

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

January 29, 2020

(Approved 2/12/2020)

MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Kevin Coughlin, Chair
Stephen Bilafer
Mayanne MacDonald Briggs
Joshua Donati
Dr. Melissa Pearrow
Tracey White

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT:

Lisa Laprade, Vice-Chair

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

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

Meeting Location: Dedham Middle School

Meeting Commenced: 7:05 p.m.

Superintendent's State of the Schools Address

Supt. Welch presented his "State of Schools" Address. The presentation will be available on the District website. The report included a review of the current five-year strategic goals, 2019-2020 School Committee goals, student enrollment growth, surge in Kindergarten enrollment, investment in Early Childhood Education, curriculum alignment and professional supports, student supports, investment in Fine Arts, in-district programming investments, school safety and security, ongoing projects and future initiatives (Facilities Master Plan, Traffic Circulation Study), Dedham Early Learning Teaching Academy (DELTA) Program, and next steps (Update of 5-Year Strategic Plan, ongoing Prek-5 Training/Curriculum work).

Mr. Bilafer asked how changes in growth and achievement can be tracked beyond MCAS data. Supt. Welch explained gathering feedback is an important way to look beyond the data. One way he gathers

feedback is meeting with seniors throughout the year and hearing about their experience in the Dedham Public Schools.

Dr. Pearrow asked how the new Student Opportunity Act will impact goals and what changes will need to be made to accommodate the receiving the new funds. Supt. Welch explained the Governor's budget increase to Chapter 70 funding goes directly to the Town. Dedham will be receiving only a \$30 per student increase which will not be enough to effect current practices.

Public Comment

Susan Butler, Clark Street, former School Committee member and Chair inquired as to why “Out of District” placement costs are so high. Supt. Welch explained the District has done its best to provide programming to serve the needs of its students. However, there are cases when it is in the best interest of the student to be placed out of district. The District has no control of the tuition increases for these private placements or for the increase in transportation costs. Supt. Welch is hoping the Student Opportunity Act will provide some relief for the transportation costs.

Ms. Briggs explained that Dedham is dedicated to keeping students in district. However, some fragile needs are best served in other placements. It costs more to educate student with higher needs.

Ms. Butler asked if the Committee could expand on the Life Start Program. Supt. Welch explained that the District is responsible to educate high needs students until they are 22 years old. The program includes learning daily life skills, working with job coaches, forming relationships with area business, learning public transportation, and working with others in community. There is also an apartment at Dedham High School to help students navigate these life skills and they are hoping to have a space in the new Town Hall.

Director of Special Education Elizabeth O’Connell elaborated on the program describing its partnership with New Bridge, Veterans Association, Early Childhood Education Center, and Amazon. Some of the students are taking college courses.

Public Comment concluded.

Mr. Coughlin complimented Superintendent Welch on his hard work over this past year.

Old/New Business

Discussion & Vote on Superintendent's proposed FY21 Operating Budget

No further discussion occurred.

Mr. Donati motioned to approve the FY21 Facilities Operating Budget in the amount of \$4,068,737, Ms White second, the Committee voted 6-0 in favor.

Mr. Donati motioned to approve the Fy21 School Operating Budget in the amount of \$43,076,992, Mr. Bilafer second; the Committee voted 6-0 in favor.

Discussion & Vote on Unit B Administrators Contract

Last week in Executive Session the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Agreements to the Unit B contract. No further discussion occurred.

Mr. Bilafer motioned to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the School Committee and the Dedham Education Associations Unit B Administrators from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019, Ms. Briggs second; a roll call vote was taken:

Stephen Bilafer - Yes
Mayanne MacDonald Briggs - Yes
Joshua Donati - Yes
Dr. Melissa Pearrow - Yes
Tracey White - Yes
Kevin Coughlin, Chair - Yes
Motion passed 6-0

Mr. Bilafer motioned to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the School Committee and the Dedham Education Associations Unit B Administrators from September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2022, Ms. White second; a roll call vote was taken:

Stephen Bilafer - Yes
Mayanne MacDonald Briggs - Yes
Joshua Donati - Yes
Dr. Melissa Pearrow - Yes
Tracey White - Yes
Kevin Coughlin, Chair - Yes
Motion passed 6-0

Discussion & Vote on Superintendent's FY20 Salary

Last week in Executive Session the Committee voted unanimously to approve the amendment to the Superintendent's contract for FY20. No further discussion occurred.

Mr. Bilafer motioned to approve the amendment to the Superintendent's contract from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, Dr. Pearrow second; a roll call vote was taken:

Stephen Bilafer - Yes

Mayanne MacDonald Briggs - Yes

Joshua Donati - Yes

Dr. Melissa Pearrow - Yes

Tracey White - Yes

Kevin Coughlin, Chair - Yes

Motion passed 6-0

Subcommittee Reports and Updates

Policy

Ms. White presented the second reading of the following policies. The full policies can be found on the District website.

- Access to Digital Resources (IJND) (Revised)
- Staff Digital Use Policy (IJNDE) (Revised)
- Employee Email Policy (IJNDEA) (Revised)
- Student Data Privacy Policy (IJNDG) (New)
- Extension to Student Records Policy (JRA-R) (New)
- Written Information Security Policy (IJM) (New)
- Nondiscrimination Policy (AC)
- Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability (ACE)
- Revised Equal Educational Opportunities Policy (JB)

Public Comment

None

Ms. White motioned to adjourn the meeting of January 29, 2020, Dr. Pearrow second; the Committee voted 6-0 in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.