

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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**MINUTES**

**December 19, 2017**

*(Approved January 30, 2018)*

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  
Dr. Ian Kelly, Assistant Superintendent  
Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance

Meeting Location: Dedham High School

Beginning at 6:40 p.m. the Committee enjoyed musical performances by the Middle School jazz band under the direction of Music Teacher Jeff Taylor, the Avery School Bell Choir under the direction of Music Teacher Sara Allen, and the High School Chamber Choir under the direction of Music Teacher Nate Haywood.

Meeting commenced at 6:52 p.m.

The Committee introduced themselves to the audience.

**Recognitions**

Director of Fine Arts Jeff Bolduc and Music Teacher Nate Haywood recognized Junior Joshua Wilson who was accepted into the Eastern District Choir and was also recommended to audition for All-State.

## **Student Update**

Evan Landry provided the Committee with an update on happenings and events occurring throughout the Dedham Public Schools.

### **Dedham High School Presentation**

Principal James Forrest provided the committee with an update on Dedham High School. The Presentation will be available on the District website. Mr. Forrest introduced the new Guidance Career Counselor Ashley Mansfield. Ms. Mansfield spoke describing her work with students, connections DHS has made with community businesses and organizations, professional writing workshops, and upcoming Guidance events and initiatives. Mr. Forrest thanked the Committee for supporting the position of the Career Counselor as he has already found it an invaluable resource. The presentation also included the culture of DHS, support initiatives for teachers, the MWAHS and how the data is being used to improve awareness, cultural proficiency and safe schools. Students Bryson Badeau, grade 12, and Anna Tsisar, grade 10, spoke about DHS Challenge Day, a program initiated to bring about awareness and student unity. Mr. Forrest thanked the Town for the funding of a new Art Teacher and School Psychologist. He is also pleased with the move to the Tri-Valley League. He ended noting that there have currently been 13 new students enrolled into the High School from Puerto Rico and the staff is working diligently to help with their transition.

Mr. Coughlin thanked Mr. Forrest for stepping up and taking on the role of principal this year.

Dr. Pearrow inquired into how students were selected for Challenge Day. Mr. Forrest explained that the event is difficult to organize and expose to all students at the same time, because it takes staff away from their building obligations. Students were able to self select; however teachers were also brought into the process to help with the selection.

Mr. Donati noted that he appreciates Mr. Forrest allowing the staff to express themselves and giving them opportunities to de-stress.

Ms. Laprade asked if Challenge Day occurred at DHS. Mr. Forrest stated it did. She also asked how students find out about volunteer opportunities or community service. Mr. Forrest stated that notices are sent to students via email, morning announcements and also available on the Guidance webpage.

Mr. Billafer expressed his appreciation for the positive climate at the school. He also asked how Challenge Day was funded. Mr. Forrest stated the money came out of school funds. Mr. Billafer asked him to let the Committee know if more funds were needed for this program.

Ms. Briggs thanked the Dedham High School team for all of their hard work and appreciated the Challenge Day experience that was provided to the students. She reiterated to let the Committee know if there was anything they can do to help fund the program.

Supt. Welch also congratulated Mr. Forrest for the direction he is taking Dedham High School.

Mr. Forrest thanked the Department Heads for all of their hard work and stated that DHS is still focused on academics.

Ms. Laprade, who works for a biotech firm, offered to have High School students come and visit her company as part of the Career Counseling initiatives.

#### Questions from DHS Community

Mrs. Lisa Moran spoke giving a parent's perspective on Challenge Day and described her son's positive experience.

## **Superintendent's Update**

#### Superintendent Michael J. Welch

December 22 will be a half day early release to begin the December holiday break. Dismissal times for all schools will be according to a typical half day schedule.

Supt. Welch noted the District has continued to enroll new students displaced from Puerto Rico as a result of Hurricane Maria. At last count 31 new students have enrolled (10 students at Oakdale, 6 students at the Middle School, and 15 students at the High School.) The community was very supportive in providing necessities for new residents over the past weekend. A collection was organized at a room provided by Victory Grill where students and families had access to the many items donated by the community. Supt. Welch extended his personal and public thanks to Assistant Town Manager Nancy Baker for helping coordinate the effort.

Last week, Supt. Welch attended two different monthly superintendent discussion groups. He asked each group how many new students they have enrolled so far this year as a result of displacements from the hurricane. The highest number of new students in any one district was 6.

Director of Health Services Gail Kelley sent out a parental notification today informing all parents about the SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) screenings that will take place for all students in grades 7 to 10. SBIRT screenings were mandated by the Department of Education in 2016.

Dedham Middle School Principal Karen Hillman conducted grade wide assemblies last week to inform the school community about recent graffiti incidents in the building. The faculty devised an educationally appropriate manner in which to respond to these acts. Investigations are ongoing.

The Dedham Public Schools Equity & Inclusion Task Force is planning a community celebration at Dedham Middle School on Monday, January 15, 2018 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. The district is also sponsoring an essay/speech contest for all students in the district. Winners of the contest will be invited to present their speeches on the night of the event

## Reports

### Discussion and Vote on FY19 Capital Budget

Director of Facilities, Denise Moroney, presented the Committee with a report on the FY19 School Capital Budget requests. The presentation will be available on the District website. The presentation reviewed the steps involved in developing the Capital Budget as well as the top 13 projects needing funding:

1 - HVAC RTU Replacements \$300,000
2 - Oakdale HVAC/Electrical Improvements \$100,000
3 - School Field Fencing \$30,000
4 - Shade Replacements \$85,000
5 - Asbestos Abatement \$75,000
6 - Exterior Repairs \$50,000
7 - Wood Shop Renovations \$60,000
8 - Roof Repairs \$50,000
9 - Plumbing Renovations \$50,000
10 - Exterior Doors \$25,000
11 - Library Improvements \$65,000
12 - Storage Improvements \$25,000
13 - Playground ADA Improvements \$200,000
<b>Total Projects 1-13: \$1,115,000</b>

Ms. Laprade inquired if any grant funding from the Commission on Disabilities would help cover the cost of a pour and place playground service. Mr. Rippin noted that the District has applied for a matching grant from last year's capital expense and that the application is in the review process. Word should come in January and that will determine what can be done with the Riverdale playground.

