

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES
October 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 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 7:01 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Student Update by Kayla Haney

Kayla Haney updated the School Committee on happenings occurring throughout the Dedham Public Schools. Events included upcoming fall field trips and activities, International Walk to School Day, PTO sponsored events, After school Enrichment programs, the DHS Debate Team, Fall sports, music and drama events. A special mention went out to Joe and Kris Ahl who donated a smart board to the Riverdale Art program.

Superintendent's Update

Michael J. Welch, Superintendent

Many Dedham Educators attended the MASSCUE conference this week at Gillette Stadium. Dedham was recognized for being one of the districts with the highest number of attendees.

Supt. Welch met today with the MSBA at KBA Architects in Charlestown to discuss the progress on the ECEC at Dexter Site. Demolition of the old Dexter School is scheduled to start in November or December. Bids will go out in July of 2017, construction on new school should begin in September 2017 with an anticipated opening in early 2019. A meeting will be held with state transportation officials regarding Route 109.

There was a community meeting last night sponsored by the Dedham Youth Commission regarding homelessness. The event was attended by Ron McCarthy, Margo Fraczek, and Liza O'Connell.

Supt. Welch is in the process of conducting goals meetings with principals and central office administrators.

The Superintendent's monthly District Leadership Team meeting was held yesterday. The group reviewed the Educator Evaluation entries for all educators (self-assessments and goals) and spent time calibrating expectations.

On October 14 the Supt. Welch along with five other Superintendents and the President of William James College met with the Executive Director of Teachers21 to discuss on-going issues of superintendents.

Supt. Welch recently attended the monthly TEC Superintendent's luncheon. Topics of discussion included budgets, state mandates, and technology integration.

On October 6, Supt. Welch presented at the New Superintendent's Induction Program. The subject of the presentation was "Using the New Educator Evaluation Instrument with Principals to Support Strategic Initiatives and Improve Leadership Team Culture".

On October 7, the Superintendent met with Gerry Lavoie and Rob Erasmi, Executive and Senior Vice-Presidents at Dedham Savings Bank. Supt. Welch thanked them for their on-going support of the Dedham Public Schools. Possible future partnerships were discussed.

Last week Supt. Welch filed the district's state testing mode confirmation with the DESE. DPS will be using paper-based testing in grade 3, grade 5, and Dedham High School. All other schools will complete state-mandated Next Generation MCAS testing on computers. This decision reflected the state mandate for grades 4 & 8 in 2017.

The second half Professional Development day was on Friday, October 7. All schools continued to work on student engagement.

DPS is getting ready for the MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey at DMS and DHS. It will be administered on November 3 and November 4. Info went home to parents this week. Survey will be available for viewing at both schools and the central office as soon as it is ready.

There is a full day Professional Day on Election Day, November 8. Due to the anticipation of a large turnout, DPS will be moving its PD activities to another school.

Dr. Kelly was asked Ms Butler to explain the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Act is the law regulating how school districts enroll homeless students.

Chair's Update

Ms. Butler read a statement regarding the budget process. On behalf of the School Committee, Ms. Butler thanked the Warrant Committee for the show of supporting by voting 6 to 3 to approve the warrant reinstating \$100,000 to the FY17 Budget. Ms. Butler reread the School Committee Goals that were developed at the Retreat in September. These goals are located on the DPS website. Ms. Butler also encouraged the Public to stay connected through information on the website or by attending upcoming meetings.

Reports

MCAS/PARCC Assessment Review - Dr. Ian Kelly, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Kelly gave a presentation to update the Committee on the MCAS and PARC scores. The presentation will be available on the DPS website.

The presentation included the transition from MCAS to PARCC; scoring differences between MCAS and PARCC; district accountability; district accountability comparisons; understanding parent PARCC reports; analysis of methodology; Spring 2017 testing - computer vs. paper.

Discussion ensued regarding the direction of ELA in the district; the change in testing modes (MCAS to PARCC and paper to computer); where parents should go for help (Parents should begin at the school with the Teacher and Principal); lack of state averages on the PARCC test (not all districts participate in PARCC, so the data is not available for a state average); looking forward to how the district can improve; test scores are a measure of the district, not the child; using the previous Special Education Audit and the Present ELA audit to keep students in the district.

Old/New Business

Discussion & Vote on DHS Trip to Europe

The discussion and vote on the DHS field trip is being postponed until the next meeting on November 2, 2018 when Ms. Guifarro and Ms. Hellman can be in attendance.

Budget Timeline Discussion- Mr. Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Mr. Rippin briefed the Committee on the Budget Subcommittee meeting that was held this evening. The Subcommittee viewed last year's budget calendar. They also came up with a proposed calendar for this year that Mr. Rippin would like the Committee to vote on at the next meeting. Mr. Rippin has not received the budget timeline from the town, so the subcommittee is using last year's calendar to keep things on track. Mr. Bilafer was elected chair of the Budget Subcommittee.

Discussion and Vote on Book Surplus

Mr. Rippin updated the Committee on a surplus of 107, nine year old math books that he would like to recycle or dispose of in an environmentally friendly way. He asked the Committee to allow him to list the books to be used in another district or allow him to donate them to charity.

Ms. Laprade motioned to allow the surplus textbooks to be disposed of as described, Ms. Briggs second, Committee voted unanimously.

Superintendent's Goals Review

Supt. Welch provided a review of his 15-16 goals at the last School Committee meeting. The Committee asked for some additional time to review and prepare his evaluation.

Ms. Briggs noted that the Committee would be ready at the next meeting. Supt. Welch has prepared preliminary goals, but is waiting for his assessment to adjust them as needed.

Ms. Butler noted to the Committee that there is an invitation in their folders to a training Session on Public Records Law and to RSVP if they were interested in attending.

The Superintendent's 30-Day Update was sent out to the district today and will be posted to the website in the morning.

Minutes

Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the minutes of September 21, 2016 as presented, Ms. White second, Committee voted unanimously.

Ms. Briggs motioned to approve the minutes of October 5, 2016 as presented, Mr. Ryan second, committee voted unanimously.

Donations

Ms. Briggs motioned to accept with grateful appreciation a \$500 donation from Wells Fargo Foundation on behalf of Ms. Virginia Melendez to benefit the Avery School, second by Mr. Ryan, Committee voted unanimously.

Acknowledgements and Announcements

Ms. Briggs noted in a bulletin she had just received from the MASC there was information regarding changes to the way warrants can be approved. She asked for this topic to be discussed further at an upcoming meeting.

Supt. Welch acknowledged Dr. Cynthia Kelly and Kate Conway for covering the Avery School in the absence of Mrs. Sullivan.

Ms. Butler thanked Mr. McCarthy, Dr. Fraczek and Ms. O'Connell for attending last night's meeting regarding homeless children.

Ms. Butler thanked the Youth Commission for sponsoring the recent College Fair held in Dedham Square.

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

Meeting adjourned 8:24 p.m.