

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
REMOTE MEETING

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**MINUTES**

**April 15, 2020**

*(Approved 5/6/2020)*

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT via REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

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 REMOTELY PRESENT:

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

Meeting Location:

Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A sec. 20, the meeting was held via online Google Hangout Conference as posted on the agenda: [meet.google.com/skj-gikd-ogx](https://meet.google.com/skj-gikd-ogx) or by phone 1 319-988-1387 PIN: 998 410 246#

Remote meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Coughlin called the School Committee meeting to order. A roll call attendance was taken:

Steve Bilafer- Present  
Mayanne Briggs - Present  
Joshua Donati - Present  
Dr. Melissa Pearrow - Present  
Tracey White - Present  
Lisa Laprade, Vice-Chair - Present  
Kevin Coughlin, Chair - Present

Mr. Coughlin read the following statement regarding the remote meeting:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings in the Town of Dedham are being conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. We have arranged for a call-in number for those who would like to listen to this meeting. While it is possible that some members of the public may be invited to comment, it is also possible that despite our best efforts, we are not able to provide for real-time involvement, we will post a recording of this meeting as soon as we are able.

## Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Welch provided the following updates to the Committee:

- A tentative Memorandum of Agreement with DEA Unit A was reached on Tuesday, April 7
- Phase 2 Remote Learning Plan was released on Sunday, April 12
- Food Services provided 3200 meals (4 days worth of meals) to families on Thursday, April 9
- Food Services provided 370 meals today, averaging about 375 meals/day this week
- Two-way video conference meetings began this week after trainings were completed by educators
- Over 130 confirmed COVID-19 cases among Dedham residents
- Approximately two dozen DPS families affected by COVID-19 (infected member of household)
- Nurses continue to support Health Department with "contact tracing"
- Over 70 video conference meetings completed around the district last week
- Supt. Welch sadly announced the sudden passing of long-time, beloved paraprofessional Pam Vicente
- Greenlodge School 4th and 5th grades will be having video conferences this week to process Ms. Vicente's passing.
- All backup for the submission of the Statement of Interest (SOI) has been physically mailed to the MSBA
- Supt. Welch continues to participate on "Task Force" calls with Dedham town leaders
- Monday, March 13: Supt. Welch participated in a video conference with superintendents from around the state regarding:
  - The closure's potential impact on the evaluation of educators
  - Professional status designations
  - Legal/contractual timelines around notifications in the event of a "reduction in force" due to possible FY21 budget shortfalls.
- Tuesday, March 14: Supt. Welch participated in a video conference with DESE Commissioner Jeff Riley regarding:
  - Next steps/timeline for possible school closure extensions by the Governor
  - Rescheduling of the Boston Marathon 9/14/20 and possible impacts to FY21 school calendars
  - Budgetary guidelines and SOA guidance
  - MCAS extensions and "what if's" for the 2020-21 school year

- Possible protocols for eventual return to school (at whatever date this occurs)
- Summer learning possibilities
- New content recommendations (“power standards”)
- Tuesday, April 14 the Facilities Department completed the initial installation of 3 Roof Top heating/air conditioning units (RTU’s) at Dedham High School (This was the next phase of \$800,000 worth of maintenance allocated by Town Meeting toward this project)
- Wednesday, April 1 Supt. Welch recorded a special 30-minute remote learning edition of “Ask the Superintendent” which can be viewed via the Dedham TV website.

The Committee discussed the ways the principals and staff are trying to reach out to every student in the district, the training for teachers to enable two-way video conferencing, receiving feedback on remote learning usage and experience, and helping parents facilitate the remote learning process.

