

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES **June 20, 2017**

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Mayanne Briggs, Chair
Steve Bilafer, 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 Welch, Superintendent (arrived @ 8:00 p.m.)
Dr. Ian Kelly, Assistant Superintendent
Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance

Meeting Location: Avery Elementary School

Meeting commenced at 7:02 p.m.

Recognitions

The Committee recognized 4th and 5th grade students from the Avery Elementary School, the Greenlodge Elementary School, and the Oakdale Elementary School who scored impressive grades on the New England Math League assessment. Math Coach Nancy Clement, Avery Principal Clare Sullivan, Greenlodge Principal Ashley Bodkins and Oakdale Principal Holli Caulfield presented certificates to the students in attendance.

The Committee and Technology Director Don Langenhorst recognized Dedham Savings Bank for their generous donation of \$10,203 to purchase Chromebook covers to benefit students in grades 6, 11 and 12. Dedham Savings Executive Vice President Gerard Lavoie and CFO Mark Ingalls attended the meeting to accept the public acknowledgement from the Committee.

Mr. Bilafer motioned to accept with grateful appreciation the \$10,203 donation from Dedham Savings Bank to cover the cost of 600 Chromebook cases, Ms. White second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

The Committee honored Avery School's Library Media Specialist, Wendy Garland, who was the recipient of the Massachusetts School Library Association's 2017 "Super Librarian" Award. Technology Director Don Langenhorst and MSLA Metrowest Co-Area Director Patsy Divver presented Ms. Garland with her award.

Reports

Technology Update - Technology Director Don Langenhorst

This presentation included educational technology planning, universal design for learning, curriculum standards, professional development, website transition, student data privacy, information integration, online parental systems, and infrastructure. Dr. Langenhorst noted that Dedham has 1:1 technology for students in grades 3 through 12. The presentation will be available on the DPS website.

Comments and questions from the Committee followed.

Ms Laprade asked what the advantage of more technology is for students. Dr. Langenhorst explained that the devices are for educational purposes. Although they are sent home, they are monitored and filtered for safety and security. Ms. Laprade also inquired whether students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will have programs that are diversified for the students. Dr. Langenhorst replied in the affirmative elaborating on how the applications are always improving.

Mr. Donati inquired about what programs were the main focus for personalized learning. Dr. Kelly noted that computers are not teaching the children, teachers are. He stated that applications are a tool for teachers to use. The administration is making sure that the growing use of technology is taking place in appropriate ways. Dr. Kelly elaborated on personalized learning through the use of instructional coaching.

Ms. White inquired into the fiber ring. Dr. Langenhorst described how the current system is connected by cables and is difficult to fix. The school district was offered an E-rate to switch to fiber. The E-rate will cover half the cost of the fiber ring.

Mr. Coughlin asked if the new Town Hall will be included in the fiber ring. Dr. Langenhorst stated that it would.

Ms. Pearrow inquired into the 4 I's project. Dr. Langenhorst explained how linking the databases will provide cleaner data.

Mr. Bilafer stated his concerns about the current website not being very intuitive and asked if parents could be surveyed for additional needs. Dr. Langenhorst explained how a stipend position has been created to help with the transition to the new website and the person will also help to keep the website updated.

Ms. Briggs inquired whether a questionnaire could be sent out to parents on the use of the website.

Ms. Briggs noted the next item for discussion would be taken out of order.

Discussion and Vote on Naming of Custodian Office at Greenlodge School

Greenlodge Principal Ashley Bodkins spoke to the Committee about naming the custodian office at the Greenlodge School after recently retired, long time custodian Joseph Feely. A plaque with Mr. Feely's name and picture would hang outside the office. The Policy subcommittee had already voted unanimously to approve this proposal.

Ms. White motioned to name the Greenlodge custodian office after retired custodian Joe Feely, Ms. Pearrow second, the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Dedham High School Student Requirements Presentation by Interim Principal James Forrest

Assistant Vice-Principal Kristy Yankee, along with many of the department heads were in attendance for the presentation. Mr. Forrest reviewed three proposals for new student requirements - changing the mathematics requirement from 3 years to 4 years, realigning the College Prep 2 GPA to be the same as College Prep 1, and changing the afterschool activities eligibility from passing 4 classes to 5 classes. The presentation will be available on the DPS website.

Discussion and questions followed.

Ms. White stated that she feels these changes will bring increased rigor to high school academics and believes the students are capable of doing the work.

Ms. Laprade noted that the changes to the student requirements were discussed at two Policy Subcommittee meetings and received full support with a 3-0 vote.

Supt. Welch said that the changes will begin with the incoming freshman in the fall of 2017.

Ms. Briggs confirmed that the changes to the eligibility for after school activities encompassed all extracurricular activities.

Ms. White motioned to approve the three changes to the student requirements as presented and voted by the Policy Subcommittee; Mr. Coughlin second, the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Old/New Business

Discussion and Vote on Naming the Language Lab at DHS

Foreign Language Chair Alison Guifarro is requesting renaming the Dedham High School Foreign Language lab after her mentor, long time teacher and former Department Chair Nancy Bradley. The Policy subcommittee had already discussed and voted unanimously to approve this proposal.

