

# DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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## **MINUTES**

**April 24, 2019**

*(Approved 5/15/2019)*

### MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Steve Bilafer, Outgoing Chair

Kevin Coughlin, Incoming Chair

Mayanne Briggs

Joshua Donati

Lisa Laprade, Incoming Vice-Chair

Dr. Melissa Pearrow

Tracey White

### MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT:

None

### MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Michael Welch, Superintendent

Ian Kelly, Assistant Superintendent

Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance

Meeting Location: Avery School

Meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m.

Supt. Welch opened the meeting of April 24, 2019. He announced the annual reorganization of the School Committee and asked for nominations for seats of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Mr. Donati nominated Mr. Coughlin as School Committee Chair, Dr. Pearrow second; the Committee voted unanimously in favor.

Ms. Briggs nominated Ms. Laprade as School Committee Vice-Chair, Dr. Pearrow second; the Committee voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Coughlin read a statement thanking Mr. Bilafer and the Committee for the past year's work and to Ms. Laprade for accepting the nomination of Vice-Chair. He spoke about upcoming initiatives including balancing the Finance Committee's reduction to the School Committee's proposed FY20 budget, embarking upon an elementary principal and fine arts director search (thanking Holli Caulfield and Jeff Bolduc for their service to Dedham), hosting the Ribbon Cutting & Rededication Ceremony of the new ECEC (thanking Dr. Paul Sullivan for his work on the project), performing a traffic study, updating the Master Plan and negotiating a fair and fiscally responsible Unit A contract.

## **Public Comment**

Tim Dwyer, President of the Dedham Education Association (DEA), read a statement expressing concerns with the current negotiations. Many DEA members were also in attendance. On behalf of the DEA members, Mr. Dwyer expressed opposition to the Administration's request to double the amount of professional development time. Three members of the DEA (Chris Carrucci, Margaret Pohlman and Kerri Bryant) presented pages of signatures signed by DEA members supporting Mr. Dwyer's comments to the Committee.

## **Student Update**

None

## **Superintendent's Update**

The last day of school for students will be Thursday, June 20, 2019. This is a half day for students.

In the two weeks before the April break there was considerable MCAS testing at all elementary schools. Middle school students will be completing their ELA sessions online this week. Supt. Welch visited the Middle School yesterday to speak at student assemblies along with Principal Hillman about the MCAS testing.

On April 5 the district conducted its sixth Active Shooter Emergency Drill at Dedham Middle School. All faculty, staff, custodians, and food service employees participated. Supt. Welch thanked the many public safety officials for their investment in this process. The Safety Super Team is beginning to plan for the next stages of this work that will take place during the 2019-20 school year. The final Active Shooter Drill practice will be on April 26 at the new ECEC.

On April 22 the Finance & Warrant Committee deliberated and voted on their recommendations for the FY20 Capital Plan. Their recommendation includes a \$196,000 reduction to the School Committee's Proposed FY20 Operating Budget. They also voted to recommend a \$30,000 cut to the Technology Capital Budget. These recommendations will be officially presented at Town Meeting on May 20.

Yesterday, the District Leadership Team met to discuss this budget development. Supt. Welch plans to meet with the Budget Subcommittee to prepare for how to deal with this issue in the days ahead.

On April 9 there was a Unit A collective bargaining negotiation session with a mediator who is working with both parties. Subsequent meetings are scheduled on April 30, May 13, and June 3.

On April 6 Supt. Welch attended the Dedham Country Day Horizons Program annual fundraising gala. The Horizons Program at DCD provides free summer camp programming for low income and high needs students in the Dedham Public Schools and

makes a commitment to selected students and their families for ten years. Supt. Welch is a member of the Board of Directors and is grateful for Horizons' continued investment in the children of Dedham.

Representatives from the School Department attended both the Boston College and MERC (Massachusetts Educational Recruiting Consortium) job fairs. Supt. Welch thanked Special Education Director Liza O'Connell and Human Resource Administrator Kathy O'Leary for their participation at these events.

This afternoon was a one-hour professional development day. Supt. Welch was impressed by the quality of the experiences provided by the principals, curriculum coordinators, and others involved in the planning of these activities. Supt. Welch was at the Greenlodge School to give an overview of the FY20 Budget and its contents and potential impacts on next year.

