

**DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 7, 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		

Meeting began at 7:06 p.m.

The School Committee recognized 2 High School students, Christopher Canavan and Joseph Borsellino, winners of the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Award.

Mrs. Barsamian recognized each of the Superintendent's Screening Committee, Mrs. Barsamian thanked each one with a book by the Author Horace Mann.

Mrs. Briggs thanked the NESDEC team, Dr. Bettencourt and Ms. Burke along with the Superintendent's Screening Committee.

Mr. Wally Hughes
Representative Paul McMurtry
Mrs. Kim Roslonek
Mrs. Lynne Canavan
Mr. Tim Carey
Dr. Julie Jeannetti
Ms. Liz Hegarty
Selectman Jim MacDonald
Principal Holli Armstrong
Mrs. Kathy Gaudreau
Dr. John Murray
Dr. Rachel Dudley
Mr. Timothy Geary

Mr. Coughlin motioned to authorize Mr. Michael Welch as the Superintendent of Dedham Public Schools, Mrs. Briggs seconded, voted unanimous.

Mrs. McGregor motioned to authorize Mrs. Barsamian, to sign Mr. Michael Welch's contract for Superintendent of Dedham Public Schools, seconded by Mrs. Walko, voted unanimous. Mrs. Barsamian signed Mr. Welch's contract and was formally introduced and was given a book of Dedham. After a photo with the screening committee, Mr. Welch thanked the School Committee and the Screening Committee and is very excited to be selected the Superintendent of Dedham Public School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

High School - Vanessa Ciampa won the Norfolk Law Day Essay Contest sponsored by the Ryan Law Offices of Quincy, Massachusetts on May 2, 2014. This year the topic was: "American Democracy and the Rule of Law: Why Every Vote Matters". Advanced Placement Testing started on Monday, May 5, 2014 and will conclude on Wednesday, May 14, 2014. The Mathematics MCAS Testing for all sophomores will take place on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 and Wednesday, May 14, 2014.

Riverdale - The annual Riverdale Spring Fair will be held this Saturday, from 10:00-3:00. This event is the primary PTO fundraiser for Riverdale. Parents and children may enjoy games and snacks. Thursday, May 8, fourth graders at Riverdale will visit the Lowell Textile Museum in conjunction with a social studies exploration of Massachusetts history. Congratulations to first grader Tommy Kennedy who took second place overall in the Dedham Public Schools Chess Tournament. Chess club was one of several after school enrichment programs offered this year. Mrs. Doe thank Mr. Donald Seager for coordinating this for the students.

Greenlodge - Last week Stephen Dewar and students from the high school visited Greenlodge to provide our fifth grade students with a hands on science/engineering enrichment experience. The enrichment program began, students are participating in programs including zumba, art with math and science, global xylophone group, building with legos, fun with crafts, outdoor soccer. The Get Fit program is well underway with weekly winners for the classrooms with the most students who document 45 minutes of aerobic exercise per day. Every student who participates will win a prize. Community Week is coming!

Middle School - Congratulations to grade 8 students Rena Coben and Corey Kilroy who were recently selected by the faculty at DMS as Scholar Leaders for the New England League of Middle Schools. Students have successfully completed grade 8 Math MCAS and session 1 of Grade 6 MCAS so far this week. Grade 6 & 7 Math MCAS and grade 8 Science/Technology MCAS will conclude by May 15th. Progress Reports for Term 4 will be distributed on Monday, May 12.

Oakdale - Students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 are in the middle of their Math and Science MCAS. The students are well prepared and we are confident that they will do well. At Oakdale there are 3 seniors from Xaverian and 1 senior from Ursaline doing their Senior Service projects. They will be wrapping up this 6 week project shortly. They have been working in classrooms, help organize the supply closet and helping with clerical work around the school. The 4th graders will be going to Lowell to visit the Lowell Mills next week, offered by DEF.

Avery School - Elementary students in grades 3, 4, and 5 are currently participating in the MCAS assessments. The fifth grade students joined middle school and high school students in the annual All Town Chorus on April 30th. We would like to thank the music teachers for their efforts with all students create such a wonderful experience and show. The Avery School spring after school enrichment program has begun. At the end of the last session the second edition of the Avery Buzz, our student created newsletter, was published. On Friday night, Avery students entertained family and friends with singing, dancing, and playing the violin in our annual *Avery's Got Talent* show.

STUDENT UPDATE – Gail Coughlin

AP exams started on May 5 and will end on May 14, 2014, the Fine Arts Award Banquet was May 6th, today, May 7, 2014 is Kevin Coughlin's birthday, today, the Scully awards are at 7:00 p.m., The Drama club on May 9th will perform 3 short comedies, Math MCAS will take place May 13 and 14, All town band concert will take place on May 15, The all district art show is May 20th, Progress Reports issued May 15, Seniors have 12 school days left.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet Smedile, 128 tower Street in Dedham made a public comment on concerns regarding the relocation of the special education program which is being moved from the Riverdale School to the Oakdale School.

