

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES
October 5, 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 SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT:

None

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

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

Meeting Location: Avery Elementary School

Meeting commenced at 6:35 p.m.

Executive Session

Ms. Briggs motioned to enter Executive Session under Article 3, Collective Bargaining, Ms. Laprade second. A roll call vote was taken:

Mayanne Briggs- Yes
Kevin Coughlin- Yes
Tom Ryan- Yes
Susan Butler- Yes

Steve Bilafer- Yes
Lisa Laprade- Yes
Tracey White- Yes

Regular meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

Student Update by Evan Landry

Evan Landry updated the School Committee on happenings occurring throughout the Dedham Public Schools. Many events included fire safety, fall field trips, health initiatives, and open houses. A video prepared for the DHS pep rally was shown to the Committee.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent, Michael J. Welch

Supt. Welch reviewed with the Committee how the Shared Google Folder was organized.

On October 3, Supt. Welch addressed the Finance Committee regarding the restoration of \$100,000 in funds originally cut in FY17 Budget (as recommended by FinCom.) This is Warrant Article Number 10 at the Fall Town Meeting. If restored, the money would reinstate a 1.0 FTE Career Counselor at \$50,000, a 0.6 FTE Psychologist at \$30,000 and a 0.5 FTE School Nurse at \$25,000.

The first professional development half-day was September 22. The topic was Student Engagement. The next Professional Development half-day is October 7. Dr. Kelly will discuss further in the CAPD update.

There is no additional information to report regarding the “Clown Texts”. The Superintendent’s notice to parents has been featured in local broadcast media and used in other districts.

The MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey will be administered on November 3 and November 4 at DMS and DHS. Information will be going home to parents in the next two weeks.

Supt. Welch met with KBA (Architects), Police, Fire, and other consultants regarding the design and public safety planning for the new ECEC. An idea was discussed for integrated video and radio communications between all public safety groups. Further discussion is anticipated.

Instructional Rounds took place yesterday at Riverdale School. Seventeen people visited all classrooms and provided coordinated feedback via Google shared documents.

Ms. Butler reiterated the importance of the three additional positions to help support our Special Education students. She reminded the public that the school is responsible for Special Education students up to age 22. These positions will help keep students in district.

CAPD Update - Dr. Ian Kelly, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Kelly gave a presentation to update the Committee on Curriculum, Assessment and Professional Development. Topics included PARCC, MCAS, local measures of student performance, student engagement, faculty feedback and community connections. This presentation will be available on the DPS website.

Discussion ensued around the curriculum four-phase review cycle and the length of time it would take to implement. The four-phase cycle takes approximately five years to complete. After five years, the cycle begins again and is continuous.

Discussions occurred around PARCC results and parents understanding of their student's scores. MCAS Science scores have been mailed out to parents. PARCC does not have a Science section, so MCAS will continue to be used.

Discussion took place regarding student engagement and how Professional Development is aligning with the School Committees goals.

Reports

TREK Review- Shelly Pagnotta & Christopher Nadeau

TREK Coordinator ,Shelly Pagnotta, and Assistant Coordinator Christopher Nadeau gave a presentation to the Committee on the summer TREK program. The presentation will be available on the DPS website.

The presentation reviewed history of Trek, its focus on transition from elementary to middle school, cost and financial assistance, overview of the volunteer selection process (DMS and DHS students), class instruction, daily schedule, and student parent exit surveys. Ninety-six percent of students felt they were ready for middle school after attending TREK. Ninety-six percent of the parents felt their child was ready for middle school after attending TREK.

Discussion from the committee included time duration of program; drop in numbers which appear to be due to vacations; getting out communication to the elementary schools earlier; translation issues; and TREK being a self funding program. Committee felt this presentation would be a great marketing tool.

Facilities Summer Work Review - Denise Moroney

Director of Facilities, Denise Moroney, gave a presentation on all of the work the School Facilities Department completed over the summer. The presentation will be available on the DPS website. Approximately ten major projects took place at the High School and an additional ten at DMS, the elementary schools and the ECEC. The Committee discussed the new improvements including shades, lighting, painting, white boards, and the Youth Commission office. Mr. Welch noted that improvement projects to support Special Education help to keep students in the district.

Chair's Update

Ms. Butler sent an email to the town officers Jim Kern and Andrea Terkelsen for a budget calendar so the Budget Subcommittee can begin work on next year's budget.

Old/New Business

Superintendent's Evaluation

Supt. Welch provided the Committee with his summative evaluation from last year as a formal guide for this year's review. He also presented a summative self-evaluation using the state standards and Superintendent's rubric. In addition he presented a narrative review of the 2015-2016 school year including planned and unplanned events as well as a full review of his 2015-16 goals.

Mr. Ryan commended the Superintendent for his focus on equality across the district and quality classroom instruction. There was also discussion regarding the time table of the Superintendent's yearly and midyear review. The yearly review can occur at any time now and a mid-cycle review would typically take place in February or March.

School Committee Goals

The following goals were developed at the two day retreat that took place on September 19 & 20:

District Audit Action Plan

Direct the Superintendent to develop a specific, detailed action plan to address and respond to concerns raised in the spring 2016 District ELA Audit. The action plan should address all five "major tasks" identified and engage stakeholders in a comprehensive, multi-year process with a goal of increasing student learning and supporting educator improvement.

