

**DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
June 4, 2014**

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Jen Barsamian, Chair	Tom Ryan, Vice Chair	Mayanne Briggs
Joe Heisler	Kevin Coughlin	Susan Butler-Walko
Rachel McGregor		

MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

June Doe, Superintendent
Cynthia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent
Michael LaFrancesca
Kathy Gaudreau

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Recognition of New England Math League Awards – Nancy Clement and Principal Debbie Gately recognized the following Middle School Students:

Grade 6

Allison Reilly
Filitsa Siokas
Connor Laurino
Kathleen Duncan
Hanna Littmarck

Grade 7

Gina Pasciuto
Garry Kapllani
Ryan Lahiff
Isha Havale
Devin Maida

Grade 8

Shanaya Theodore
Emma Francis
Jacqueline Lewman
William McGaig
Oliva Stipo

GREENLODGE SCHOOL LUNCHTIME LEARNERS

Principal Banios recognized the Greenlodge School Lunchtime Learners Program, which is the longest lasting community program in the Dedham Elementary Schools. He stated the Seniors arrive at Greenlodge School once a week during recess and students are invited to join them for crafts and games. Each senior works with a small group of students in grades 3-5. This year children learned how to knit and crochet, played checkers and chess among other activities. The rewards of this program are obvious as you witness the children eagerly meeting their senior friends and see the positive relationships that are formed. Principal Banios stated this is a terrific way to connect our community to our school and provide seniors a way to stay active in the town. Lunchtime Learners are a part of Greenlodge School and always will be. Principal Banios introduced each of the Lunchtime Learners: Josephine Arrigo, Karon Boles, Joanne Carlson, Carol Clements, Nancy Gaines, Mary Hathaway, Lillian Leonard, Helen Lehner, Marilyn O'Brien, Judy Ovington, Mary Palombo, Lea Paul, Rose Silvestri, and Etta Willis.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

High School – The Prom was held this past Friday evening at Lombardo's with over 350 students attending and all were exceptionally well behaved! Senior Day was held at the Endicott estate on Monday. The students received their yearbooks and enjoyed a wonderful buffet provided by Q'doba. A DJ entertained the students while they participated in many games and enjoyed the jumpy house. Class Night- many students were recognized for their athletic, academic and civic achievements during the ceremony. Following the ceremony a buffet dinner was served for the families and students in the dining hall. Class Trip-Today, 53 seniors are on their way back from enjoying the day at Six Flags. Graduation is Saturday at 1 pm.

Oakdale - The Oakdale Spring Concert will be held tomorrow, June 4th at 9:15 and 1:15. There are performances from each grade level, the 3, 4, and 5 th grade Instrumental ensembles, and the Oakdale Glee Club. All are welcome. The Oakdale Annual Family Fun Night will be next Thursday, June 12th from 5:30-7:30. There will be games, rides, trucks, food, DJ and lots and lots of raffles. Bracelets for entrance and food are available at Oakdale. The 5th grade students enjoyed a wonderful day at the Sherriff's Department on Monday. Students participated in various team building activities and were able to experience the "ropes course". They were treated to a pizza lunch and ended the day with a visit from the ice cream truck. This trip was sponsored by the Norfolk County Sherriff's department and the 5th grade committee.

Avery - Avery celebrated field day and our family cookout on Friday, May 30th. It was a beautiful day and an event enjoyed by all. Many grades will be taking field trips this month. The fourth grade students visited Roger Williams Zoo today. They enjoyed the zoo as well as the Animal Adaptations presentations. The fifth grade visited the State House and the Boston Tea Party Ship yesterday and will take their final trip to George's Island next week. The third grade has taken a walking field trip to the Fairbanks House earlier this week and will walk to the Dedham Historical Society tomorrow. The first grade will be going to the New England Aquarium and IMax Theater later this month. The second grade will be going to Moose Hill Sanctuary next week. Avery Summer Institute will be running this summer from July 7th to August 1st. Some of the offerings include Adventures in Engineering I and II, Digital Storytelling, Computer Programming and Robotics, Creative Cupcakes, and Sensational Science. The brochure is posted on the Avery website.

ECEC - "The ECEC celebrated its final 'Book of the Month' celebration this week. 'Book of the Month' is one of our key early literacy initiatives where the students assemble to share the reading and video presentation of a relevant book. For June, we focused on the book, 'Have You Filled A Bucket Today?', a wonderful story fostering the development of excellent social skills in young children. Through the generosity of our PTO each one of our students will leave this month's assembly with a sand bucket to use on the beach as they remember the valuable lessons of the story. ECEC Family Fun Night is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19. Several of the ECEC Kindergartens are heading to the Franklin Park Zoo for a field trip on Thursday, June 12.

