

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES April 2, 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		

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Superintendent Doe introduced DHS English Teacher Mrs. Beth Sawyer and DHS student Michelle Carty who won first place in the Will McDonough Writing Contest. Michelle chose to write about great moments in sports history.

Superintendent Doe introduced Coach Steve Jordan and DHS student Eric Reyes who won the New England Wrestling Award with an overall record of 97-4.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Timothy Dwyer, President of the Dedham Education Association spoke saying the Paraprofessionals have been working without a contract since August 31, 2013. The paraprofessionals held 3 sessions with the state mediator, and are still deadlocked with the last offer at 6% raise over 3 years. Cheryl Fish – Paraprofessional at the Avery Elementary School described essential roles as a paraprofessional. Aileen Newton, Special Education Teacher, Stephanie Hoyt, Special Education Teacher, and Mary MacLean, Avery School Teacher, expressed their support of the paraprofessionals.

Mr. Heisler spoke to the union saying, “we continue to keep the budgets in check, now having to cut \$200,000 from the school budget. We rely on our Superintendent and staff to handle the negotiations. We would be happy to have some of our members to meet with your group with no attorneys to find some common ground and we would hold our hand out if you would like to meet again.” Mr. Dwyer said “We are always willing to talk.”

Superintendent Doe talked about the state-mandated evaluation tool for teachers and stated that state mediator, Helen Bowler, offered a negotiation session on April 29th. Superintendent Doe made a statement, “We are involved in a legal process of negotiations. I respect the legal process, and I trust that process works.”

STUDENT UPDATE: GAIL COUGHLIN

Speaker Kevin Brooks visited DHS on March 27th emphasizing making good choices. Sophomore Semi took place on March 28. On April 1st, there was an informational meeting for Juniors regarding the college application process. Student Government Day will take place on April 8th.

The 2nd Annual Donald Heald night of jazz will be held on April 8th with HS and MS music groups will perform. Report cards will be issued on April 10. Seniors have 31 school days left of school.

Town scholarships are due on April 13. Spring sports have started. April 18th is Good Friday, no school. Drama Club is working on 2 plays which will be held May 2 and May 3.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Doe honored and recognized High School Math Dept. Chair Kristine Holloran, who has been selected by The Mass Insight Education Advanced Placement STEM Program for advanced placement calculus. Kristine was selected as one of the top 22 teachers in Massachusetts. The celebration for this award will take place April 17th at the Museum of Science.

OAKDALE - Congratulations to the 5th grade Spelling Bee Team who were the overall winners at this year's DEF Spelling Bee, The winners: Rudicia Bernard, Alora Olsen, Matthew Thissell, Luke Carlson, Jamie Weldon and Ross Condry. Congratulations to the following students who won the 2014 Cambridge Science Festival's Curiosity Challenge. All winning entries will be compiled in a book to present to the students at an awards ceremony on Sunday, April 27th at MIT. Mia Maria Akiki – grade 2, Vanessa Pugliesi – grade 2, Katie Tocci – grade 2, Richard Cahoon – grade 3. Oakdale PTO hosted a wonderful spaghetti supper to benefit the 5th grade committee last week.

EVERY - The Avery School community celebrated *March Gladness* on Saturday, March 29th. Parents were able to mingle while the children watched a movie in the cafetorium and enjoyed themselves in bouncy houses in the gym. The Elementary Folk Dance Night will be held tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m. in the Avery School gymnasium. Kindergarten through fifth grade students are invited to attend. Avery fourth and fifth grade students will be visited by author, Laurie Arnold on Tuesday, April 7th. Her book, *Hello There, We Have Been Waiting for You* is being released. Students may purchase a copy. This visit was made possible through the Blue Bunny.

ECEC – visit to DMS - The Curran Kindergarteners are excited about our upcoming field trip to the Dedham Middle School. Once again, Principal Gately has graciously invited us to the matinee performance of Seussical Jr. next Wednesday, April 9.

RIVERDALE - Riverdale's fifth grade students will enjoy a field trip on Friday to the Museum of Science. The field trip is funded courtesy of the Riverdale PTO. Beginning Monday, April 7, the students will be able to attend the Spring Book Fair. On Tuesday, April 8th, fourth graders will enjoy a visit from author Laurie Arnold, courtesy of our librarian, Ingrid Mayyasi and the Blue Bunny Bookstore. April 16th from 9:15 to 10:15 Riverdale is inviting parents to a Community Coffee. Our presenters will be Susan Turner and Nancy Clement who will talk to parents about how best to help their children with math homework and questions.

GREENLODGE - This Saturday Kohl's Cares for Kids is sponsoring a day of gardening and clean-up. Kohl's employees will join kids and families in beautifying the school grounds. Kohl's is donating \$1500 to the Greenlodge PTO. Next Thursday April 10th Greenlodge is hosting their first annual Celebrations of Learning Event. Parents will visit sharing great examples of student learning in the classroom. Families will then rotate around the school experiencing games in the gym with our PE teacher Ms. Letourneau, art projects with Ms. Altone and Math games with Jen Hawkins, the Math coach. Library/Media will provide opportunities for parents to read with their child and go on-line to view digital examples of student work.

CHAIRS UPDATE

Mr. Heisler reported that Mr. Ryan, Ms. Briggs, and Mrs. Barsamian would comprise the negotiating subcommittee that would create a contract for the new Superintendent, Mr. Michael Welch with the first meeting scheduled for April 10th. He stated that the committee is pleased with the selection and Mr. Welch is equally enthusiastic.

REPORTS

SBRC update – The Committee met last night to approve minutes and vote on a future OPM. Request for proposals came in - 9 total, narrowed the search down to 5 and then 3 CMS, Dore and Whittier and Pinck.

CPR UPDATE – Special Education Director Kathy Gaudreau

Dr. Cynthia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent, and Kathy Gaudreau, Director of Special Education reported on the preparations of the Coordinated Program Review, a visit by state education officials looking at the district's special education and ELL programs, reviewing 44 special education files and 15 ELE folders, doing self-assessments, interviews and observations with general education teachers the week of May 19. An exit interview with Dr. Kelly and Mrs. Gaudreau will take place following with the DESE, with a report due by mid summer.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

One adjustment to the proposed 2014-2015 school calendar – change the early release day from Dec. 9th to October 23. Mrs. Barsamian motioned to approve the proposed 2014-15 calendar with the change above, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous. Approved.

POLICY SUB COMMITTEE REPORT

Policy Subcommittee and Chair Barsamian recommended changing the High School requirement for graduation. The previous requirement was two credits for computer and technology for current freshman and incoming freshmen. Discussions took place.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept the new graduation requirement, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, voted unanimous.

MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Ryan to approve the February. 12, 2014 School Committee minutes, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, voted unanimous.

Motion made by Mr. Coughlin to approve the March 5, 2014 School committee minutes, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous. Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Briggs abstained.

DONATIONS

Motion made by Mrs. Barsamian to accept the following donations with grateful appreciation, seconded by Mr. Ryan, voted unanimous:

\$11,885 donation from the Greenlodge PTO for technology Ipad cart to the Greenlodge School

\$250 from A&E to DHS for varsity baseball team

DHS boosters club donated \$4208.25 for cheerleading uniforms

Cheer student account \$1100 from cheerleading uniforms

\$500 from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care – Debra Debreer DHS cheerleaders

\$50.05 – My locker advertisement – online ads

\$2000 Ridell all American sport incorporated to the Athletic Dept,

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

Mr. Heisler announced the need to go into executive session to discuss collective bargaining. Motion made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian, voted unanimous.