

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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**MINUTES**

**March 4, 2020**

*(Approved 4/1/2020)*

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Kevin Coughlin, Chair  
Lisa Laprade, Vice-Chair  
Steve Bilafer  
Mayanne Briggs  
Joshua Donati  
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

Meeting Location: Avery Elementary School

Meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Coughlin called the regular School Committee meeting to order.

SBRC Update

Mr. Bilafer announced that the ECEC project will come in between 1.4 and 1.5 million dollars under budget. He noted that this money will not have to be borrowed. It will also take pressure off of the Robin Reyes Fund. Mr. Bilafer thanked the members of the School Building Rehabilitation Committee (SBRC) for all of their efforts and hard work on the ECEC project.

The School Committee and members of the SBRC present (Chair Dave Roberts, Vice-Chair Ron Hathaway, John Tocci, Steve Bilafer and Mayanne Briggs) thanked the following people for their support on the ECEC project: Town Moderator Dan Driscoll, Superintendent Welch, ECEC Principal Kim Taylor, Planning Board, Conservation Committee, Joe Flannigan and the DPW, and abutters and neighbors.

The Committee discussed the next steps of the current Statement of Interest Application (for Oakdale School) being submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) this spring. No further steps can be taken until the MSBA makes its final decisions. If approved, the School Department will have to certify enrollment and ask for appropriation of funds to conduct a feasibility study. If the application is not approved, the School Department will have to resubmit an application next year starting from scratch.

## **Student Update**

None

## **Recognitions**

The Committee recognized the Dedham Education Foundations (DEF) for their contributions to the Dedham Public Schools. DEF President Mark Reilly, Grants Committee Member Sandy Sicard and Board Members Kim Bevans and Dan Giacalone spoke about the DEF fundraising efforts, grant cycles and the focus on enrichment to the curriculum. To date the DEF has given out more than \$425,000. The School Committee thanked the DEF for all of their hard work and generosity.

Dr. Pearrow motioned to accept with grateful appreciation grants totaling \$19,282.25 from the Dedham Education Foundation to the Dedham Public Schools for the 2019-2020 school year, Ms. White second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

## **Request for Out of State Field Trip**

Avery Principal Clare Sullivan came before the Committee to request permission for the Avery School and the Greenlodge School to take their Grade 4 classes to their annual trip to the Roger Williams Zoo in Providence, Rhode Island. This trip compliments the 4th grade study of animal adaptations. Greenlodge School would like to go on May 19, 2020 and Avery School would like to go June 10, 2020. No further discussion occurred.

Ms. White motioned to approve the Greenlodge School out-of-state field trip on May 19, 2020 and the Avery School out-of-state field trip on June 10, 2020 to Roger Williams Zoo in Providence, Rhode Island, Ms. Briggs second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

## Superintendent's Update

Yesterday was the district's annual full Professional Development day coordinated by Dr. Kelly's office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. Supt. Welch was pleased to participate with all members of the District Leadership Team in the first three hours of a 15-hour Cultural Proficiency/Implicit Bias training provided by the EDCO IDEAS (Initiatives for Developing Equity and Achievement for Students) team of Karen Thomson and Leslie Smart. In the morning he continued his Strategic Plan Input meetings by meeting with all PE/Health/Wellness educators, secretaries/clerks and custodians/maintenance staff from the entire district.

On Friday, Supt. Welch recorded another one-hour edition of "Ask the Superintendent" with Dedham TV. The program has been uploaded to the Dedham TV website and is available for on-demand viewing.

Last Thursday, Supt. Welch conducted his most recent meeting of senior student interviews. These continue twice per week during X-block, whenever possible.

On Friday last week, the Safety Super Team met and continued planning for future safety drills in the district. Current thinking is to provide training for faculty, staff, and first responders on a possible medical or environmental event at a school in order to integrate emergency medical personnel and educators in a cooperative response.

Supt. Welch is continuing to closely monitor daily updates from DPH and the CDC on the evolving status of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). He and Director of Health Services Gail Kelley are in regular contact with Public Health Nurse Jessica Tracy to keep on top of any new information.