Mr. Coughlin asked about the plans for the library and storage improvements. Ms. Moroney explained that improvements are needed at the Greenlodge Elementary School. The new Assistant Facilities Director Amy Colleran is an architect and has been able to draft designs for the space. Ms. Moroney is hoping to have the trade staff perform the work. Being able to design the space and carry out the work with in-house staff should save a considerable amount of money.

Mr. Bilafer inquired into the asbestos abatement funds. Ms. Moroney explained the fund have been expended and needs to be replenished. The cost of maintaining asbestos abatement is too high to come out of the operating budget, it needs to come from Capital.

Supt. Welch thanked the Budget Subcommittee and Ms. Moroney for cutting down the list from 69 items to 13 items.

Mr. Bilafer noted the 69 items were not “wish list” items, but items and maintenance needed due to aging buildings.

Mr. Coughlin stated that on November 20 the Budget Subcommittee voted unanimously to move forward with the proposed Capital Budget.

Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the Capital Budget of 13 projects totaling \$1,115,000, Ms. White second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Mr. Coughlin stated that on November 20 the Budget Subcommittee voted unanimously to move forward with the proposed Technology Budget.

Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the Technology Budget in the amount of \$348,709, Ms. White second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

## **Old/New Business**

### Discussion and Vote on 2017-2018 Unit B MOA

Ms. Briggs stated that the Committee voted in Executive Session to approve the Unit B MOA and the Education Interventionist MOA. No further discussion occurred.

Mr. Bilafer motioned to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Dedham School Committee and Unit B Administrators effective 9/1/2017 through 8/31/2018, Ms. White second; a roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion passed 7-0.

### Discussion and Vote on 2017-2018 Educational Interventionist MOA

Mr. Bilafer motioned to approve the MOA between the Dedham School Committee and the Dedham Education Association Education Interventionists (formally Title 1) effective 9/1/2017 through 8/31/2018, Mr. Coughlin second; a roll call vote was taken:

Lisa Laprade- Yes  
Joshua Donati- Yes  
Melissa Pearrow- Yes  
Kevin Coughlin- Yes  
Tracey White- Yes

Steve Bilafer, Vice-Chair- Yes  
Mayanne Briggs, Chair- Yes

Motion approved 7-0.

## **Subcommittee Reports & Updates**

### Policy section e support services

Ms. Laprade noted that as of December 6 the policy review was completed by the Policy Subcommittee.

Ms. Laprade summarized the second reading of four new proposed policies to section E- Support Services. The policies are listed in full on the District website.

- *EEAA- Walkers and Riders*
- *EEAEA Bus Drive Examination and Training*
- *EEAEA-1 Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers*
- *EEAJ- Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds*

### Equity and Inclusion Task Force

Mr. Donati noted the Committee met last Wednesday evening to discuss the graffiti incident that occurred at DMS. Middle School Principal Karen Hillman was at the meeting as well to help address any concerns. The Task Force discussed how the teacher's and administration handled the issue. Many staff members wrote poems to help express themselves to students. Mr. Donati was pleased with the sense of community from the staff.

The Task Force also discussed the incoming students from Puerto Rico and what can be done to help with their transition. They discussed the collection of donations for the event that occurred this past weekend at Victory Grill.

The Task Force is putting together a celebration for Martin Luther King Day on January 15, 2018 at Dedham Middle School. Task Force is hoping to make this an annual event.

## **Minutes**

Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the minutes of December 5, 2017 as presented, Mr. Donati second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Ms. Laprade motioned to approve the minutes of December 12, 2017 as presented, Dr. Pearrow second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

### Release of Executive Session Minutes

The Committee voted in Executive Session on December 12 to release the Executive Session Minutes from 2016-2017.

Mr. Bilafer motioned to approve the release of the Executive Session minutes from November 2, 2017 as redacted, Ms. White second; the Committee voted 5-0 in favor. Dr. Pearrow and Mr. Donoti abstained as they were not in attendance on 11/2/2016.

Mr. Bilafer motioned to approve the release of the Executive Session minutes from December 14, 2016 in its entirety, Mr. Coughlin second; the Committee voted 5-0 in favor. Dr. Pearrow and Mr. Donoti abstained as they were not in attendance on 12/14/2016.

Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the release of the Executive Session minutes from March 1, 2017 in its entirety, Ms. Laprade second; the Committee voted 5-0 in favor. Dr. Pearrow and Mr. Donoti abstained as they were not in attendance on 3/1/2017.

Dr. Pearrow motioned to approve the release of the Executive Session minutes from May 16, 2017 in its entirety, Mr. Donati second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

### **Donations**

Mr. Bilafer motioned to approve with grateful appreciation a donation in the amount of \$100 from Lueders Environmental, Inc. to the Dedham Public Schools, Ms. White second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Acknowledgements and Announcements**

Ms. Briggs thanked the residents of Dedham for all of their generosity and support to the families who have recently moved to Dedham from Puerto Rico. She also thanked Laura Kelley (Director of Health Service Gail Kelley's daughter) and all the others who helped translating with the new families.

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

Meeting Commenced at 8:25 p.m.