On May 8 Dedham will host former DESE Commissioner David Driscoll at the Spring Aspiring Leaders Seminar. Mr. Driscoll is the author of the book *Commitment and Common Sense*. The book is a "must read" and focuses on the 1993 Education Reform Act and the subsequent ascension of the state to number one in the nation in academic achievement.

Supt. Welch shared with the Committee a number of photographs of the devices installed by the traffic/circulation consultant VHB around the DMS-DHS-Avery campus.

Ms. White made mention of the construction work on Rustcraft Road and the impact it is having on traffic around Town. She requested that parents be more diligent around school properties. Mr. Coughlin mentioned that considerable work is being done on the Walnut Street bridge, as well.

## **Recognitions**

The Committee recognized Dedham Town Manager Jim Kern who is retiring next month.

## **Reports**

### Quarterly Budget Report by Asst. Supt. for Business & Finance Sam Rippin

#### Third Quarter Overview

The School Department has expended and encumbered \$25,275,401 of the \$39,001,100 Education Operating Budget, or 64.81% of the total budget.

The School Facilities Department has expended and encumbered \$2,992,730 of the \$3,974,689 of the Operating Budget, or 75.29% of the total budget.

### **Budget Highlights**

The Dedham Public Schools is on track to finish FY2019 in a balanced and fully expended position. All of the seven schools are on track to spend to their allocated FY2019 budgets as of June 30.

In School Facilities, expenses are tracking to budget. One area that is expected to have a surplus is Electricity. Heating, on the other hand and as expected, is tracking towards a deficit.

### **Areas of Concern/Exposure**

Of concern for this fiscal year is the area of Special Education Out-of-District tuitions. The School Department reduced the operating budget by \$500,000 in this area two years ago for FY2018. That reduction eliminated much contingency for unanticipated cost increases. Mr. Rippin is projecting a deficit in this area approaching \$200,000. He will be utilizing both carryovers of FY2018 as well as FY2019 Circuit Breaker funding to cover the expense. While no additional funds were added in this area for FY 2020, it will be a budget driver for the FY2021 operating budget cycle.

The Committee discussed the Life Start and STAR programs and how they will keep Out-of-District costs from considerable increases in the future. Although the number of students placed out of district has not increased, the tuition costs of those students has risen.

## **Old/New Business**

### **Traffic Study Circulation Progress Update**

Mr. Rippin provided the following memo to the Committee:

Please accept this memo as my Executive Summary of where the Dedham Public Schools are with respect to the work being done by our consultants Vanasse, Hangen and Brustin (VHB) in analyzing traffic around our three campus area (Avery, DMS and DHS) along with providing results and recommendations for remediation.

Superintendent Welch and I along with Kevin Coughlin, Mayanne Briggs and Lisa Laprade met with Mark Shamon, Managing Director and Laura Castelli, Project Manager from VHB on 1/8/19 at Central Office..

Based on both that initial meeting as well as subsequent conversations, a detailed work plan was created along with a data collection map which I believe will capture all of the relevant data that is needed for the analyses.

Data collection will occur during the days of Wednesday and Thursday April 24 and 25. There will be many traffic count cameras and road tubes at all of the aforementioned intersections during the collection period, Setup would be during the weekend prior and 3-4 staff people will be stationed on Thursday 4/25 and will have business cards and a prominently displayed ID.

After this work is completed, it is expected that there will be a community meeting on Wednesday May 22 at 7:00 PM at the Dedham Middle School to gather input from varied stakeholders. It would then be expected that at the first School Committee meeting in September there would be a project update presented by VHB that would reflect both spring and summer (most likely July) traffic count data as well as community input.

Additional traffic counts would occur in the fall of 2019 at which time a final report with results and recommendations would be available in the early part of calendar year 2020 along with a formal presentation to the School Committee.

### Facilities Master Plan Progress Update

Mr. Coughlin stated that Mr. Donati will be the School Committee's representative on the Town of Dedham's Master Plan Committee.