Impact of the FY20 & FY21 Budget due to Coronavirus

Asst. Supt. for Business & Finance Sam Rippin provided the Committee with the following impact of the FY20 budget to the coronavirus:

<b>Summary Grid of FY2020 Impact to DPS:</b>	<b>Lost Revenue</b>	<b>Cost Svgs/Grant</b>
1. School Nutrition	\$455,172	
2. Regular Education Transportation	\$ 29,333	\$133,393
3. Special Education Transportation		\$ 71,500
4. ECEC Integrated Preschool	\$184,929	
5. ECEC Extended Day	\$122,504	\$ 30,736
6. DELTA	\$ 52,250	
7. Daily Substitutes		\$ 47,360
8. Athletics	\$ 17,275	\$142,617
9. Use of School Property	\$ 46,899	
10. CARES Act		\$263,422
11. School Nutrition Stimulus		\$TBD
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$908,362</b>	<b>\$689,028</b>

- The net loss, projected as \$219,334, maybe recouped from the School Nutrition Stimulus Grant.
- Paying coaches a full salary is unclear as the MIAA is still hoping to gain back some of the spring season
- Stimulus funds should come directly to the schools (not to the Town) as they have in the past.

There is no way to know the impact the coronavirus will have on the FY21 Town and School Budget. Mr. Bilafer suggested having a Budget Subcommittee meeting to begin looking at possible impacts to the budget. Mr. Rippin noted that a 1% change to the budget is equivalent to approximately \$400,000.

**Old/New Business**

Discussion and Vote of Changes to 2019-2020 School Calendar

After polling parents and students as well as researching actions taken by other districts around the state, Supt. Welch is recommending cancelling April vacation to continue the momentum of remote learning.

Thus, the four days scheduled for April vacation, April 21-April 24, would revert to learning days and the last day of the academic school year would become June 19, 2020.

The Committee discussed how Monday, April 20 is Patriots' Day, a state holiday, and will remain a day off from school. No further discussion occurred.

Dr. Pearrow motioned to approve changes to the 2019-2020 school calendar by cancelling April vacation (April 21 -April 24, 2020) and making the last day of school Friday June 19, 2020, 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**

#### Discussion and Vote of Unit A Memorandum of Agreement during COVID-19 Outbreak

Superintendent Welch and the Dedham Education Association have been working together to come up with a fair agreement for remote learning during the school closure due to the coronavirus outbreak. The agreement is through May 1, 2020 and will have to be amended if the school closure continues for a longer period of time. No further discussion occurred.

Ms. Briggs motioned to approve the Extended School Closures - Remote Learning Memorandum of Agreement between the Dedham Education Association Unit A and the Dedham School Committee through May 1, 2020, Mr. Bilafer 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**

#### Discussion of upcoming Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Chapter 70 Funding submission

Supt. Welch explained to the Committee that a district plan for spending additional funds being received from the Student Opportunity Act was originally due to the Department of Education by April 1. That deadline has been pushed back to May 15, 2020. It is expected that the Town of Dedham will gain

\$80,000 in Chapter 70 funds from the SOA. Once a plan has been drafted, the Committee will need to vote on that plan before it is submitted to the state.

## **Minutes**

Ms. Laprade motioned to approve the minutes from the remote joint Town Boards meeting on March 31, 2020, Ms. Briggs 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**

Ms. White motioned to approve the minutes from the remote meeting on April 1, 2020, Dr. Pearrow 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**

## **Donations**

None

## **Public Comment**

Megan Priest, Riverdale Parent, was pleased to participate today on an initial two-way conference call with Principal Edward Paris and is happy to assist anyone who might need help with remote meetings.

Ms. Butler, former School Committee Chair, thanked Technology Director Dr. Don Langenhorst, former Superintendent June Doe and the School Committee for initiating implementation of the broad usage of

technology devices twelve years ago. This foresight has put Dedham in an excellent position for remote learning. Mr. Coughlin also thanked Liz McGonagle for her work at that time.

Michelle Kleinsasser, Oakdale Parent, wanted to give a parent's perspective on remote learning. She was happy to hear of the reasoning behind the delay in two-way video conferencing. She explained the children are missing social interaction and would like to see teachers take some of the load off of parents. She volunteered to be on a parent forum for such discussions.

## **Acknowledgements and Announcements**

Ms. Briggs thanked staff members for all of their hard work. She noted it has only been four weeks since the school closure and asked for patience during this time.

Mr. Donati stated that he understood during this time of crisis the importance of two-way communication between students and teachers and he wants to make sure the district is allowing this to occur.

Ms. Laprade thanked staff members for their hard work and noted that she understands the challenges of working parents trying to monitor assignments in a virtual platform.

Ms. Briggs motioned to adjourn the remote meeting of April 15, 2020, 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**

Remote meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.