Educational Equity, Excellence, And Opportunity

Solicit input at regularly scheduled School Committee meetings from district and community stakeholders regarding access to programs and services that support all students with a particular focus toward identified "high needs" student sub-groups. These groups include students with disabilities, English language learners, and those identified as economically disadvantaged, as well as students with complex social, emotional, and health needs. Include input from before/after school and summer programming and other supports for youth available in the greater community. Utilize this information along with data gained from the MetroWest Adolescent Health survey, school start time feedback, input from counselors, and parent outreach to make recommendations about future programming to address social/emotional learning needs and create a more supportive climate for student learning.

FY 2018 Budget Development

Develop, communicate, and support a budget and budget process that meets the learning needs of the students and educators of the Dedham Public Schools. This will include

effective listening and communication with district educators and leadership, parents, appropriate Town committees, and collective bargaining units. The final FY2018 budget will support ongoing initiatives and previously prioritized commitments, and provide for district improvements planned during the budget cycle.

Long Range Master Planning

Initiate a working group of School Committee and community members to gather feedback for the development of a long range Master Plan for the district. This will involve input from stakeholders from different elementary school districts and from multiple town committees, and may require a request for Town funds to support this effort.

Mr. Coughlin motioned to accept 2016-2017 School Committee goals, Ms. Briggs second, Committee voted unanimously.

Article 9 - Warrant for Fall Town Meeting

Ms Briggs announced that Article 9 was supported unanimously by the SBRC. Article 9 reads:

By the Town Manager. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be expended under the direction of the School Building Rehabilitation Committee for the purpose of designing extended measures related to traffic flow, access, egress and signalization at the new Early Childhood Education Center (“ECEC”), to be located at 1100 High Street in Dedham, Massachusetts, as required in connection with Site Plan Review, and which study and work related thereto is outside the scope of the Massachusetts School Building Authority project, and therefore the sole responsibility of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto. *Referred to Finance and Warrant Committee for study and report.*

Mr. Bilafer noted that the SBRC and Planning Board are working together with the community and abutters on the site outside of the ECEC. There is no sum indicated because the committees are in the middle of the process of understanding the extended measures, if there are any.

Mr. Bilafer motioned to support Article 9, Mr. Coughlin second, Committee voted unanimously.

School Committee Calendar Dates

The Committee discussed the meeting dates for the 2016-2017 school year. Due to one of the meetings falling on Flag Day, a suggestion was made to change the last two School Committee meeting dates to June 7 and June 21, instead of May 31 and June 14. Ms. Butler noted the calendar is only a proposed calendar and there may be a need to have additional meetings. All meeting dates are posted on the district calendar on the DPS website.

Ms. Briggs motioned to accept the proposed 2016-17 School Committee meetings calendar, Ms. Laprade second, Committee voted unanimously.

School Committee Subcommittees

The School Committee Subcommittees were announced and are as follows:

Policy Subcommittee - Lisa Laprade, Mayanne Briggs, Tracey White
Budget Subcommittee – Steve Bilafer, Kevin Coughlin, Tom Ryan
Negotiations Subcommittee – Kevin Coughlin, Mayanne Briggs, Steve Bilafer

Minutes

Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the minutes of August 24, 2016 as presented, Mr. Bilafer second. Ms. White and Mr. Ryan abstained as they were not in attendance on August 24. Committee voted 5-0 to approve minutes.

Mr. Bilafer motioned to approve the minutes of September 7, 2016 as presented, Mr. Coughlin second. Ms. White abstained as she was not in attendance on September 7. Committee voted 6-0 to approve minutes.

Ms. Briggs motioned to approve the minutes of September 19, 2016 as presented, Ms. Laprade second, committee voted unanimously.

Ms. White motioned to approve the minutes of September 20, 2016 as presented, Ms. Laprade second, committee voted unanimously.

Ms. Briggs stated that the Policy Subcommittee has reviewed the Executive Session Minutes from 2013 through 2016 and voted unanimously to release the records.

Ms. Briggs motioned to accept the 2013 through 2016 Executive Session Minutes as presented and voted on by the Policy Subcommittee to be released, Ms. Laprade second, Committee voted unanimously.

Donations

Mr. Rippin noted three donations to Dedham High School:

1. Wegmans of Westwood donated \$250 in support of the 2016-2017 senior student athlete posters.
2. Dedham Savings donated \$2,400 in support of the 2016-2017 senior student athlete posters.
3. Legacy Place donated \$150 in support of the 2016-2017 senior student athlete posters.

Ms. Briggs motioned to accept all three donations to Dedham High School with grateful appreciation, Ms. Laprade second, Committee voted unanimously.

Public Comments

None

Acknowledgements and Announcements

Ms. White announced she attended the recent DHS Open House for 4th through 8th graders. It was a very successful event and Ms. White commended the LinkCrew for their participation.

Mr. Bilafer announced that Sunday's DEF Bernie's Run Fundraiser was very successful and thanked everyone for supporting the schools.

The 4th annual College Fair and block party presented by the Dedham Youth Commission will be held on October 16 in Dedham Square.

Ms Briggs motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ms. White second, Committee voted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 9:03 p.m.