

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

February 26, 2020

(Approved 4/1/2020)

MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Kevin Coughlin, Chair
Lisa Laprade, Vice-Chair
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
Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance

Meeting Location: Dedham Middle School

Meeting Commenced: 7:00 p.m.

Student Update

None

Reports

Technology Recognitions

Technology Director Dr. Don Langenhorst recognized Technology Data Specialist Mike Dewar who is retiring after 21 years of service to the Dedham Public Schools. Representative Paul McMurtry presented Mr. Dewar with an accommodation from the Massachusetts State House for his many years of dedicated service.

Technology Donation

Dr. Langenhorst asked the Committee to accept with grateful appreciation a grant in the amount of \$4,875 from Dedham Institution for Savings Foundation to support the purchase of 250 new Chromebook cases. Dedham Savings Executive Vice President Mark Ingalls and Senior Vice President Liz Bissell were in attendance to present the grant.

The Committee thanked Dedham Savings for its continued commitment and support of the Dedham Public Schools.

Ms. White motioned to approve with grateful appreciation a grant in the amount of \$4,875 from Dedham Institution for Savings Foundation to the Technology Department to support the purchase of 250 new Chromebook cases, Dr. Pearrow second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Technology Report

Dr. Langenhorst provided the Committee with a Technology Update. The report will be available on the District website.

The report included an introduction of the Technology Team (in attendance were Technology Integrator Judy Foley, Network Specialist Mike Yang, Data Specialist Erica Scannell, and Data Specialist Mike Dewar), data integration, FY20-FY22 Technology Plan, DPS participation at the MassCUE conference, and the FUSE Fellowship (coaching of technology integration between districts). Ms. Foley discussed digital learning, assistive technology, technology for the earliest learners and teachers at the ECEC, and Grades 3-5 integration work. Dr. Langenhorst continued speaking to the issues of social and emotional wellness and technology, trusted learning environment, student data privacy, phishing training, Education SuperHighway articles about Dedham Public Schools' technology, and technology integration data gathering and analysis.

Dr. Pearrow asked if any of the observations regarding the integration data gathering occurred in the Library/Media centers. Dr. Langenhorst was not sure because the survey was anonymous and was not in any way part of the evaluation process.

Dr. Pearrow asked Dr. Langenhorst if he is seeing more project-based learning happening. Dr. Langenhorst stated that he had.

Ms. Briggs complemented the Technology department for its work implementing assistive technology in the area of Special Education.

Mr. Donati asked how a teacher could go about getting approval to use technology they have discovered on their own. Dr. Langenhorst explained that the technology needed to align with the curriculum and strategic plan. It also needs to be sustainable, safe, and contain a student data privacy agreement. This can be coordinated with principals, department heads, curriculum coordinators and the technology department.

Ms. White inquired about the future of technology in the Dedham Public Schools. Dr. Langenhorst stated that there had been tremendous support from the School Committee, Town and Administration. He needs the continued support and collaboration of all.

Mr. Bilafer asked what the goal of SAMR Model was. Dr. Langenhorst said it was to see an increase in each scale.

Mr. Bilafer also asked about the instructional coaches and their role or participation with technology. Dr. Langenhorst stated that he would like Judy Foley to be able to work more with the instructional coaches so that they, in turn, could better assist teachers with technology.

Ms. Laprade asked how parents can engage more and monitor digital learning. Dr. Langenhorst felt that having conversations with teachers and students is the best way to stay informed. Students can also share Google files with their parents.

The Committee thanked Dr. Langenhorst for his comprehensive presentation.

Superintendent's Update

Next Tuesday, March 3 (Primary Election Day) is a full professional development day for all Dedham Schools. There will be no school for Dedham students, but educators and support personnel will be receiving professional development experiences throughout the entire day. The last day of school remains set for Monday, June 22 (pending any additional cancelled days) and next year's 2020-21 school year calendar has been approved and posted to the main page of the District website.

Earlier this week, Supt. Welch met with Phil Poinelli from SMMA to review the draft of the Facilities Master Plan Update. He has reviewed the document and sent recommendations back to SMMA. He has also asked to have this report finalized by Friday, February 28 so that it can be reviewed by the School Committee in preparation for SMMA's final presentation at the next public meeting.

