

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

February 12, 2020

(Approved 2/26/2020)

MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Kevin Coughlin, Chair

Lisa Laprade, Vice-Chair (Remote Participation)

Stephen Bilafer

Mayanne MacDonald Briggs

Joshua Donati

Dr. Melissa Pearrow

Tracey White

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT:

None

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Michael J. Welch, Superintendent (Arrived at 8:10 p.m.)

Dr. Ian Kelly, Assistant Superintendent

Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance

Meeting Location: Avery Elementary School

Meeting Commenced: 7:00 p.m.

Student Update

None

Foreign Exchange Trip

Foreign Language Department Chair Alison Guifarro came before the Committee to request a Dedham High School student exchange trip to Alicante, Spain over April vacation 2021 (4/19/2021- 4/25/2021). She also asked the Committee to approve two field trip days on April 15 and April 16, 2021 to allow extra travel time for students.

Ms. White motioned to approve the Dedham High School foreign exchange trip to Alicante, Spain from the evening of April 14, 2021 to April 25, 2021, Dr. Pearrow second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor. (Ms. Laprade's vote was voiced via remote participation.)

Superintendent's Update

Supt. Welch completed his Superintendent's 30-Day Update today and provided it to the Committee as tonight's Superintendent Update. The 30-Day Update is also available on the district website.

Reports

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Update

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ian Kelly, PK-8 Curriculum Coordinators Dr. Linda Kobierski (STEM) and Dr. Heather Smith (Humanities) presented an update to the Committee. The update will be available on the district website.

The report included a review of the 20/20 Strategic Vision, alignment of curriculum, and time on learning. Dr. Smith discussed the Humanities curriculum including Tools of the Mind (PK), Foundations (PK-2), Reading Units of Study (K-8), Writing Units of Study (K-8), Integrated Units of Study (K-5) alignment of new social science and history frameworks (Grades 6-8), universal assessments in numeracy and literacy (K-8), and Leveled Literacy Intervention (K-8). Dr. Kobierski discussed the Math and Science curriculums including Do the Math, Math Challenge, Building Blocks of Science (K-5), Integrated Sciences & Technology/Engineering (Grades 6-8), and Science and Engineering practices. Dr. Kelly concluded the report discussing integrated systems for collaboration and next steps.

The Committee and presenters discussed the different ways of assessing the progress the schools are making via STAR 360, Benchmark Assessment Systems, and 1:1 conferences with students and small group work. They talked about how the new elementary report card aligns with the curriculum and how the coordinators are working on ways to develop parent participation programs to help support their students. They reviewed how students are assessed bi-weekly to determine Leveled Literacy Intervention as well as the assessments (STAR360, MCAS) used to determine math enrichment opportunities for students performing above grade level. Now that the reading and science curriculums are aligned across the district and grade levels the Curriculum Coordinators will refocus on the math curriculum.

Equity Update

Supt. Welch provided the Committee with a 2020 staffing summary. The report includes the entire staffing distribution and allocation across all departments. The Committee will review the report and contact Supt. Welch with any questions.

Old/New Business

Discussion of 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

Supt. Welch provided the Committee with two drafts of the 2020-2021 School Calendar. Draft 1 contains half days of professional development on Fridays and December 23, 2020 as a half day of school. Draft 2 does not have any half days of professional development on Fridays (redistributed to other days of the week) and December 23, 2020 as a full day off from school. Superintendent Welch supported draft 2 of the calendar.

The Committee discussed the issue of half days on Fridays for professional development and the effect on absenteeism. Ms. White noted that she felt that families would take off a Friday before a long weekend anyway and was more inclined to have those days as half days. Ms. Briggs suggested moving a half day of professional development to April 1, the Thursday before Good Friday. Dr. Pearrow also supported the idea of April 1 as a half day of professional development. Mr. Donati, Ms. Laprade and Mr. Coughlin supported draft 2 as presented.

Mr. Bilafer motioned to approve draft 2 of the 2020-2021 calendar as presented, Mr. Donati second; Ms. White voted NO, all other members voted yes, motion passed 6-1. (Ms. Laprade's vote was voiced via remote participation.)