Mr. Rippin provided the following memo to the Committee:

Please accept this memo as my update as to the progress of the work of Symmes, Maini, McKee and Associates (SMMA) with respect to having the Dedham Public Schools Facilities Master Plan updated. As we have recently completed construction of the Curran Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) this leaves the Greenlodge, Oakdale and Riverdale Elementary Schools and the Dedham High School as the remaining facilities that have not undergone a major renovation or reconstruction in the past 30 years or more.

The Superintendent and I along with Steve Bilafer and Dave Roberts-Chair of the SBRC met with Phil Ponelli-Principal in Charge and Kristen Olsen-Project Manager from SMMA on 7/23/18 and on 4/4/19 in Central Office.

As I am sure that you recall, SMMA presented their initial findings to a joint SC/SBRC meeting that was held on 12/11/18 at the Avery School.

Since then, as mentioned above, we have met with SMMA on 4/4/19 to revisit the project plan and timeline and I will offer the roadmap for the rest of the project plan steps below:

- SMMA to facilitate a kickoff community stakeholder meeting (focused on the Greenlodge, Oakdale and Riverdale communities) on 5/29/19 at 7:00 PM at Dedham Middle School to gather input
- SMMA will prepare a memorandum on the viability (or lack thereof) of the Capen School to drive decision making with respect to its future use.
- SMMA to facilitate additional meetings (with the same group) in September and October of 2019 to inform their final draft Facilities Master Plan
- SMMA to deliver Draft Master Plan to DPS by 12/31/19
- SMMA to formally present Master Plan to joint SC/SBRC meeting during January/February 2020
- DPS to submit SOI using the Facilities Master Plan as a guide by the April 2020 MSBA deadline

Mr. Bilafer noted the meeting on May 29 may need to be changed if all the Committee members are unable to attend.

The Committee discussed the need for a concrete Statement of Interest identifying the facility in the most need. They also discussed the importance of community participation at both meetings.

## **Subcommittee Reports & Updates**

### Budget

Mr. Donati expressed his concern with the Finance Committee's reduction to the FY20 proposed budget.

### Equity and Inclusion Task Force

April's meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 8.

### Negotiations

Nothing further to report.

### Policy

The policy subcommittee voted unanimously on March 7 to move forward with the revision of the policies IJL and ECAF.

Ms. Laprade presented the third reading of policy IJL - Library Material Selection and Adoption.

Ms. White motioned to accept the revised policy IJL- Library Material Selection and Adoption; Dr. Pearrow second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Ms. Laprade presented the third reading of policy ECAF - Security Cameras in Schools.

Ms. White motioned to accept the revised policy ECAF- Security Cameras in Schools, Mr. Donati second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

(Full policies are included at the end of the minutes.)

### Discussion and Vote on Renaming the High School Practice Field.

On March 7 the Policy Subcommittee voted to support the naming of the High School practice field after Donald Seager. The thirty day comment period has expired. The Committee did not receive any objections only letters of support. No further discussion occurred.

Ms. White motioned to rename the High School practice field after Donald Seager, Ms. Briggs second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Ms. Laprade stated the Subcommittee met on April 22 and finished the revisions to the MOU between the Dedham Public Schools and the Dedham Police Department.

### Old/New Business

Ms. Laprade explained that the School Department is undergoing an audit by DESE regarding Civil Rights' policies. Dr. Kelly explained the audit process and how documents need to be submitted to the State. In order to be in compliance the school policies need to include policy JIE- Pregnant Students. On April 22 the Subcommittee voted unanimously in favor of policy JIE-Pregnant Students.

Ms. Laprade presented the first reading of JIE- Pregnant Students.

(The full policy is included at the end of the minutes.)

Also policies AC, GBA, GCF, JB and JFBB need to include the language "pregnancy and pregnancy related conditions" in the non discrimination claimer. On April 22 the Subcommittee voted unanimously in favor of these policy changes.

Ms. Laprade presented the first readings of policies:

- AC- Nondiscrimination
- GBA-Equal Employment Opportunity
- GCF- Professional Staff Hiring
- JB-Equal Educational Opportunities
- JFBB- School Choice

(Full policies are included at the end of the minutes.)

### SBRC

The Open House of the new ECEC will be on Saturday, April 27 and the Ribbon Cutting/Rededication ceremony will be on April 29.

