs. McGregor voted to approve a donation of \$450 with grateful appreciation from the DEP for the Senior Breakfast on the first day of school to help with the cost, seconded by Mr. Bilafer. Voted unanimously.
- Mr. Bilafer voted to approve a donation of \$2,400 with grateful appreciation - from the Dedham Savings Bank to the Dedham High School for the large posters to help defray the cost, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The DEF will hold the annual Bernie's Run will take place on October 4th at 11:30. Sign-up is on active.com.

Mr. Briggs motioned to adjourn, Mrs. McGregor seconded, voted unanimously. Meeting concluded at 8:17 p.m.