

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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**MINUTES**  
**November 30, 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 7:05 p.m.

**Recognitions**

Dedham Middle School Read-Write-Win Contest

Dr. Margo Fraczek, Principal of Dedham Middle School introduced the winners of the summer Read-Write-Win contest- Kathleen DeWinter, grade 6; Clarissa Soda, grade 7; and Ryan Esperant, grade 8. The program is funded by the Dedham Education Foundation and is focused on encouraging kids to read over summer.

### Dedham School of Music

Dedham School of Music students Vivian Boudette , Grade 7 DMS student; Noah Young, Grade 6 DMS student; and Eitan Levy from the Rashi School performed an instrumental piece for the Committee. The group was led by their by their instructor Linden Wu.

Mr. Jeff Bolduc, Fine Arts Director, spoke about the partnership between the Dedham Public Schools and the Dedham School of Music. He also discussed the growth of the band and the addition of Orchestra as a new afterschool program. Mr. Bolduc also noted the importance of the scholarships provided by the Dedham Public Schools which have allowed students to be able to play instruments. Mr. Bolduc has also partnered with the Dedham Community House to sponsor an instrument drive.

Frank Mullen, Board President of Dedham School of Music, talked about how the school was formed when elementary band programs were cut in 2008. When the school originated it was aimed primarily at elementary students; however, today there are programs for students of all ages. Mr. Mullen credits the success of the school to partnerships within the community.

Amy Fichera, Executive Director of the Dedham School of Music described the benefits of music to children. She went on to say that many of the students in the Dedham Public Schools' band and orchestra are also students of the Dedham School of Music and they offer free classes for these students.

Comments and questions from the Committee followed. Mr. Welch noted that he would like every student who wants to play an instrument have the opportunity to do so without financial means getting in the way. He would also like to see Fine Arts become a part to the school day.

Ms. Butler noted that many of the Dedham School of Music Board members were in the room this evening. In attendance were Mike Emery, Margaret Matthews, Henri Gough, Fred Wofford and Michelle Apuzzio. Please visit [dedhamschoolofmusic.org](http://dedhamschoolofmusic.org) for more information.

## **Student Update**

Kayla Haney and Evan Landry updated the School Committee on happenings throughout the Dedham Public Schools. Announcements included Veterans Day assemblies, Thanksgiving food drives, upcoming Holiday events, science assemblies, National Honor Society inductions and athletic activities.

## **Superintendent's Update**

### Michael J. Welch, Superintendent

Dedham Public Schools will have only a half-day of school on December 7 for staff professional development. Parent-teacher conferences are occurring at the elementary schools on that day.

At the District Leadership Team meeting on November 22 discussions took place on the FY17 budget tracking process. Assistant Superintendent Rippin is working with all principals and department heads on their FY18 operating budget requests.

Today Supt. Welch began presenting the framework for a district-wide restructuring plan that will better focus resources on the classroom and improve teacher supports for student learning. He will be presenting this information formally to the School Committee at a future meeting.

Supt. Welch attended the Fall Athletics Banquet sponsored by the Dedham Boosters/Alumni Association last night.

On November 21, Supt. Welch spoke at the Dedham High School National Honor Society induction. He gave a special thanks to NHS Advisors Carol Margolis and Kathleen Dearborn for their many hours of effort with this group and event.

On November 20 Supt. Welch attended and spoke at the Dedham Alumni Association's Athletic Hall Of Fame induction ceremony.

On November 17 Supt. Welch met with Melissa Pearrow from the Dedham Education Foundation to review the most recent round of grant awards made by the organization and assess the requests across the district. Formal grant award notifications will be coming out soon.

On November 18 Supt. Welch met with Police Chief Mike D'Entremont, Fire Chief Bill Spillane, Denise Moroney, Sam Rippin, Public Safety Technology officer Kevin Coleman and School Technology Director Don Langenhorst. This was the second meeting of the group focused on long-range planning for the integration of technology infrastructure between public safety and the schools.

Dr. Ian Kelly provided an update on the "Foundations" literacy program. He announced the materials are scheduled to arrive next week and will be distributed to Grade 1 first. He wants to make sure the first grade teachers have the proper orientation and schooling on the program to ensure its success. He will then have a second round of grade level team meetings before the program is rolled out to Grade 2. He is hoping to have K through 2 up and running on the program by next fall.