On Monday, Supt. Welch presented to the SBRC a draft of the Statement of Interest that will be submitted to the MSBA by April 8. Supt Welch electronically shared a copy of this draft document and supporting documents with the School Committee. A joint meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4 with the SBRC to formally vote to approve this submission. On Thursday, March 5 the SOI will be presented at the Board of Selectmen's meeting to ask for its support of this submission in a formal vote.

Supt. Welch distributed a letter to all faculty, staff, and parents regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19). Communications and Community Engagement Coordinator Sara Errickson also created a link on the main page of the DPS website with a lot of information to help inform parents and the community.

On Monday of this week Supt. Welch attended a one-year celebration at the new Dr. Thomas J. Curran Early Childhood Education Center.

Tomorrow night DPS will present the FY21 Facilities and Technology Capital Budget Requests to the Capital Expenditures Committee (CEC) beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the lower level of town hall. Next week Town Manager

Leon Goodwin will be making his FY21 Budget Presentation to the Board of Selectmen at their regular meeting on Thursday, March 5.

Supt. Welch is continuing his visits to each school to gather input and feedback on past efforts to reach the 5-Year 2020 Strategic Plan goals. These conversations with faculty and staff will be used to inform the development of the next 5-Year Strategic Plan that will be presented to the committee in draft form later this year.

Supt. Welch presented the committee with a recent article from the Boston Globe that provides an analysis of the achievement gap in school districts surrounding Boston in terms of the percentage of black students enrolled in AP classes. Dedham is one of the very few communities in which there is no gap in this area.

Old/New Business

Superintendent Welch announced that the Town of Medway has joined The Education Collaborative (of which Dedham is a member) thus changing the terms of the current agreement. The amendment to the contract will be voted on at the March 13, 2020 TEC Board meeting. Individual School Committees will then need to vote by April 30, 2020 to approve the changes to the contract. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ian Kelly is Dedham's representative on the TEC Board of Directors.

Subcommittee Reports and Updates

Budget

Mr. Donati announced the Capital Exchange Committee review meeting is tomorrow, February 27. The Operating budget will go before the Finance Committee on March 17 and the Facilities budget will be reviewed on March 14.

Dedham Organization for Substance Awareness

Dr. Pearrow announced there would be a Data Team Meeting on Friday (February 28) to discuss the MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey and the current DOSA parent survey.

Master Plan– School/SBRC

Nothing further to report

Master Plan – Town

The first community meeting will be held on Saturday, April 4 at 10:00 a.m. at the Avery Elementary School.

Negotiations

Ms. White stated negotiations are ongoing with the Educational Interventionists and the Paraprofessionals.

Policy

A meeting date will be set in the near future.

SBRC

Mr. Bilafer stated that the SBRC met on Monday. The group reviewed the draft of the SOI and discussed the submission of the LEAD designation for ECEC. They are also working to close out the ECEC project.

Traffic Circulation Study

None

Minutes

Ms. Briggs motioned to approve the minutes of February 12, 2020, Ms. White second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Donations

Mr. Bilafer motioned to approve with grateful appreciation a donation from the Dedham Library Innovation Team (DLIT) of 30 copies of five different books and 100 copies of graphic novels to the Dedham Public Schools to support the town-wide mental health read initiative, Dr. Pearrow second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Ms. White motioned to approve with grateful appreciation a donation from the Endicott Community Greenhouse in the amount of \$500 to the Avery Elementary School to support an agricultural or environmental themed field trip, Ms. Briggs second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Dr. Pearrow motioned to approve with grateful appreciation two donations from the Performing Arts Consultants in the amount of \$600 each (\$1,200 total) to support the Fine & Performing Arts Program, Ms. White second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Public Comment

None

Acknowledgements and Announcements

Ms. White read a personal statement denouncing negative comments on social media posts and expressed her support of her fellow Board members.

Supt. Welch mentioned the documentary film *Eat Up* will be shown tomorrow (February 27) at 6:30 p.m. at the Mother Brook Arts Center. DPS Food Service Director Jeanne Johnson will be on the discussion panel following the movie.

Supt. Welch congratulated all the success of the sports teams this season.

Ms. White motioned to enter Executive Session under Exemption 3, contract negotiations, Mr. Donati 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

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

Regular Meeting ended at 8:55 p.m.