

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**April 16, 2014**

**MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:**

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

Meeting began at 7:01p.m.

The Superintendent opened the meeting with nominations for the Chair of the School Committee. Mrs. Briggs nominated Mrs. Barsamian, seconded by Mrs. Walko. No discussions. Roll call vote taken on the nomination for Mrs. Barsamian as Chair of the School Committee.

Mr. Ryan - YES  
Mrs. Walko - YES  
Mr. Coughlin - YES  
Mrs. Briggs – YES  
Mrs. McGregor - YES  
Mrs. Barsamian - Yes  
Mr. Heisler abstained

Mrs. Barsamian asked for nominations for the Vice Chair. Mrs. Walko nominated Mr. Ryan, Mr. Coughlin seconded the nomination.

Roll call vote taken:

Mr. Ryan - YES  
Mrs. Walko - YES  
Mr. Coughlin – YES  
Mrs. McGregor - YES  
Mrs. Briggs - YES  
Mrs. Barsamian - YES  
Mr. Heisler-YES

Jen Barsamian – thanked her colleagues and acknowledged outgoing Chair, Mr. Heisler and Superintendent Doe, thanked for Mr. Heisler for all his accomplishments. Mr. Heisler thanked everyone also.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE** – Superintendent Doe Recognized the winners of the recent spelling bee. Grade 5 students – Principal Holli Armstrong introduced: Alora Olson, Matthew Thissell, Jamie Weldon, Luke Carlson, Ross Condry (absent). Mrs. Fraczek, Assistant Principal at the Middle School introduced Rena Coben, Kalyn Ashby and Caroline Barkowitz (absent)

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Superintendent Doe held a moment of silence for Mariellen Murphy, Director of Finance for the town of Dedham, who passed away this week.

**Dedham High School** - On Tuesday, April 8, 2014, the annual Dedham High School Student Government Day took place. Social Studies Dept Chair, Andrew Morton thanked the town officials for all of their efforts.

**Middle School** - Mr. Quaranto and Mrs. Pedersen from DMS guidance visited the incoming grade 6 students at all 4 elementary schools on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. All grade 5 elementary teachers met with grade 6 teachers during professional development on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations the DMS Jazz Band under the direction of Mr. Jeff Daniels for the performance at DHS for the Don Heald Jazz Night on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Mr. Chris Nadeau, Mr. Jeff Daniels, Mr. Jeff Taylor and all of the student performers and crew members from the DMS spring musical "Seussical." Students in Kindergarten, grades 5, 6, 7 & 8 had the opportunity to see in-school performances last week and evening performances were held on April 9 & 10.

**Riverdale School** - On Friday, April 11th, Riverdale held a presentation courtesy of the Riverdale PTO entitled American Sampler, immersing students in creative re-enactments of historical importance. Dr. Lucas, Librarian Ingrid Mayassi, Math Tutor Sue Turner, and District Math Coach Nancy Clement joined together for a first ever Riverdale Community Coffee event for parents, providing parents with an opportunity to learn how to best help their children succeed in math, and math homework. Riverdale students are continuing to be encouraged to participate in the FasttMath program three times per week. Children are encouraged to log on during vacation week for a chance to be recognized again. This week 106 Riverdale students logged onto FasttMath at least three times to earn their All Star honor. Congratulations to Miss Piazza's second grade and Mrs. Nickley's fifth grade. 100% of students in these two rooms were named as All Stars last week.

**Oakdale School** - All of the first graders at Oakdale participated in a program called "Savings Makes Good 'Cents'" presented by the Dedham Institute for Savings. Students were taught about money, the importance of saving and how they can save for their future. Each child was given a "goody" bag with a coloring book, some crayons, poems and a \$10.00 gift certificate for opening up a savings account. The Spring Enrichment Brochure went out last week. We would like to thank the Dedham Youth Commission for once again offering an afterschool Homework Club for students in grades 3, 4, and 5. They have been coming weekly with several Dedham High School students to assist the Oakdale Students with their homework.

