

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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**MINUTES**

**March 6, 2018**

*(Approved March 20, 2018)*

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Mayanne Briggs, Chair  
Steve Bilafer, Vice-Chair  
Kevin Coughlin  
Joshua Donati  
Lisa Laprade  
Dr. 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: Avery Elementary School

Meeting commenced at 7:05 p.m.

**Student Update**

Senior Evan Landry updated the Committee on happenings and events occurring throughout the Dedham Public Schools.

**Recognitions**

Athletic Director Steve Traister recognized the following coaches and captains (many of whom were in attendance) on their following achievements:

Boys Track- Coaches William Weschrob, Kevin Leonard and Captains John Keaney, Dan Labadini, Ross Dillon and Eric Alban for winning the title of Tri-Valley League Meet Small Champions.

Mr. Traister made a special mention of Sean Murphy the new Strength and Conditioning Coach and his contributions to the Athletic Department.

Boys Basketball - Coach Chris Fraioli and Captains Brandon Ruiz, Dylan Maida and David Logan for winning the title of Tri-Valley League Small Champions.

Wrestling Team- Coach Wayne Sayers and Captains Jonathan Cleveland, Varune Sharma and Cade Motta for winning the title of Tri-Valley Champions, MIAA Division 3 Central Sectional Champions, and MIAA Division 3 State Champions.

## **Superintendent's Update**

### Superintendent Michael J. Welch

On Tuesday, March 13 the Administration will be presenting the FY19 Operating Budget to the Finance Committee. Supt. Welch supplied the Committee with a number of reports in preparation for the meeting.

Last week, Supt. Welch completed the final FY19 Budget Discussions with each of the schools. This served to make sure that all faculty and staff were well informed about requests and needs for the 2018-19 school year.

The ECEC Principal Search process has begun. The Search Committee has been selected and includes 14 participants. The posting for this position has a deadline for applications of March 9. Supt. Welch has sent a survey to all parents, faculty and staff of the ECEC to allow them an opportunity to provide their opinions on what they see as the strengths and needs of the school. Mr. Donati is the School Committee's representative on this search.

Last week, Supt. Welch scheduled a series of lunches with faculty and staff from Dedham High School to solicit opinions regarding next steps for that school in the appointment of a permanent principal. Mr. Forrest is the current Interim Principal, having been appointed near the end of the last school year upon the resignation of Ron McCarthy. Supt. Welch also sent out a survey to faculty and staff to gather additional feedback. In addition, a survey will be sent to DHS and DMS parents.

Last week, Supt. Welch conducted the winter meeting with the PTO Presidents. Members of every school's PTOs were present to discuss the FY19 Budget and other mutual concerns including the upcoming ballot question in Dedham's April election regarding the right to allow the retail sale of recreational marijuana in Dedham.

Last week, Supt. Welch held the fifth monthly meeting regarding ongoing efforts around safety and security in the Dedham Public Schools. These regular meetings include the following individuals:

Mike Welch, DPS Superintendent  
Karen Hillman, DMS Principal  
Mike D'Entremont, DPD Chief  
Jim Forrest, DHS Principal  
Rich Cawley, DPD Youth Officer  
Liza O'Connell, DPS Director of Special Education  
Mike Buckley, DPD Deputy Chief  
Denise Moroney, Facilities Director  
Jake Lee, Fallon Ambulance

Ian Kelly, DPS Assistant Superintendent  
Ashley Dube, DPS Director of Counseling Services  
Kevin Coleman, DPD Technology/Communications  
Holli Caulfield, Oakdale Elementary School Principal  
Gail Kelly, DPS Director of Health Services  
William Spillane, Dedham Fire Chief  
Mike Feely Jr., DPD Resource Officer

The group meets regularly to update current safety practices in the schools. Supt. Welch noted that it is not appropriate to provide significant public discussion about the specific plans; however, the group is continually working to coordinate and update best practices and will be moving ahead with comprehensive training for all faculty and staff in the days ahead.

Supt. Welch has met multiple times in the past two weeks to discuss possible plans for student demonstrations as called for over social media to conduct various acts of civil disobedience including school walkouts during the school day on March 14. He met again yesterday with Principal Forrest and Principal Hillman and we will be providing guidance to students, parents, and faculty by the end of this week. He wants to make sure students have clear goals, understand what they are doing, are safe at all times, and effectively communicate and coordinate their actions with the school.

Dr. Pearrow inquired about the community involvement in the protests noting that many adults share the same concerns as the students and want to support them. Supt. Welch stated that he would not be able to support adults mingling with students during the school day for safety reasons. However, he is happy to find other ways to work with the community.

## **Reports**

### Winter Athletics Update

Mr. Traister updated the Committee on Winter Athletics. The presentation will be available on the Dedham Public Schools district website. The report included winter participation numbers at DHS and DMS, a comparison of Bay State Conference records to Tri-Valley League records, Dedham High School 2017-2018 winter records, 2017-2018 championships, individual accomplishments, and a special mention of the Wrestling Team which won the Division 3 MIAA State Championship.

Mr. Traister again made special mention of the Strength and Conditioning Coach and what a great asset this position has been to the Athletics program. He thanked the Committee for all of its financial support.

Ms. Briggs asked what the feedback has been from parents and students on the move to the Tri-Valley League. Mr. Traister explained that the move made the adults more nervous than the kids. It has been a smooth and positive transition.