Mrs. Doe stated she will schedule a meeting for all parents with the Director of Special Ed and Principals of both schools to make sure all the questions are answered. There was a lot of information that went into this decision.

Sandy Sicard, 21 Intervale Road – representing first grade parents at Greenlodge School whose students will have three classes in grade 2, and requests four classes. Currently there are 16 students in her first grade class, stated concerns regarding student issues with large class sizes.

The following parents also represented the Greenlodge School with their concerns:
Sandy Sicard, Lisa Laprat, Brian Clinton, April Wilmar

Mrs. Barsamian thanked the parents for attending and stated they hear the concerns. Superintendent Doe stated she monitors the numbers each day. The class sizes will change through August, therefore the budget deficit of \$200,000. Twenty-two students is average in surrounding towns. The School Committee and the Administration are aware of the concerns and we will continue to watch the numbers.

REPORTS

Warrant Article 19

Selectman Michael Buter presented a power point presentation on the proposal for the Municipal Campus in Dedham - Acquisition of Ames Schoolhouse and renovations, renovation of town hall for relocated Police Station, renovation of the Main Fire station to be done in 3 phases. The purchase of the Ames Schoolhouse property for 5.85 million. The tenants are anticipate to be there until 2015. 3.5 acres of campus in the center of town. The town will use hotel and meals tax to pay for 100% of acquisition, design, construction.

PUBLIC HEARING ON INTER-DISTRICT SCHOOL CHOICE

Public Hearing On Interdistrict School Choice Law: Motion made to open the public hearing made by Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Heisler. Roll call vote taken: Mr. Heisler – YES, Mrs. Butler - YES, Mr. Coughlin – YES, Mrs. Briggs – Yes, Mrs. McGregor – YES, Mr. Ryan – Yes, Mrs. Barsamian – YES. Annual vote for all school committees, whether Dedham receives students from other school districts. Mrs. Doe explained we do not have classroom space that can accommodate the students from the outside. Mrs. Doe's recommendation is to vote no.

No Public Comment

Mrs. Briggs made the motion to close the public hearing, Mrs. Walco seconded the vote, roll call vote taken. Mr. Heisler – YES, Mrs. Butler - YES, Mr. Coughlin – YES, Mrs. Briggs – Yes, Mrs. McGregor – YES, Mr. Ryan – Yes, Mrs. Barsamian – YES

Mrs. Doe's recommendation was to vote no on School Choice: Motion made by Mr. Heisler to accept the Superintendent's recommendation vote no on school choice, seconded by Mrs. Walko, roll call vote taken: Mr. Heisler – YES, Mrs. Butler - YES, Mr. Coughlin – YES, Mrs. Briggs – Yes, Mrs. McGregor – YES, Mr. Ryan – Yes, Mrs. Barsamian – YES

VOTE ON RIVERDALE LAND PARCEL

Mrs. Barsamian requested an indefinite vote on the Riverdale neighbor proposal before the next town meeting, policy to be written. Mrs. Walko motioned to accept the sub motion, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous.

MINUTES

Mrs. Walko motioned to accept the April 16, 2014 minutes, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, voted unanimous. Mr. Heisler stated that he would like to change the vote to "Yes" since he had intended to vote yes, not to abstain when the vote was taken for Chair of the School Committee at the April meeting. He asked to record his vote as yes: He noted he had stepped out of the room.

DONATIONS

Mr. Heisler motioned to accept \$300 from Masonic Angel Foundation Hall to the Oakdale School, seconded by Mrs. Walko, voted unanimous.

OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIPS

Avery grade 4 field trip to the Roger Williams Zoo on June

Motion made by Mrs. Briggs to approve field trip to Roger Williams Zoo, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous.

Motion made by Mrs. McGregor to approve Alternative Program at the High School to attend the field trip to Canobie Lake Park ,seconded by Mrs. Walko, voted unanimous.

Change in the High School summer reading program – students will read one book for all students grade 9-12. Librarians and teachers in the English Dept. will choose the list of books. There will be a list of books for students to choose one book.

Discussions took place.

Motion made by Mr. Heisler to go into executive session for exemption 1, seconded by Mrs. Walko, roll call vote taken. Mr. Heisler – YES, Mrs. Butler - YES, Mr. Coughlin – YES, Mrs. Briggs – Yes, Mrs. McGregor – YES, Mr. Ryan – Yes, Mrs. Barsamian – YES.

Meeting ended.