**Avery School** - Fifth grade students visited the Museum of Science and the Charles Hayden Planetarium today. This field trip is sponsored by the Avery PTO. Avery students again participated in the Jump Rope and Hoops for Hearts. During physical education classes students jump rope in the primary grades and shoot hoops in the intermediate grades to raise money for the American Heart Association. Last year Avery students came in first in our division raising \$3,122.70. This year our students surpassed that amount raising \$4259.00. The Spring Enrichment program will be starting again right after vacation offering morning gym class, soccer, computer programming and problem solving, cupcake decorating, board games extravaganza and glee club. The after school chess club has ended for the year. Three students from Avery will travel to the Endicott Estate to participate in a

district wide elementary school chess tournament on April 29<sup>th</sup>. This program was organized and coordinated by Don Seager, past DMS Principal.

**Greenlodge School** - Celebrations of Learning night on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Over 90% of our families attended and were able to share examples of excellent student work and go on tours of the building with their children. Art, Library, Reading, math coach, and Physical Education all hosted hundreds of students playing games, coloring a school mural, practicing math through fun computer based activities and more. The Greenlodge Student Council sponsored a sock drive to benefit the homeless population, donating 461 pairs of socks for the homeless in just one week to Boston Health Care for the Homeless. Today Greenlodge School held their Greenlodge GET FIT assembly. Students and staff are challenging themselves to commit to 45 minutes of aerobic exercise daily for a month. Every student who records their levels of activity and meets our goal wins a prize and classes with the highest level of participation win extra PE classes. The assembly focused on themes of eating right and exercise. Thanks to Mrs. LeTourneau Greenlodge PE teacher for helping organize this program.

### **STUDENT REPORT**– Gail Coughlin

Student Government day held this week and Gail thanked the board, it was an enjoyable experience, and she learned a lot. April 18<sup>th</sup> is the start of April vacation. Chorus concert to be held April 30<sup>th</sup>. The DHS Drama club will perform 2 plays on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, with 2 short comedies. AP exams will start May 5<sup>th</sup> and end on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The spring concert will be on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Art district show will take place on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. MCAS will be May 13 and 14<sup>th</sup>. The last day for seniors is May 23<sup>rd</sup> with 21 school days left.

### **OLD NEW BUSINESS**

**WARRANT ARTICLE – LAND DISCUSSION** - Mr. Mark Engdahl, Riverdale resident, presented a proposal, as a warrant article at an upcoming town meeting, pertaining to a parcel of land at the Riverdale School. Mr. Engdahl is proposing to move his fence 8 feet onto the school property located next to his driveway. Mr. Ryan recommends legal town counsel and requested Mr. Engdahl submit the measurements. Mr. Pool inquired if this would affect Parks and Recreation, Mr. Engdahl said no it would not affect Parks and Recreation.

**TEC VOTE** - Mr. LaFrancesca presented information regarding the Education Cooperative capital reserve to support costs associated with the acquisition, maintenance and improvement of fixed assets, including real property, pursuant to a capital plan. Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve the establishment of a capital reserve, seconded by Mr. Ryan, voted unanimous.

### **MINUTES**

- Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept the minutes of the March 27, 2014 meeting, seconded Mrs. Walko voted unanimous.
- Mr. Coughlin motioned to accept the minutes of the April 2, 2014 meeting with the following changes: change Catherine Bowler to Helen Bowler, and move Superintendent Doe's comment to the front page, seconded by Mr. Ryan

### **DONATIONS**

None

**OUT OF STATE TRIP**

Mrs. Doe recommended approval for the Annual Physics Field Trip to the University of Maine on Thursday May 15, 2014. Moved by Mr. Heisler, seconded by Mrs. Walko ,voted unanimous  
Mrs. Barsamian also recommended that the students be invited to an upcoming school committee meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

Mr. Ryan thanked Principal Banios this week with a new American Flag at the Greenlodge School.

Motion made by Mr. Heisler to go into executive session exemption 3, seconded by Mrs. Walko

Roll call vote taken:

Mr. Ryan - YES

Mrs. Walko - YES

Mr. Coughlin - YES

Mrs. Briggs – YES

Mrs. McGregor - YES

Mrs. Barsamian - YES

Mr. Heisler-YES

Meeting concluded at 8:06 p.m.