Ms. Briggs inquired into the Girl's Hockey Team participating in a Coop Team. Mr. Traister explained the rules of applying to a Coop and noted that, if a town can sustain a team, it is not allowed to join a Coop. With the eighth grade waiver, Dedham is able to sustain a team.

Mr. Bilafer asked how long a team can stay in a Coop. Mr. Traister explained that a Coop has to reapply every three years.

Principal Forrest spoke on the move to the Tri-Valley League. He feels it has had a positive impact on the students and noted the atmosphere around school sports has improved. He thanked committee for their support of the athletics department and the addition of the Strength and Conditioning Coach.

Ms. White noted that it is great to see the community supporting students at games and events.

The Committee thanked and congratulated all of the coaches.

Supt. Welch noted the need to improve communication with community and publicize all of the good things that are happening in the Dedham Public Schools in all areas.

## **Old/New Business**

### Update on State Supplemental Budget Allocation for Students from Puerto Rico

Supt. Welch provided the Committee with information regarding 15 million dollars in supplemental funds being distributed from the state budget to District's which have enrolled students relocated from Puerto Rico. He explained that there is a unique formula to determine the amount each District will receive. He provided the Committee with a summary of the number of students who have been relocated in the district. He explained the increase in ELL (English Language Learner) time and the need for additional staff to support these services. He detailed how the District had to submit appropriate data to the state. The first distribution of funds will be in April and the second (if funds are still available) will be at the end of June or early July. The funds will be allocated as a grant and can be spent in FY19.

Ms. White asked, if the District is receiving grant money, would that amount be deducted from other expected state funding. Mr. Rippin stated no, that this was an appropriation of funds.

Ms. Laprade inquired if there were any federal funds available. Mr. Rippin said that he was not aware of any.

Supt. Welch thanked Data Specialist Mike Dewar for getting the information to the state in a timely fashion.

### Discussion and Vote on 2018-2019 School Calendar

There were no questions and no further discussion on the draft of the 2018-2019 school calendar.

Mr. Bilafer motioned to accept the 2018-2019 School Calendar as presented, Dr. Pearrow second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

## **Subcommittee Reports & Updates**

### Policy

Ms. Laprade summarized the second reading of five new proposed policies that were unanimously voted by the Policy Subcommittee to present to the full Committee. The following policies are posted on the district website and can be found in full in the February 13, 2018 minutes.

GBGE - Domestic Violence Leave Policy  
IHAI - Occupational Education  
IHBAA - Observations of Special Education Programs  
IMG - Animals in School  
JFABC - Admission of Transfer Students

### Budget

The next Finance Committee meeting will be on March 13 (not March 7). Mr. Coughlin asked for employee and community support as the budget process moves forward.

Mr. Bilafer asked if the community was aware of the date. Supt. Welch noted he mentioned it at all the budget meetings with the schools and at the PTO President's meeting.

Mr. Donati asked if the school budget was the only item on the March 13 Agenda. Mr. Rippin replied yes.

Supt. Welch noted that the Saturday, March 10 is the Finance hearing for the Facilities Department.

#### Equity and Inclusion Task Force

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 14.

#### Negotiations

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 14.

#### SBRC

There has been continued positive activity on the construction site. The project is on schedule. A dispute brought forward to the Attorney General from another contractor has been denied. Regarding traffic mitigation, the SBRC has answered questions from the town engineer and will be proceeding to the Planning Board with the intention of an article for funding being brought forward at the Spring Town Meeting. The SBRC as well as the School Committee has also supported a warrant article for revision of the Master Plan.

Supt. Welch inquired with Ms. Briggs if there has been any more discussion on the interior paint colors. She stated that it was not discussed at the last meeting, but noted that each pod will be its own color. She described the color scheme as muted, happy and calming.

Ms. Briggs also noted that the FF&E for Technology is almost complete.

Mr. Rippin asked if there would be a need for an RFP for the move or was it including in the Scope of Service. Ms. Briggs said she would inquire with the SBRC, but believed it was included.

### **Minutes**

Ms. White motioned to approve the minutes of February 13, 2018 as presented, Ms. Laprade second; the Committee voted 6-0 in favor. Dr. Pearrow abstained as she was not in attendance on February 13.

### **Donations**

None

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Briggs summarized a statement from DHS student Julia McLean, who was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The statement regarded the "Walk Out" on March 14, explaining that students at DHS are engaged in the conversation about school safety and gun laws in the wake of the Parkland shooting. Ms. Briggs expressed that the Committee and Administration wants to support students in a safe and constructive manner. She encouraged any students with concerns to reach out to their principals.

## **Acknowledgements and Announcements**

Dr. Pearrow noted that she attended a technology vision planning meeting with school staff and would like for the group to have an opportunity to share their findings at a future meeting.

The Dedham Education Foundation's Annual Spelling Bee is Friday, March 9 at 6:00 p.m. at Dedham Middle School. Funds earned from this event support grants to the Dedham Public Schools.

Ms. White noted she received a parent survey from Dr. Langenhorst regarding the five-year technology plan for Dedham Public Schools and encouraged all parents to participate.

Ms. Briggs mentioned that the MASC Day on the Hill will be April 25 and inquired if any Committee member would like to attend. Students may attend with a member at no charge.

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Ms. White motioned to close the meeting of March 6, 2018, Dr. Pearrow second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Meeting concluded at 8:25 p.m.