

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINUTES OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE RETREAT
MIT ENDICOTT HOUSE
September 19, 2016

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Susan Butler, Chair
Mayanne Briggs, Vice-Chair
Steve Bilafer
Kevin Coughlin
Lisa Laprade
Tom Ryan
Tracey White

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Michael Welch, Superintendent
Ian Kelly, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum
Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance
Don Langenhorst- Director of Technology
Elizabeth O'Connell- Director of Special Education
Amy Hicks- Assistant to the Superintendent

Working Dinner : Teamwork, Norm Setting, & Google Apps Orientation (6:00 – 6:30 PM)

1. Retreat purpose and format
 - Purpose is to agree on a core set of goals
 - Reviewed agenda
 - Discussed ticket to leave
2. Review of info/feedback from fall 2015 retreat
 - Committee individually reviewed goals from 2015-2016 school year
3. Norms review and re-setting
 - Reviewed norms developed September 25, 2014
4. Google Apps orientation/review
 - Reviewed School Committee drive, sharing, viewing, Gmail accounts
 - Open Meeting concerns -shared drive cannot be used to communicate, can only be used to share information. Drive has been set up to limit privileges to “view only”.

Working Together Review - Responding To Constituents (6:30 – 6:40 PM)

- 1) Role-Play scenarios for new member(s)
 - Members of the committee role-played on how to deal with difficult conversations and confrontations
- 2) Communications and meeting agenda topic development
 - Each week the Superintendent will meet with the chairs to prepare agenda for School Committee meeting

- Suggestions, comments, concerns should flow through the Chair. Agenda will be posted in shared drive

Goals Review Discussion (6:40 – 7:00 PM)

- 1) Review of 2014-15 School Committee Goals and District Achievements
- 2) Review of 2015-16 School Committee Goals and District Achievements
 - Goal rankings from 15-16 school year accomplishments
 - ELA audit (all teachers were required to read) Dr. Kelly discussed the first Professional Development day and the unpacking of ELA Audit. Focus should be on the district not only ELA
- 3) DESE Strategic Plan, District 20/20 Vision Strategic Plan, and School Improvement Plans
 - Goal alignments with DESE, Dedham goals align well with state
- 4) Current and Ongoing District Initiatives
 - DMS-Chromebooks
 - DHS-iPads
 - New ECEC
 - Recruitment Standards and Best Practices
 - Registration Gateway
Continued movement toward free full day Kindergarten
 - Move to Tri-Valley League
 - District Evaluation System

2016-17 Goals Development (7:00 – 7:45)

- 1) Sub-group discussion of possible 2016-17 School Committee goals
 - Committee and Administration formed three groups and brainstormed perspective 2016-2017 goals
- 2) Report out of potential goals:

Blue Group - Tom, Mayanne, Sam, Liza

Action plan for District Wide Audit

Prepare for budget negotiations for Fall Town Meeting

Determine/understand School Committee role regarding new ECEC (Free full day K)

Social emotional learning of students

~Dropout prevention

~Report out initiatives

~How do we link community and school?

Late/change start times

Transition to new league- school spirit (Bulldogs?)

PR - marketing, positioning the district

Preparing for FinCom - Boston Globe Data

Complete Policy Review with MASC

Master Plan - Review & Update (Ed model)

AP and Athletic Fees (free)

Summer program options- coordinating with Parks and Rec dept.
Prioritizing extracurricular activities

Red Group - Steve, Susan, Ian

Facility and ed model support for master plan

~Town Meeting Spring 2017- ask for funding to support Master Plan

Staff reflects student body (Diversity)

~Equity of student recognition, awards, scholarships

~Cultural indifference- Diversity

Purpose of homework/Amount of homework

Understanding the dropout rate

Guidance

Empower parents

Teacher outreach

White Group - Kevin, Lisa, Tracey, Don

Long term contract for Superintendent

Athletics- cohesive, consistent methods and mascot as move into tri valley

Improve blended learning across the district, plan and action, funding

~plan, action and \$\$

Successful Unit A contract negotiation

High School start times continue

Free full day Kindergarten

Dedicated policy review

Explore Gifted and Talented

Curriculum consistency - include fine arts

Guidance-playbook for freshmen

Expanded opportunities

~Before and after school programs, summer programs

~Unify after school enrichment programs

Mr. Rippin requested four signatures for the Facilities warrants. Due to the Munis implementation, school facilities are now accounted for under the School Department and bills need to be signed and submitted weekly. Discussion ensued around the difference between how the Town signs warrants vs. how the School Committee signs warrants. Massachusetts General Laws require warrants to have signatures. The committee suggested putting through a warrant article which would allow the Superintendent to singularly sign warrants. The Town Manager currently does this for the town warrants.

Closure (7:45 – 8:00 PM)

- 1) Google Survey - Ticket To Leave