Mr. Coughlin motioned, with honor, to rename the Dedham High School Foreign Language Lab after Nancy Bradley, Ms. White second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Subcommittee Reports & Updates

Ms. Laprade made a second reading of the proposed policy for security cameras on school property. The policy is available on the DPS district website. The third reading will be at the next School Committee meeting.

Mr. Rippin spoke about the security cameras that will be installed on all school busses under the new contract with Connolly Bus.

Supt. Welch explained that the policy will apply to school busses and cameras in common areas at the new ECEC. There are already cameras on the outside of school buildings. Security cameras will not be in classrooms or private areas.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Michael J. Welch

The last day of school will be Friday, June 23. It is a half day for all students, but a full day for faculty and staff.

The district sent a team of nine people to the Lectio conference on June 9. Lectio is a consulting group from Harvard that works with communities on early literacy development for children aged 0 to 8. The Dedham team included Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ian Kelly, ECEC Principal Dr. Paul Sullivan, Early Childhood Coordinator Rebecca McCabe, incoming PreK-8 Curriculum Coordinator Dr. Heather Smith, ECEC Literacy Coach Kristen Cannon, as well as four classroom teachers.

The ECEC Architect, KBA, and project manager, CMS, have continued their series of meetings to discuss plans for the new ECEC. KBA should have their 90% documents completed by later this month for submission to the MSBA.

The negotiations subcommittee held its third negotiation session with the Dedham Education Association on June 14.

Dedham sent a team of principals and directors to the Department of Education's Personalized Learning conference in Marlboro on June 12. Discussions included the changes needed in policies and practices toward providing more personalized (differentiated) instruction to our students in the future.

On June 14, Dedham hosted the Teaching and Learning Alliance to discuss their work in classrooms throughout the district at the elementary level. TLA sent teams into the schools to follow up and provide guidance regarding upcoming professional development priorities for 2017-18. TLA met with all elementary principals, elementary instructional coaches, Dr. Kelly, Dr. Smith, and Supt. Welch to refine professional development plans.

The School Committee attended the Rail Trail Feasibility Study presentation at Dedham Middle School on June 13. Supt. Welch looks forward to additional conversation and studies regarding

traffic and pedestrian flow around the Avery-DHS-DMS campus and remains concerned about the safety of students and staff in the proposed rail trail corridor.

There will be a Game On! Level Up! Technology P.D. conference on June 26 and June 27 at DMS. Over 80 Dedham teachers have signed up to participate in this extensive two-day training on the implementation of increased differentiation and blended learning through the use of technology.

We will have our annual Administrative Leadership Team Summer Retreat on June 28 and 29 at Dedham Middle School. Teachers21 will be working with the district on the 29th to help fine-tune calibration and practices regarding teacher supervision and evaluation.

Minutes

Ms. White motioned to approve the minutes of June 2, 2017 as presented, Ms. Pearrow second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Donations

Mr. Rippin stated there are two donations for the DMS Mural project. One is in the amount of \$3,000 from Dedham Savings and one for \$1,000 from the Dedham Education Partnership.

Discussion from the Committee occurred.

Ms. White inquired whether the donations were for work already completed. Mr. Rippin explained that the funds will be used to cover the expenses for materials. Any unused funds will be offered back to the donors.

Mr. Coughlin inquired whether all the money was earmarked for materials. Supt. Welch explained that the funds covered expenses plus the cost of the visiting artist.

Mr. Bilafer inquired into the policy for administering grants. Mr. Rippin explained that the Committee votes on all grants. There is currently no reporting or requirements for donors after the grant has been accepted.

Ms. Pearrow motioned to accept with grateful appreciation \$3,000 from Dedham Savings and \$1,000 from the DEP to cover the cost of supplies for the community mural project, Ms. Laprade second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Mr. Donati motioned to accept, with grateful appreciation, two donations to Dedham Middle School. One in the amount of \$250 from Dedham Savings Bank to support the Gay Straight Alliance Program and one in the amount of \$800 from the Dedham Police Department to support the Academic At-Risk Mentoring Program. Ms. White second; The Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Mr. Bilafer motioned to accept, with grateful appreciation, two \$1,000 donations from the Dedham Flag Day Parade Committee to support the Dedham Middle School and Dedham High School band programs, Ms. Laprade second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Public Comment

None

Acknowledgements and Announcements

Ms. Pearrow made special mention of the “Why You Matter” signs posted in the hallways at Dedham Middle School.

Mr. Donati mentioned he has recently met with a group comprised of members from different organizations around Dedham and discussed the dynamics of the new Senior Center as well as possible names.

Mr. Bilafer wanted to publically endorse having a piece of the community mural donated to the new Town Hall.

Ms. Briggs noted the need to enter Executive Session.

Ms. White motioned to enter Executive Session under Exemption 3, Ms. Pearrow second; a roll call vote was taken:

Lisa Laprade- Yes
Joshua Donati- Yes
Melissa Pearrow- Yes
Kevin Coughlin- Yes
Tracey White- Yes
Steve Bilafer- Yes
Mayanne Briggs- Yes

Ms. Briggs noted that the Committee would not be returning to the open meeting.

Regular Meeting Concluded at 8:52 p.m.