Earlier today Governor Baker held a press conference at which he strongly recommended cancellation of all international trips by high schools. Based upon this recommendation, Supt. Welch directed High School Principal Jim Forrest and World Languages Department Chair Alison Guifarro to inform students and parents that they would be cancelling the planned trip to Paris and Barcelona originally scheduled for April 16-26 this spring. There are 11 students registered for this trip and the District will be working with them and their families to determine next steps in reconciling how to proceed given this recent new information.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education announced that it is seeking public comment on proposed changes to the district and school accountability system. The proposed changes will be considered by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education later this spring. If approved, the changes will be implemented when 2020 accountability calculations are completed this fall. If any committee members would like to submit public comments on the proposed changes, you may do so via an online survey.

Tomorrow night's Board of Selectmen meeting has two items that are of particular interest to the schools. A final approval from the BOS on our Statement of Interest to the MSBA will be voted on by the full committee. In addition, Town Manager Leon Goodwin will be presenting his FY21 Budget message.

## Reports

### Master Plan Update Presentation

Phil Poinelli from the firm SMMA presented the final presentation for the School Facilities Master Plan Update. The presentation will be on the District website.

Mr. Bilafer asked that if the SOI were accepted in September, how much would a feasibility study cost. Mr. Poinelli stated the study would be impacted by the size and parameter of the project, but could cost around \$90,000 and is done in the first phase of the project.

Mr. Bilafer said that the SOI is for Oakdale School, which means the solution has to include the Oakdale school community. He asked if it had to be built on the Oakdale School site. Mr. Poinelli stated the new school has to include the Oakdale School community, but does need to be built on the current Oakdale School site. The project can include school populations other than Oakdale.

Dr. Pearrow suggested that is possible that we won't get funded through the MSBA, but would still need a new school. Mr. Poinelli explained the project could be funded with Town funds or the SOI can continue to be submitted annually to the MSBA.

## Old/New Business

### Discussion & Vote of Memorandum Of Agreement for Dedham Traffic Directors

The Traffic Directors' contract was discussed and the MOA was voted on unanimously in Executive Session. No further discussion occurred.

Ms. White motioned to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Dedham School Committee and the Dedham Traffic Directors' Association effective September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2023, Ms. Laprade second; a roll call vote was taken:

Steve Bilafer - Yes

Mayanne 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**

## **Subcommittee Reports and Updates**

### Budget

Tomorrow, March 5, the Town Manager will put forth his budget at the Board of Selectmen meeting.

### Dedham Organization for Substance Awareness

Dr. Pearrow stated there will be a meeting of DOSA on March 10 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall and is open to the public.

### Master Plan– School

After reviewing tonight's presentation from SMMA, the update to the School Facilities Master Plan will be voted on at the next School Committee meeting.

### Master Plan – Town

There will be a Visioning Workshop on Saturday, April 4 at 10:00am at the Avery Elementary School.

### Negotiations

The next paraprofessional negotiation meeting will be after April break. The MTA site coordinator is not available until that time.

### Policy

The next Policy Subcommittee meeting will be Tuesday, March 10 at 4:30 p.m. in the Central Administration office.

### SBRC

Nothing further.

### Traffic Circulation Study

Asst. Supt. Rippin is contacting consultant VHB to discuss next steps.

## **Minutes**

None

## **Donations**

Dr. Pearrow motioned to approve with grateful appreciation a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from the Dedham Education Partnership to Dedham High School to support the transportation cost of the senior class trip to Six Flags, Mr. Donati second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

## **Public Comment**

None

## **Acknowledgements and Announcements**

The Avery Discover Camp and Activity fair is Saturday, March 7 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The Dedham Education Foundation Spelling Bee is Friday, March 13 at the Middle School at 6:00 p.m.

DHS Alumni Association/Booster Club Trivia Night is March 28 at 7:00pm at the American Legion.

Ms. White motioned to adjourn the meeting of March 4, 2020, Ms. Briggs second; the Committee voted 7-0 in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.