## **Minutes**

Ms. Briggs motioned to approve the minutes from April 3, 2019, Dr. Pearrow second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

## **Donations**

Dr. Pearrow motioned to accept with grateful appreciation a \$500 donation from the Avery School PTO to the Avery School Library for the purchase of new books, Ms. White second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

## **Acknowledgements and Announcements**

Dr. Pearrow stated how impressed she was with the Schools to Careers Program that took place last week.

Ms. Briggs acknowledged the Finance Committee's work on trying to sustain the school budget and explained that cuts were made across the board.

Kindergarten Screenings at the ECEC will be on May 6, 7, 8, and 9.

Ms. White motioned to end the meeting of April 24, 2019, Ms. Bilafer second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m.

**LIBRARY MATERIAL SELECTION AND ADOPTION**

The Dedham School Committee, in accordance with the American Library Association *Library Bill of Rights*, recognizes that the responsibility of the school library media program is

1. To provide learning resources which support and enrich all segments of the curriculum and are consistent with the goals and objectives of the school district.
2. To build a collection of resources that meets the needs of all students, considering their varied abilities, learning styles, interests, developmental stages and maturity levels.
3. To include learning resources which support and promote intellectual growth, analytical and critical thinking skills, recreational needs, personal development, literary appreciation, ethical standards and a broader worldview.
4. To offer learning resources which accommodate and represent all students including but not limited to English Language Learners, religions, ability, sexual and gender identity, and ethnic and cultural groups of the Dedham community.
5. To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of learning resources of the highest quality in order to assure comprehensive collections appropriate to the school communities.

The School Committee, though ultimately responsible for all library resources, recognizes the need and right of students to free access to different types of books and resources. It also recognizes the right of the professional staff to select books and resources supportive of the school system’s educational philosophy and goals. It recognizes the rights of individual parents with respect to controversial materials used by their own children; it will provide for the reevaluation of materials in library collections upon formal request. Students’ right to learn and the freedom of teachers to teach will be respected.

LEGAL REF: 603 CMR 26:05

CROSS REF: KEC, Public Complaints about the Curriculum or Instructional Materials

**SECURITY CAMERAS IN SCHOOLS**

The School Committee works to maintain a safe and secure environment for its students, staff, visitors, and facilities.



In pursuit of this objective, the School Committee authorizes the use of security cameras in school district buildings and on its property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all students, staff and visitors, to deter theft, vandalism and other negative behavior, to safeguard district buildings, grounds and equipment, and to monitor unauthorized individuals in or on school property. Security cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with school officials as well as local law enforcement and emergency response agencies. They may be used in any area, inside or outside of school buildings and on school buses, where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy.

The district shall notify students and staff through student and employee handbooks and appropriate signage that security cameras have been installed and may be used at any time. Students or staff identified on security cameras in violation of School Committee policies will be subject to disciplinary action.

The Superintendent shall ensure that proper procedures are in place and are followed regarding use, viewing, disclosure, retention, disposal and security of video recordings or photographs from security cameras in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. A video recording used for security purposes in school district buildings and/or on school property shall be the sole property of the school district. All video recordings will be stored in their original format and secured to avoid tampering and to ensure confidentiality in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Access to video recordings from security cameras shall be limited to school administrators (Superintendent/designee, School Principal/designee). Law enforcement and emergency response officials shall be granted access to video recordings or the security system after giving prior notice to the School Superintendent/designee.

The Superintendent may, from time to time, issue further guidance that is consistent with current laws and this policy.

SOURCE: MASC

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Proposed New Policy

File: JIE

PREGNANT STUDENTS

The School Committee wishes to preserve educational opportunities for those students who may become pregnant and/or take on parenting responsibilities. Pregnant students are permitted to remain in regular classes and participate in extracurricular activities with non-pregnant students throughout their pregnancy, and after giving birth are permitted to return to the same academic and extracurricular program as before the leave. The school district does not require a pregnant student to obtain the certification of a physician that the student is physically and emotionally able to continue in school.

Every effort will be made to see that the educational program of the student is disrupted as little as possible; that health counseling services, as well as instruction, are offered; that return to school after leave is encouraged; and that every opportunity to complete high school is provided.