Riverdale - On Monday, June 2 Mrs. Jenkins' and Mrs. Cummings' third grade classes were treated to a visit from the Portable Planetarium as part of the culmination for their science explorations of the solar system. The Portable Planetarium allows children to walk inside an inflatable planetarium and see constellations planets and galaxies projected on all sides. The students were able to take notes, ask questions and write about what they saw during their interactive visits. Mrs. Jenkins wrote

and was awarded a DEF grant that funded this experience. On June 2 Mrs. MacDougall's and Ms. Zahka's fourth graders and their families participated in Pen Pal night from 7:00-8:15. This is an annual event in which the adult community members who have exchanged letters with fourth graders all year long meet face to face for the first time. The students created beautiful table decorations to share with their pen pals, and all the children enjoyed being able to make a personal connection with the community member who had written to them. On June 3, Miss Kelly's and Miss Piazza's second grade students were able to go on a field trip to the New England Aquarium in support of their curricular studies of animal habitats. The children came back to school ready to share some amazing facts they learned from their aquarium tour and during the animal presentations they observed. The children were able to go on this field trip through funds from the Riverdale PTO. This Friday, June 6, the Riverdale School hosts its Annual Field Day event. The student council raised money throughout the school year and each child will receive a special Field Day t-shirt in their grade level's color to wear during the day. This year's t-shirt is a brand new design selected by the student council. This event would not be possible without the work of the Riverdale student council members and their teacher advisers: Mrs. Mayassi, Ms. Andrews and Ms. Schlussel. A number of faculty members and parents will serve as volunteers during field day. In the event of rain, field day will be held Friday, June 13.

Greenlodge - Community Week at Greenlodge was a big success! Students and staff recognized and appreciated all the elements of our school that make it work. A huge thank you to Jeanne Johnson and her food service staff who went the extra mile to make our first annual bar-b-que fun, well organized and delicious. Next week Greenlodge's student council is promoting a spirit week. Each day will have a different theme and all participating students will make a donation to the Jimmy Fund. This year at Greenlodge, they have worked to implement and pilot in many classrooms a small group instructional model for mathematics. This strategy pre-tests students by unit and then divides them into leveled learning groups for small group instruction. Using our Everyday Math curriculum we teach in groups of 4-5 while other students work with our math coach or independently. This model provides more direct and explicit instruction, is easier to assess student learning and maintains higher levels of engagement.

Middle School - On Monday, June 9 at 7:00 pm we will be having our National Junior Honor Society Induction and Moving On ceremony in the DMS auditorium. Letters informing students of selection were sent home today with students. Final exams at the middle school begin on Wednesday, June 11 and conclude on Thursday, June 19. Step-up day for grade 8 students entering Dedham High School will be on June 10th. Step-up day for grade 5 students entering Dedham Middle School will be on June 17th. Families are reminded to refer to the DMS website and Ms. Gately's weekly newsletter which is on the website and emailed home each Friday for information on upcoming events at the middle school.

CHAIRS UPDATE

Graduation will take place this Sat at 1:00. Mrs. Barsamian listed the 2014-15 Sub-Committee members for the 2014-15 school year:

- Policy: Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. McGregor, and Mr. Ryan
- Negotiating: Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Briggs, and Mr. Coughlin
- Budget: Mrs. McGregor, Mrs. Butler-Walko and Mr. Heisler
- Finance: Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Heisler, Mrs. McGregor, and Mrs. Butler-Walko
- TEC Representative: Mrs. Briggs

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Apuzzio asked the members of the school committee what the process was to determine the hiring of the new Riverdale Principal. Superintendent June Doe explained that the Superintendent appoints the Principals and under the new Superintendent, he will determine the permanent Principal. The goal is to find the very best person and Principal Conway knows the staff and the building.

Janet Smidile thanked and updated the School Committee on behalf of the special education students for the Oakdale tour and presentations, which was greatly appreciated by the families.

Cheryle Kerr, Riverdale parent, asked if there flexibility for the length of time for the interim new principal. Superintendent Doe responded stating this is a one year apt. The new Supt will start the process when get is ready. It's up to the Superintendent to appoint the new Riverdale Principal.

Eric Murphy – Riverdale School parent asked the School Committee – why was the position advertised if an interim was to be assigned? Mrs. Barsamian stated that Superintendent Doe met with Mr. Welch to discuss this.

REPORTS

Principal Armstrong presented the OAKDALE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, which is available on the Dedham Public School website.

DONATIONS

Mr. Heisler motioned to approve \$300.00 donation from the Dedham Exchange for the DMS Library, seconded by Mrs. Briggs – with grateful appreciation, voted unanimous.

Mr. Heisler motioned to approve \$491.00 donation from Harvard University's Physics Lab for the Electronics/Robotics program for equipment items thru DHS Teacher Dave Haluska's connection, seconded by Mrs. McGregor with grateful appreciation, voted unanimous.

MINUTES

Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve the May 21, 2014 minutes, Mrs. McGregor seconded, Voted unanimous. Mr. Heisler abstained.

2nd PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Maher, parent of a DHS student spoke to the School Committee regarding a DHS course that was cancelled due to lack of enrollment. Mr. Maher thanked Mr. McCarthy for enrolling his son at Mass Bay for a course along with attending DHS. He states he had an incredible experience and ended up with a 4.0. His son had to give up HS football. Asking the SC not to put another student in this situation.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to adjourn at 8:42 seconded by Mrs. Walko voted unanimous.