

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES **March 29, 2017**

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT:

Lisa Laprade

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

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

Meeting Location: Dedham High School Auditorium

Meeting commenced at 7:07 p.m.

Recognitions

The Winter Percussion group, led by Fine Arts Director Jeff Bolduc, performed an instrumental presentation entitled "Maroon Marauders".

The Committee recognized eighth grade student, Jamie Weldon for his accomplishments on the Dedham Middle School Wrestling Team. Jim Maher, Middle School Wrestling Coach, spoke about Jamie's accomplishments.

Student Update

Kayla Haney updated the School Committee on happenings throughout the Dedham Public Schools. Highlights included reading initiatives, the DEF Spelling Bee won by the Avery School Third Grade team, use of new Chromebook carts, the Science Fair sponsored by the Dedham Future Problem Solvers, plays, musicals and concerts. Miss Haney also presented Mr. Ryan and Ms. Butler with cards for their years of service to the district. This is Ms. Butler's and Mr. Ryan's final School Committee meeting on the board.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Michael J. Welch

Karen Hillman was announced as the new permanent principal at Dedham Middle School.

Beginning April 2, Dedham High School will be hosting students from Chengdu, China for one week

On March 7, the FY18 Operating Budget was presented at the Finance and Warrant Committee meeting. The FWC will begin deliberating on the FY18 budget beginning April 6.

Supt. Welch and Technology Director Don Langenhorst will be presenting at the CoSN (Consortium of School Networking) Conference in Chicago on April 3 through 5. They will be presenting Dedham's work on Leadership in Blended and Digital Learning and the recent sponsorship of the TEC Blended Learning seminars held at Dedham Middle School.

Supt. Welch has continued to hold afterschool faculty meetings at all schools to review the FY18 Budget and discuss the District Strategic Improvement Plan.

On March 27, the Negotiations Subcommittee met for the first time with the Dedham Education Association to begin Unit A negotiations.

Last week the Dedham Elementary Principals attended the MESPA Conference (Massachusetts Elementary School Principals Association). Oakdale Principal Holli Caulfield and Riverdale Principal Ed Paris presented a seminar session called "Come Hang Out With Google" highlighting their work using Google applications.

Supt. Welch, Asst. Supt. Ian Kelly, ECEC Principal Paul Sullivan and five Dedham educators attended the Lectio Institute in Boston today. The focus of the institute is early literacy programming.

On Friday, March 23 the Dedham Future Problem Solvers group led by Monika Wilkinson, sponsored the first ever Grade 3-6 Science Fair at the Dedham Middle School library. Over 50 students completed projects and entered the event.

This week, a group of eight teachers and leaders attend the WELN (Women's Educational Leadership Network) conference held at Holy Cross. The keynote speaker was WCVB news anchor Kelly Tuthill.

Dedham High School will be hosting an exclusive showing of the movie SCREENAGERS on Tuesday, April 11 in the auditorium.

Old/New Business

Discussion and Vote of The Education Cooperative (TEC) Board Member

Ms. Briggs provided an account of her five years on the TEC board. As part of a participating member of TEC, the Committee must appoint someone to the Board. Dr. Ian Kelly has volunteered for this position.

Mr. Bilafer proposed a motion to nominate Dr. Ian Kelly as The Education Cooperative Board member, Ms. White second; the Committee voted 6-0 in favor.

Supt. Welch announced TEC FY18 budget is in the shared folder for the Committee to view.

Discussion - District Strategic Improvement Plan

Supt. Welch had continued meeting with staff and community members regarding questions surrounding the district restructuring. He met with Greenlodge staff this week. There is also a Question and Answer document on the district website. The Administration is moving forward with hiring and is working on the MOU for Unit A.

Discussion and Vote of Superintendent's Contract

Ms. Butler read a statement about Supt. Welch's accomplishments and commitment to the students of Dedham over the past three years. She announced Supt. Welch will be offered a six-year contract.

Mr. Butler proposed a motion that the School Committee approve the proposed contract with Superintendent of Schools Michael Welch, which will be effective from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2023, Mr. Ryan moved the motion, Mr. Coughlin second; the Committee took a roll call vote:

Mayanne Briggs - Yes
Steve Bilafer -Yes
Kevin Coughlin -Yes
Tracey White - Yes
Tom Ryan - Yes
Susan Butler- Yes

Motion passed.

Ms. Briggs proposed a motion that the School Committee authorize the Chair to sign the employment agreement with Superintendent of Schools Michael Welch on behalf of the Committee, Mr. Bilafer moved the motion; Ms White second, the Committee voted 6-0 in favor.

Supt. Welch made a statement thanking the Committee.

Minutes

Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the minutes of March 15, 2017 as presented, Mr. Ryan second; the Committee voted 6-0 in favor.

Donations

Mr. Bilafer motioned to accept with grateful appreciation a donation of several grants totaling \$15,950 from The Schools to Career Partnership in support of the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards in grades PK through 5, Ms. Briggs second; the Committee voted 6-0 in favor.

Public Comment

Ms. Butler made a statement about her time of six years on the School Committee as this was her last meeting as a board member.

Mr. Ryan made a statement about his time of fifteen years on the School Committee as this was his last meeting as a board member.

The Committee members thanked Mr. Ryan and Ms. Butler for all of their time and commitment to the Committee.

Acknowledgements and Announcements

The Dedham Education Foundations 25th Gala will be this Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Endicott Estate.

Cheryl Schoenfeld and the Town of Dedham's Public Service Committee is seeking nominations for its Unsung Hero Award. Forms can be found on the Town's website. The deadline is March 30.

Mr. Coughlin motioned to end the meeting, Ms. White second; the Committee voted 6-0 in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.