

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
REMOTE MEETING

MINUTES

June 3, 2020

(Approved 6/17/2020)

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/yim-hnzo-sze or by phone 1-406-905-1917 with PIN: 623 570 779#

Remote meeting commenced at 6:30 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.

Mr. Coughlin noted the need to enter Executive Session under Exemption 3.

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

The Committee returned to regular session at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Laprade read the following statement:

As a committee we stand united and fully endorse the statement by the Dedham Public Schools administration team last week denouncing the violence and injustices against people of color in our nation.

We, too, are deeply saddened by the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery and the fact that systemic racism continues to play a large role in our society.

We are united in our belief that every person should be treated equally, regardless of their skin color.

We are united in our commitment to cultural diversity and inclusion across the district.

We are united in our work to make sure every child, and every family in our community, feels welcomed and valued in the Dedham Public Schools.

As a committee we will continue to make it a priority as we move forward.

Superintendent's Update

Supt. Welch noted the horrific events in Minneapolis last week that have focused attention on the unequal treatment of people of color in America. The district principals and central office leadership team issued a statement regarding the imperative need for all to stand up and make a clear commitment to embracing all families of color in the community and across the country. Supt. Welch thanked the Committee for its support and action in this ongoing push for equality.

Preparations are in full swing for the Class of 2020 Vehicle-Based Diploma Ceremony this Saturday, June 6 beginning at 1:00 PM. The event is not open to visitors or friends/family beyond those who will be in vehicles with the individual senior graduates. Socially distanced seating will be available for school committee members at the High School main entrance beginning at 12:30 PM. The entire ceremony will be broadcast live by Dedham TV.

The community will also be sponsoring a student celebration parade beginning at 5:00 PM on Saturday, June 6. Vehicles will gather in the parking lot of the Dedham Courthouse, and proceed past all elementary schools in Dedham. Supt. Welch thanked the many parents and community members who worked hard to pull this together and sponsor the event.

Yesterday, Supt. Welch participated in a video conference with superintendents across the state hosted by DESE Commissioner Jeff Riley. The discussion centered around plans for possible summer programming and more broadly, how schools will potentially reopen this fall. Given the Governor's guidance in preparation for "Phase II Reopening" issued on Monday, June 1, there were obviously lots of questions about what might be in the future. DESE plans to issue more prescriptive guidance for possible summer Extended School Year Special Education Programming (ESY) either tomorrow or Friday this week. The initial 32-pages of guidance were provided by the EEC (Department of Early Education and Care) covering summer camps and other non K-12 education services. More extensive guidance around a possible fall school opening protocol will likely be released sometime during the week of June 15th. The Commissioner hinted very strongly that there will likely be much more prescriptive guidance around what schools will look like, and it is highly likely he will recommend a "hybrid" of in-person and remote learning to start the year. This is obviously predicated on how the data trends for the next 3 months, but planning will occur with a larger task force group once that guidance emerges.

The district has already issued many refunds to families for unused yellow bus transportation fees and spring sports/athletics. Links to these forms were distributed to parents a few weeks ago. Those families who requested refunds by May 22 were issued checks from the town last Friday on May 29.

Supt. Welch convened the 4th bi-monthly Town Wide PTO Officers call this past Monday night. Sixteen parents were on the call representing each of the schools in the district. In addition, there were 15 members of the District Leadership team on the call. The final call for the school year with PTO Officers will occur on Monday, June 15.

The Committee questioned the Superintendent on Cultural Proficiency training for the board, term 3 grading, a formation of a task force for the school reopening, and the inequity of teacher performance of virtual learning. The Superintendent responded that cultural proficiency training for the school staff was interrupted by the pandemic, but the training would be pertinent for the Committee as well; a task force for school reopening will be formed once guidelines from the State have been issued; and virtual learning

guidelines require contract negotiations. Dr Kelly provided a full explanation of the term 3 remote learning grading that will be based on a scale of 0-4.

Old/New Business

Discussion and Vote on Cafeteria Workers Contract

A Memorandum of Agreement with the cafeteria workers was proposed to the Committee. Ms. White reported that this agreement was negotiated remotely and has the support of the Negotiating Subcommittee. It was ratified by the cafeteria workers today. Mr. Coughlin stated the full Committee voted unanimously in tonight's Executive Session to accept the agreement. Supt. Welch acknowledged the cafeteria workers for their efforts and dedication to feeding the families of Dedham during the pandemic. No further discussion occurred.

Ms. Briggs motioned to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Dedham School Committee and the Dedham Education Association Cafeteria Workers Unit dated June 3, 2020 for the three-year period of September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2022, 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 and Vote on Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance Contract

The contract for Mr. Sam Rippin, the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, is up for renewal. Supt. Welch and the Committee thanked Mr. Rippin for all of his hard work and dedication to the Dedham Public Schools for the past six years. No further discussion occurred.

Ms. Laprade motioned to approve the contract between the Dedham School Committee and the Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Sam Rippin for the four-year period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024, 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

Superintendent's Evaluation

Superintendent Welch provided the Committee with the following documents to assist them in completing his evaluation:

- 2018-2019 Evaluation Forms (Completed by the Committee year)
- Superintendent's Self Evaluation from 2018-2019
- 2019-2020 Superintendent's Evaluation form (to be completed by the Committee)
- The State's Superintendent's Evaluation Rubric

Supt. Welch explained that his evaluation is late this year due to the Coronavirus interruption of the school year. He provided the Committee with a review of the 2019-2020 school year which including two major events, the strike in October and the Coronavirus pandemic in March.

Each Committee member will need to complete an evaluation of the Superintendent. Ms. Briggs will collect and coordinate the summation of Superintendent Welch's evaluation.

Donations

Ms Briggs motioned to accept with grateful appreciation a donation in the amount of \$1,000 to the Fine Arts Department from the Dedham Arts Boosters to fund a Visual Arts teaching resource and to assist in the sanitization of instruments, Ms. White 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

Minutes

Dr. Pearrow motioned to approve the minutes from the remote meeting on May 20, 2020, Ms. White 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

Public Comment

Mr. Coughlin read the following statement:

The “public comment” portion of the meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to make brief comments upon matters that are before the School Committee. It is not intended as a question and answer session, is not intended as a vehicle for members of the public to disrupt the meeting, and it is not intended as a forum for raising topics that are not appropriate for public discussion.

No further Public Comment occurred.

Acknowledgements and Announcements

None

Ms. White motioned to adjourn the remote meeting of June 3, 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

Remote meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.