Subcommittee Reports and Updates

Budget

Mr. Donati noted that February 27 is the Capital Expenditure Committee meeting and on March 17 the School Committee will be presenting the Operating Budget to the Finance Committee at 6:30 p.m. at Dedham Town Hall. He encouraged the public to attend.

Supt. Welch noted that Town Manager Goodwin would be presenting his proposed Budget to the Board of Selectman on March 5.

Dedham Organization for Substance Awareness

The next meeting will be on February 28 in the Selectmen's Chamber at Town Hall. The group will be reviewing the MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey data and DOSA's parent survey data.

Equity & Inclusion Task Force

None

Master Plan – School/ SBRC

Consultants SMMA will be presenting their finding at the March 4 School Committee meeting. This will also be a joint meeting between the SBRC and School Committee to review the next Statement of Interest to submit to the MSBA. The next meeting of the SBRC will be held on February 24. The SBRC would like to see a draft of the SOI at the February 24 meeting.

Master Plan - Town

The next meeting is on February 25 with the consulting firm. There will also be a tour of the Town on February 29.

Policy

Ms. White presented the third reading of the following new policies. The full policies can be found on the District website. The Policy Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve these new policies. No further discussion occurred.

- Student Data Privacy Policy (IJNDG)
- Extension to Student Records Policy (JRA-R)
- Written Information Security Policy (IJM)

Ms. Briggs motioned to approve the three new policies as presented, Dr. Pearrow second; the Committee voted 7-0. (Ms. Laprade's vote was voiced via remote participation.)

Ms. White presented the third reading of the following revised policies. The full policies can be found on the District website. The Policy Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve these new policies. No further discussion occurred.

- Access to Digital Resources (IJND)
- Staff Digital Use Policy (IJNDE)
- Employee Email Policy (IJNDEA)
- Nondiscrimination Policy (AC)
- Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability (ACE)
- Revised Equal Educational Opportunities Policy (JB)

Ms. Briggs motioned to approve the three new policies as presented, Ms. Laprade second; the Committee voted 7-0. (Ms. Laprade's vote was voiced via remote participation.)

SBRC

None

Traffic Circulation Study

The last community meeting was on February 4. The consultant firm VHB will now be putting together their final package to submit to the Committee.

Minutes

Ms. White motioned to approve the minutes of January 15, 2020, Mr. Bilafer second; the Committee voted 6-0 in favor. (Ms. Laprade's vote was voiced via remote participation.)

Ms. Briggs motioned to approve the minutes of January 22, 2020, Dr. Pearrow second; the Committee voted 6-0 in favor. (Ms. Laprade's vote was voiced via remote participation.)

Ms. White motioned to approve the minutes of January 29, 2020, Ms. Briggs second; the Committee voted 6-0 in favor. Ms. Laprade abstained as she was not in attendance at the January 29, 2020 meeting. (Ms. Laprade's abstention was voiced via remote participation.)

Public Comment

Paquita Bass, 164 Central Avenue, as a Town Meeting member supported the \$90,000 to conduct the Traffic Circulation Study around the schools' main campus. She expected the traffic study to include the rail corridor. She expressed her disappointment that VHB did not include the rail trail as an option in its proposals at the February 4 community meeting. She feels the rail corridor has potential for safe ways to get to school and she could not understand why a respectable firm would ignore such a viable option.

Acknowledgements and Announcements

Mr. Coughlin thanked everyone in the district for hard work. He also thanked the Committee for all the extra hours they spend out at night to support the schools

Mr. Coughlin announced the need to enter Executive Session under Exemption 3, contract negotiations.

Mr. Bilafer motioned to enter Executive Session under Exemption 3, contract negotiations, 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

Lisa Laprade, Vice-Chair - Yes

Kevin Coughlin, Chair – Yes

Motion passed 7-0 (Ms. Laprade's vote was voiced via remote participation.)

Mr. Coughlin stated that the Committee would not be returning to open session.

Regular Meeting ended at 9:10 p.m.