LEGAL REFS: M.G.L. 71:84  
Title IX: 20 U.S.C. § 1681  
34 CFR § 106.40(b)

SOURCE: MASC January 8, 2009

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Proposed Revised Policy

File: AC

**NONDISCRIMINATION**

Public schools have the responsibility to overcome, insofar as possible, any barriers that prevent children from achieving their potential. The public school system will do its part. This commitment to the community is affirmed by the following statements that the Dedham School Committee intends to:

1. Promote the rights and responsibilities of all individuals as set forth in the State and Federal Constitutions, pertinent legislation, and applicable judicial interpretations.
2. Encourage positive experiences in human values for children, youth and adults, all of whom have differing personal and family characteristics and who come from various socioeconomic, racial and ethnic groups.
3. Work toward a more integrated society and to enlist the support of individuals as well as groups and agencies, both private and governmental, in such an effort.
4. Use all appropriate communication and action techniques to air and reduce the grievances of individuals and groups.
5. Carefully consider, in all the decisions made within the school system, the potential benefits or adverse consequences that those decisions might have on the human relations aspects of all segments of society.
6. Initiate a process of reviewing policies and practices of the school system in order to achieve to the greatest extent possible the objectives of this statement.

The Committee's policy of nondiscrimination will extend to students, staff, the general public, and individuals with whom it does business; No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town or in obtaining the advantages, privileges, and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy or pregnancy related condition. If someone has a complaint or feels that they have been discriminated against because of their race, color, sex, gender identity, religion,

national origin, sexual orientation, disability pregnancy or pregnancy related condition, their complaint should be registered with the Title IX compliance officer.

LEGAL REFS.: Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964  
Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972  
Executive Order 11246, as amended by E.O. 11375  
Equal Pay Act, as amended by the Education Amendments of 1972  
Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972  
Rehabilitation Act of 1973  
Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975  
M.G.L. 71B:1 et seq. (Chapter 766 of the Acts of 1972)  
M.G.L. 76:5; Amended 2011  
M.G.L.76:16  
BESE regulations 603CMR 26.00 Amended 2012  
BESE regulations 603CMR 28.00

CROSS REFS.: ACA- ACE, Subcategories for Nondiscrimination  
GBA, Equal Employment Opportunity  
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities

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Proposed Revised Policy

File: GBA

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

The Dedham School Committee subscribes to the fullest extent to the principle of the dignity of all people and of their labors and will take action to ensure that any individual within the District who is responsible for hiring and/or personnel supervision understands that applicants are employed, assigned, and promoted without regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, genetic information, ancestry, military status, disability, pregnancy or pregnancy related condition. Every available opportunity will be taken in order to assure that each applicant for a position is selected on the basis of qualifications, merit and ability.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 151B:4;  
BESE Regulations 603 CMR 26:00

CROSS REF.: AC, Nondiscrimination

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## **PROFESSIONAL STAFF HIRING**

Through its employment policies, the Dedham Public School District will strive to attract, secure, and hold the highest qualified personnel for all professional positions. The selection process will be based upon awareness to candidates who will devote themselves to the education and welfare of the children attending the schools.

It is the responsibility of the Superintendent, and of persons to whom he or she delegates this responsibility, to determine the personnel needs of the school system and to locate suitable candidates. No position may be created without the approval of the School Committee. The District's goal is to employ and retain personnel who are motivated, will strive always to do their best, and are committed to providing the best educational environment for the children

It will be the duty of the Superintendent to see that persons considered for employment in the schools meet all certification requirements and the requirements of the Committee for the type of position for which the nomination is made.

The following guidelines will be used in the selection of personnel:

1. There will be no discrimination in the hiring process due to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, genetic information, ancestry, military status, disability, pregnancy, or pregnancy related condition.
2. The quality of instruction is enhanced by a staff with a wide variation in background, educational preparation, and previous experience.
3. The administrator responsible for the hiring of a staff member is directed to establish a representative search committee. (In the case of district-wide positions and for the position of principal, this is the Superintendent; for building-based personnel, it is the principal.) In the event of an unexpected vacancy, the superintendent can waive the formation of a search committee.

