

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE RETREAT

MINUTES

January 9, 2018

(Approved January 30, 2018)

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Mayanne Briggs, Chair
Steve Bilafer, Vice-Chair
Kevin Coughlin
Joshua Donati
Lisa Laprade- arrived 6:43 p.m.
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: Superintendent's Office

Meeting commenced at 6:38 p.m.

NESDEC Enrollment Projections

Committee reviewed NESDEC enrollment projections

- There has been an uptick in births which will increase Kindergarten numbers over the next few years
- Committee discussed the fluctuation of the graph in terms of births and Kindergarten numbers between 2007 and 2017

FY19 Operating Budget Projections

The Committee reviewed the FY18 base budget

- Cost of personnel is on the rise
 - 3.7 percent increase to budget just in personnel cost
 - Why?
 - When Unit A receives a 2% raise only 47% actually get the 2% raise. The other 53% increase step in addition to the 2 percent raise (costing closer to 4%)
 - Staff moving/changing lanes
 - Paraprofessionals now have steps

- Low retirement rate
- Circuit Breaker Reduction
 - Decreased to 63%

Capital Budget Book for Finance Committee

The Committee reviewed the new format of the Capital Budget Book

- Includes Facilities and Technology
- Book completely available electronically
- Finance Committee benchmarking request from School Department due on Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Unit A Salary Scales from 20 other districts

The Committee reviewed and compared the 2017-2018 salary scales from 20 other districts

2017-18 School Committee Goals

- The Committee reviewed their goals that were approved on September 5, 2017
- Goals are available on the district website
- Need to focus more on Communication & Public Relations

2013 Master Plan

The Committee discussed the 2013 Master Plan

- History of 2013 Master Plan
 - Cost - \$350,000
 - State of Facilities
 - Educational Model
- The Committee discussed neighborhood Schools versus other models
 - Capacity of Avery School
 - Lack of land/space
 - Need for three new schools
 - MSBA reevaluation of schools
 - Oakdale is the only level 3 School
 - High School ranked as a Level 1 School
 - Educational Model vs. Need for facilities
- Capen School
 - Swing Space
 - Rental Property
 - Transitional Programs
 - Coop Programs

Committee discussed requesting funds for New Master Plan at Spring Town Meeting vs. Fall Town Meeting

- Must update plan because ECEC is now under construction
- MSBA - Accelerated Repairs route
 - Renovating Schools

- Adding Cafeterias
 - Improving HVAC
 - Cost of renovating vs. a new building
- Building three new schools
 - Require town ballot
 - Need community support

School Committee discussed how they have held meetings at all the schools to gather information on school needs.

Committee expressed that School upgrades/needs should be included in Superintendents State of the Schools address.

Master plan needs to dictate use of Capen building

Ms. Briggs, Mr. Bilafer, Ms. Laprade and Mr. Coughlin voiced in favor of requesting funds at Spring Town meeting.

- It will be the only school committee request at town meeting
- Plans take up to six months to complete
- Cannot make determination of next steps until development of a new Master Plan
- No access to Robin Reyes Fund until 2021
- Committee reviewed wording of previous articles
- Need a vote in Open Session to put forward article to Town Meeting

Superintendent’s State of the Schools Address on January 16, 2018

Committee discussed topics to include at the State of the Schools Address

- Restructuring Update
- Budget
- Curriculum Update
 - Equity
- School Committee visits to Schools
 - Needs of students
- Training for Teachers
 - Pull outs are pretty much complete
- School Committee Goals
- Middle School Rotating Schedule
 - Electives
 - Feedback
- Full Day Kindergarten
- Equity & Inclusion Task Force
 - Staff Response to incident at DMS
 - Community response to families displaced from Puerto Rico

Promote State of Schools Address through Principals and Blackboard Connect.

Housekeeping Items

- Upcoming meetings
 - School Improvement Plans
 - Location of meetings
- Superintendent's evaluation
 - Please return to Ms. Briggs
- Length of meetings
- Flow of questions at meetings
- Policy Review
 - Need one additional meeting to wrap up review and vote on recommending new polices to the Board
 - Complete readings at upcoming meetings
- Communications and Public relations needs more attention
 - Survey information
 - Action Steps
- Elementary Progress Reports
 - Dr. Kelly is working on aligning reports to curriculum.
 - Requests will need to be brought in front of Committee
- Time Management
 - Elementary schedule differences
 - Academic vs. non-academic times
 - Primary vs. Secondary scheduling
- Tackling Start Times
 - Starting the conversation- How?
 - Contract language
 - Bussing expenses
 - Daylight

Mr. Bilafer motioned to close the meeting of January 9, 2018, Mr. Coughlin second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Meeting concluded at 9:15 p.m.

