

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES **April 12, 2017**

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Mayanne Briggs, New Chair
Steve Bilafer, New Vice-Chair
Kevin Coughlin
Joshua Donati
Lisa Laprade
Melissa Pearrow
Tracey White

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT:

None

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

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

Meeting Location: Avery School

Meeting commenced at 7:03 p.m.

Induction of New School Committee Members

Dedham Town Clerk Paul Munchbach inducted Joshua Donati and Melissa Pearrow to the School Committee.

Supt. Welch proposed a motion to nominate new chairs. Ms. White moved to nominate Ms. Briggs for Chair, Mr. Coughlin second, no discussion, Committee voted 6-0 in favor.

Ms. Briggs motioned to nominate Mr. Bilafer as Vice-Chair, Mr. Laprade moved the motion, Ms. White second, no discussion, Committee voted 6-0 in favor.

Recognitions

The Committee recognized Greenlodge third graders, Emily Tarrant and Madeline Chu, who organized a fundraiser to support the STAR program. The girls sold homemade slime during recess and raised \$134.

The Committee introduced Karen Hillman, the new Middle School Principal, to the audience. Ms. Hillman gave a brief summary of her background qualifications for the position.

Student Update

None

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Michael J. Welch

Supt. Welch and Technology Director Don Langenhorst presented at the CoSN (Consortium of School Networking) Conference in Chicago April 3-5. The presentation focused on Dedham's work on Leadership in Blended and Digital Learning and Dedham's recent sponsorship of the TEC Blended Learning seminars involving ten neighboring school districts.

Last night, Dedham's Finance and Warrant Committee deliberated on the FY18 Operating Budget. Supt. Welch reported that the Committee favorably voted to endorse the Town Manager's recommendations for the Dedham Public School's FY18 Operating Budget and the DPS FY18 Capital Budget.

Supt. Welch held his final after-school faculty meeting at the Greenlodge School to review the FY18 Budget and discuss the District Strategic Improvement Plan.

The next scheduled session of Unit A contract negotiations with the Dedham Education Association is Wednesday, April 26.

Supt. Welch and his wife attended the Dedham Education Foundation's 25th Anniversary Celebration at the Endicott Estate.

At the end of March, a team of eight DPS representatives finished a comprehensive three-day Lectio Institute at WGBH in Boston. The group consisted of two first-grade teachers, Mr. Welch, Drs. Kelly and Sullivan, our early childhood coordinator, a kindergarten teacher and a preschool teacher.

Last night Dedham High School hosted a showing of the movie SCREENAGERS. Over 70 parents, faculty, and students attended. Principals Ron McCarthy and Margo Fraczek moderated a discussion following the movie.

Supt. Welch heard from CMS/ECEC Project Manager Paul Griffin yesterday indicating that the site work/demolition contractor, C.J. Mabardy, will begin working slightly longer shifts each day at the Dexter School site to accelerate work on the excavation and blasting of ledge. Supt. Welch sent an email notifying abutters of this change.

Yesterday afternoon approximately fifty faculty members and administrators attended the spring meeting of Dedham's Aspiring Leaders Academy at the MIT Endicott House. The featured speaker was Dr. Patricia Grenier.

On April 7, a preliminary "ground breaking" ceremony was held at the site of the new ECEC at

the Dexter School. This was done to capture images of the old Dexter School before it is torn down this week.

Reports

Increase to School Lunch Fees

Food Service Director Jeanne Johnson presented a report to the Committee detailing the lunch program and services provided by the Food Service Department. Ms. Johnson is also requesting a twenty-five cent increase to school lunch fees. Her presentation will be available on the DPS website. One of the main reasons for the increase is that the government reimbursement rate cannot be higher than the lunch rate.

Comments and questions from the Committee followed.

Ms. Laprade inquired about the breakfast program. Ms. Johnson explained that all the schools now have a breakfast program. A discussion occurred regarding the participation increase at Oakdale. Ms. Johnson feels it is because Oakdale has a set snack time and breakfast items do not need to be preordered.

Mr. Donati inquired if there were any concerns that a price increase would prevent students from purchasing a school lunch. Ms. Johnson stated the industry standard is to expect a 3% drop. However, Ms. Johnson has never seen this happen.

Mr. Coughlin complimented the Food Service Department for educating students and not just serving food. He feels that the price - even with the increase - is still affordable.

Mr. Bilafer suggested promoting the catering services and opening up lunch to Town employees as a way to defer costs.

Ms. White suggested opening up lunch services to Senior Citizens as well. Ms. Johnson has conversed with Supt. Welch regarding ways to reach out to the community. She has his full support regarding community outreach.

Ms. Briggs inquired if Ms. Johnson has worked with KBA on the design of the food service area in the new ECEC. Ms. Johnson has and it will contain a full service kitchen.

Supt. Welch thanked Ms. Johnson for all of her hard work and is recommending to the Committee to approve the proposed rate increase.