In selecting members of the search committee, there are a number of considerations to keep in mind:

- Key stakeholders should be represented on the search committee. For schools-level positions, this may include administrators, staff members and parents. In the case of a search for a central administration managerial position, principal or other building head, the search committee may also include representatives of elected and appointed board and community members;
- The size of the search committee should be based on the position to be filled and the constituencies that should be represented. A majority of the members of the search committee should not be directly supervised by the employee to be hired. Hence, inclusion of one teacher from another building would be preferred;

- People selected to participate on the search committee should have sufficient time to dedicate to the process;
- The formation of a search committee should be publicized so that those who are eligible to serve will receive sufficient notice to submit their names for consideration. Where the search committee will be comprised of staff and parents, normal methods of communication such as newsletters, web sites, email and connected can be used. Where the search committee will include other stakeholders, means of communicating that will likely be effective in reaching those stakeholders, such as local newspapers and community access television may be utilized;
- The Superintendent is responsible for appointing the chair of the search committee. Search committee members shall receive an orientation that addresses appropriate behavior to be exercised when serving on a search committee. The orientation shall address confidentiality, prohibited questions and other relevant subjects. It is the responsibility of the chair to ensure that this orientation is provided;
- The administrator has the final say in determining who will be hired but it is expected that the search committee's input will be a factor in the decision. For those positions where the hiring authority rests with the School Committee, a representative search committee may be established by the School Committee, or the School Committee may direct the Superintendent to establish a search committee to assist the Superintendent in making his/her recommendation to the School Committee.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 69:6; 71:38; 71:38G; 71:39; 71:45  
 Massachusetts Board of Education Requirements for  
 Certification of Teachers, Principals, Supervisors, Directors,  
 Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents in the Public  
 Schools of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, revised  
 1994  
 BESE Regulations 603 CMR 7:00, 26.00, and 44:00

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Proposed Revised Policy

File: JB

### **EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

In recognition of the diversified characteristics and needs of our students and with the keen desire to be responsive to them, the Dedham School Committee will make every effort to protect the dignity of the students as individuals. It also will offer careful consideration and sympathetic understanding of their personal feelings, particularly with reference to their race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual

orientation, pregnancy, pregnancy related condition or physical and intellectual differences.

To accomplish this, the Committee and its staff will make every effort to comply with the letter and the spirit of the Massachusetts equal educational opportunities law which prohibits discrimination in public school admissions and programs. The law reads as follows:

No child shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and course of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, pregnancy or pregnancy related condition.

This will mean that every student will be given equal opportunity in school admission, admissions to courses, course content, guidance, and extracurricular and athletic activities.

All implementing provisions issued by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in compliance with this law will be followed.

LEGAL REFS.: Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964  
Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972  
Executive Order 11246, as amended by E.O. 11375  
Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972  
M.G.L. 76:5; 76:16 (Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971)  
BESE regulations 603 CMR 26:00  
BESE regulations 603 CMR 28.00

CROSS REF.: AC, Nondiscrimination

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Proposed Revised Policy

File: JFBB

**SCHOOL CHOICE**

It is the policy of the Dedham School District **not** to admit non-resident students under the terms and conditions of the Interdistrict School Choice Law. This decision must be reaffirmed annually prior to June 1st by a vote of the School Committee following a public hearing. In the event the Dedham School Committee votes to participate, the following local conditions would apply:

1. That by May 1 of every school year, the administration will determine the number of spaces in each school available to choice students.
2. That by June 1 of every school year, a public hearing will be held to review participation in the school choice program.

3. That resident students be given priority placement in any classes or programs within the district.
4. That the selection of non-resident students for admission when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces be in the form of a random drawing. There will be two drawings for this purpose. The first will take place during the last week of the current school year but no later than July 1st. The second will be conducted during the week immediately preceding the opening of the next school year and will be based on the possibility of unexpected additional openings.
5. Any student who is accepted for admission under the provisions of this policy is entitled to remain in the district until graduation from high school except if there is a lack of funding of the program.
6. The School Committee affirms its position that it shall not discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, homelessness, ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, pregnancy, pregnancy related condition, academic performance or proficiency in the English language.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:6; 71:6A; 76:6; 76:12; 76:12B  
BESE Regulations 603 CMR 26.00