Supt. Welch announced he has completed a preliminary DRAFT of a 2017-18 School Year calendar. More details can be discussed later in the meeting.

Steve Traister was unable to attend tonight's meeting, so the Fall Athletics Presentation will be postponed to another meeting.

Ms. Butler noted that the ELA Audit is not being taken lightly and the Committee and Administration are working very hard on it.

## Old/New Business

Mr. Bilafer gave an update on the budget. The subcommittee has been working diligently reviewing the capital budget. It was voted on at a recent budget subcommittee meeting and will be voted by the full Committee at the next open meeting. The budget focuses on safety, energy efficiency and integrating technology.

Mr. Bilafer noted that the schools rely on the town hall for their fiber network and wants to make sure the schools are taken care of during the anticipated move. He also wants be able to take advantage of any e-rates. The next item of business for the budget subcommittee will be reviewing the operating budget.

Mr. Rippin thanked Denise Moroney and Don Langenhort for their input into the capital budget. He has also received the capital budget timeline for the town. Capital budget submissions are due to the Finance Committee on December 19 while operating budgets are due on January 6.

Ms. Butler inquired on how the school budget and town budget are separated. Discussion ensued on the way the town and school warrants are presented together to the Finance Committee. Ms. Butler expressed concerns with this process. She feels this leaves room for error and misinterpretation. Supt. Welch noted he will follow up with the Town Manager, Jim Kern, on the Finance Committee warrants the budget presented.

Supt. Welch announced the 2017-2018 preliminary school calendar has been shared with the Committee. Contractually schools cannot begin before September 1. He also submitted a letter to the Committee from a resident who had concerns over religious holidays not currently acknowledged by the School Department. Current year calendars from other towns have been shared with the Committee for reference purposes.

Ms. Butler wanted it known that she is in support of the district going back to school before Labor Day.

Ms. Laprade stated that she also believes in starting the school year prior to Labor Day.

Discussion ensued among Committee members regarding the possible change to calendar in regards to professional development days, holidays and half days. Discussions will continue over the next few meetings before a final calendar is voted.

Ms. Laprade offered the second reading of the DPS Naloxone/Narcan Policy.

The Overdose Education and Naloxone distribution prevention program under the direction of the Mass Department of Health says the schools must provide and maintain Naloxone for the school nurses to administer to a student, staff member or visitor of the school suspected of having an opioid overdose while on school property. The policy and

procedure describes the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose. There is then a carefully laid out sequential set of procedures which state that emergency medical response such as calling 911 must be initiated, then a careful health assessment of the suspected overdose victim performed followed by a set of detailed Naloxone administration directions to the victim if warranted pending the health assessment results. The policy and procedure also describes the potential victim's reaction as well as adverse effects. It is then stated that the victim must be transported to the nearest hospital by EMS. Student support services will be notified if the victim was a student and substance prevention resources will be provided to the student and family as appropriate. An incident report must be filled out in all cases. This policy and procedure then goes on to describe the necessary training for administration, procurement, storage and disposal of Naloxone.

A full draft of the policy is available on the website. A vote on whether to accept the policy will take place at the December 14 meeting.

## **Minutes**

None

## **Donations**

Mr. Ryan motioned to accept with grateful appreciation a \$300 donation from Attorney Joseph Borsellino of Dailey & Borsellino, P.C. to support the Dedham Middle School scholarship fund for the class trip to Washington, D.C., Ms. White second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Acknowledgements and Announcements**

Ms. Briggs provided a brief SBRC update. The committee met on November 21 and set a timeline for the next two months. The next meeting will be on December 19 followed by two meetings in January. The committee is committed to providing neighbors with clear definitions of timelines.

Ms. Laprade mentioned the "Girls on the Run" race is being held this Sunday and many elementary school girls will be participating. Mr. Welch noted that the event will have some impact to the neighborhood. Mr. Rippin noted that the DHS digital board as well as police signs will be used for notification.

Ms. Butler was interested in finding ways to alert neighbors of large events such as this. Discussions took place regarding using forms of social media.

Ms. White attended the “Turkey Trot” on Thanksgiving Day and was impressed by the number of Dedham students who volunteered to help with the event.

Mr. Ryan asked if students could come sing holiday music at the next School Committee meeting.

Ms. Butler announced the “Learn to Cope” group meetings are held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30pm at Mother Brook. The group is committed to helping families affected by addiction.

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Ms. White motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Briggs second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m.