Old/New Business

Discussion - District Strategic Improvement Plan

Supt. Welch updated the Committee on the many job searches currently occurring including the new Curriculum Coordinator positions. He is hoping to have an announcement on these positions tomorrow. The finalists for the position of Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services will be interviewed on Thursday. The selection process for the position of Director of Counseling Services is down to four finalists who will be interviewed after vacation. Instructional Coach Interviews are occurring this week. He also stated the Dr. Fraczek has been continuing her work on the Middle School schedule.

Ms. Laprade inquired if a parent will be involved in the interviews for the finalist for the Asst. Supt. of Pupil Services. Supt. Welch did state that parent volunteers were asked to be on the panel during the initial interviews.

Mr. Bilafer inquired if we will need a MOU with the DEA for the new instructional coaching positions. Supt. Welch stated that they would and that this was a major discussion in impact bargaining. He has talked to the attorney about drafting an agreement.

Ms. Briggs inquired if the DMS schedule will be ready for discussion at the next Policy Subcommittee meeting. Supt. Welch stated that it would and that Dr. Fraczek would also attend a future School Committee meeting to review the schedule with the entire board.

Ms. Pearrow inquired as to when the interviews will be completed. Supt. Welch is hoping to have them completed by the second week in May. Although he cannot make any guarantees, he is working hard not to bump any non-professional staff.

Discussion - Parks and Recreation MOU

Ms. Briggs asked for a copy of the MOU to be forwarded to Bob Stanley at the Parks & Recreation Department.

Supt. Welch explained how the fields adjacent to the schools are permitted by Parks and Recreation. He reviewed the snow dumping that took place on the Avery field a couple of years ago and how the field has been redone and now needs to be maintained. The maintenance cost will come out of the school budget. Gonzales Field is also being redone and the pool field is slated for rehabilitation. The Parks and Recreation Department is short on fields. The School Department is allowing Parks & Rec. to use the field behind the Avery School this summer in lieu of the pool field. The current MOU is the next generation agreement between the School Department and the Parks and Recreation Department regarding the maintenance of school fields.

Mr. Coughlin noted the only change is that Parks and Rec. will be permitting the practice field and was interested in when the School Department would get the field back. Supt. Welch stated that he was unsure how long it would be permitted by Parks and Rec and would have to revisit it next year. Mr. Coughlin inquired as to what sports would be played on this field. Supt. Welch stated Youth Soccer. Mr. Coughlin then inquired on how this field would be coordinated with the use of the High School field for parking purposes. Supt. Welch agreed that the School Department needed to be more sensitive to the activities going on at surrounding fields and facilities. Mr. Coughlin asked for copies of the Building Use Forms until the end of the year. Mr. Coughlin also inquired if the Finance Department had approved funding for the fields. Mr. Rippin responded in the affirmative but noted that no funds were provided for the backstops.

Mr. Bilafer inquired if there were a Google calendar of events that the Committee could access. He would like to see a collaborative effort next year with Parks and Rec. to be able present necessities to FinCom.

Ms. White expressed the same concerns as Mr. Coughlin regarding congestion of parking and inquired if there were a way to use ConnectEd for communication to neighbors. A discussion about the limitations of ConnectEd followed. Ms. White inquired as to when the pool field would be back in use. Mr. Rippin felt the field would probably not be ready until the spring of 2018. He also spoke to the traffic congestion, noting that when multiple events take place on the Avey/High School/Middle School Campus that traffic details will need to be paid by the renters. He also has reached out to the Town about notification to neighbors using 'reverse 911' services.

The Town feels this service should only be used for emergency purposes. Mr. Rippin is trying to utilize signage at this time for notifications. School Dude does have a calendar capacity and it is a goal to be able to use this feature in the future.

Ms. Pearrow inquired about the field space at the new ECEC. Mr. Rippin explained that there is not a large enough space for sports on that property. The old ECEC is already covered by the current MOU.

Ms. Laprade asked where the Swim and Gym tents would be placed. Supt. Welch stated the Avery field has been offered, but he has not received confirmation that they will be using it.

Ms. Briggs brought up the topic of the name of the field adjacent to the Avery School. Some people refer to it as the Avery field, but in the past it has always been referred to as the High School practice field. Ms. Briggs would like to see it continue to be referred to as the High School practice field.

Minutes

Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the minutes of March 29, 2017 as presented, Ms. White second; the Committee voted 4-0 in favor. Ms. Laprade, Ms. Pearrow and Mr. Donati abstained from the vote as they were not in attendance on March 29.

Donations

Ms. Pearrow motioned to accept with grateful appreciation a donation in the amount of \$134 from third grade students Emily Tarrant and Madeline Chu to support the Greenlodge School STAR program, Ms. White second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Public Comment

None

Acknowledgements and Announcements

Ms. Briggs announced that School Committee meetings for the remainder of the 2016-2017 School year will be held on Tuesday evenings. The new dates for the meetings are April 25, May 2, May 16, June 6 and June 20.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.