

# DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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## MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2014

### MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

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

### MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

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

Mr. Heisler stated that Mrs. Briggs and Mr. Ryan are absent and excused tonight as they are attending the Superintendent's Search Committee interviews.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Doe stated that the Dedham School District hosted the Massachusetts state legislators' meeting at the Dedham Middle School this past Friday. The Ways and Means Committee conducted budget meetings, which was a great learning experience for the High School Social Studies classes. Mrs. Doe thanked Mrs. Johnson, Director of Food Service for hosting the event.

### **Middle School**

**John F. Kennedy Make a Difference Award**- Grade 7 student Jack Linari has been selected to receive the John F. Kennedy Make a Difference recognition award given by the Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston. Jack is among 100 students throughout the state of Massachusetts being recognized for his volunteer activities. Jack and his brother Eric have raised thousands of dollars over the years running Jack and Eric's Pirate Lemonade Stand. The Kennedy Award is given to deserving middle school students. Ms. Gately nominated Jack for this award and will be in attendance with Jack and his family at the ceremony on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Recent State Representative Visit to DMS** - Thank you to the following students who served as guides to the visitors from the Massachusetts House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee on Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. All are grade 8 student council members: Caroline Barkowitz, Andrew Czazasty, Alison Diehl, Bridget Flynn, Katy Hayes, Julia Hunt, Dan Labadini, David Logan, Nick Mercuri, Joe Reen, Olivia Stipo and Chris Stronach

### **Riverdale**

Today all Riverdale students enjoyed a presentation from the Tanglewood Marionettes. This group was so popular last year that staff and students requested a return engagement, courtesy of the Riverdale Arts and Enrichment group. On Thursday, March 6 from 5:30-7:30 the Riverdale School is hosting Curriculum Night. Each grade level team has worked collaboratively to design activities that showcase core curricular areas. Children and their parents are invited to attend together. On Friday, March 7 all students at Riverdale are participating in Crazy Sock Day in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, and in celebration of the book Fox in Sox. A prize will be awarded to the student with the wildest socks.

Children and their teachers will also Drop Everything and Read together beginning just after recess. All students and staff members will be encouraged to bring books into the hallways to read quietly together for ten minutes.

### **Oakdale**

Meghan Nels, Oakdale School Librarian, is the recipient of the 2014 Library Media Center President's Award. The award presented by the Massachusetts School Library Association honors a member who in a career of three years or fewer, has made a significant impact on student learning through a quality school library program. Meghan is a creative, dynamic librarian that is willing to try new things. Ms. Armstrong chaperoned the DMS ski trip under the direction of newly appointed SAR Officer Rich Cawley. Officers Ron Pucci and Mike Feeley also attended the trip. Thank you to the DPD for helping organize this wonderful trip! Oakdale is looking forward to their Celebrity Guest Readers program this Friday! Celebrities from all over town will visit classrooms to share their love for reading.

### **Avery**

Avery celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday World Read Aloud on Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Students first were entertained by a character portrayal of Harriet Tubman. This Young Audiences presentation was made possible through a Dedham Education Foundation grant. Students and staff were encouraged to dress up as their favorite storybook character for a character parade. Students and staff dressed up as the Mad Hatter, Mrs. Fizzle & the Magic School Bus, a cow from Click, Clack Moo, green eggs and ham, and many other characters. Finally the day was culminated with a visit from the high school boys' basketball team. Members of the team read stories to each of the classes. On Thursday night, March 6<sup>th</sup>, Avery students and parents are invited to Family Math and Literacy Night. Students will be able to show their parents the various reading, writing and math activities they do during the day. The evening will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### **Greenlodge**

Greenlodge is now into its fourth year offering enrichment programs to our students. Offerings this session include Zumba, Kids are Authors, Building with Legos, Arts and Crafts, Making a Masterpiece, Floor Hockey, Sports Medley and Duct Tape and Rainbow Loom. Over one hundred students participate in our programs each session. We are looking to expand our program next session. Students were treated to the Science Works Show a DEF funded science enrichment program which combines science standards with a presentation based on magic. Students laughed and showed real thinking skills as they actively participated and theorized about the solution to each experiment. The student variety show is this Friday night. Students are practicing diligently to entertain what promises to be a very enthusiastic audience of parents and peers. The PTO voted to fund a set of 24 IPADS with a macbook and cart to provide our students and staff with the opportunity to access this exciting strategy for incorporating technology into instruction.

### **ECEC**

The Curran Early Childhood Education Center celebrated Read Across America Day - honoring Dr. Seuss's birthday - on Monday, March 3, and Tuesday, March 4. Students enjoyed a multimedia presentation of the Seuss classic, The Sneetches, followed by a choral recitation of the Reader's Oath and a public reading of I Can Read With My Eyes Shut. All classrooms were subsequently visited by the Cat in the Hat and Thing One who presented each child with a book to bring home, enjoy and add to home libraries.

## **STUDENT UPDATE – Gail Coughlin**

The Senior Bowl was held at King's Bowling Alley on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, sponsored by the Parent Connection. Boys' basketball team lost to Cardinal Spellman in the second round of the MIAA tournament. Girls' ice hockey team defeated Leominster High School last week. Girls' basketball team and Boys' ice hockey team also participated in the MIAA tournament. Progress reports will be distributed tomorrow. Parent conferences will take place at 6:00 p.m. on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Senior class play will take place on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Spring sports start on March 17<sup>th</sup>. English Language Arts MCAS will be administered to Sophomores on March 18, 19 and 21<sup>st</sup>. A College Fair for Sophomores and Juniors at Westwood High School on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **CHAIRS UPDATE**

A final schedule and calendar for the Superintendent's search process will be available by the end of the week along with a training session for all School Committee members.

## **OUT-OF COUNTRY TRIP**

Alison Reilley, World Language Department Chair presented information on a proposed joint effort between the World Language and Social Studies Dept for a trip to France and Spain April 16, 2015 to April 24, 2015 visiting Normandy, Paris and Madrid. Price of the trip is \$3900 for the nine-day trip. Minimum of twelve students would be required. Mrs. Walko motioned seconded by Mr. Coughlin to approve the High School trip to France and Spain April 16-24, 2015. Voted unanimous.

## **OUT-OF STATE FIELD TRIP**

Mrs. Barsamian motioned to approve the Middle School Field trip to Canobie Lake in Salem New Hampshire on May 23, 2014, Mrs. McGregor seconded, voted unanimous.

## **REPORTS**

Jeanne Johnson, Director of Food Services in the Dedham Public Schools presented an update of the lunch program in the district, highlighting:

- The Implementation of the breakfast program 7am-10am at the High School.
- Department of Defense Program - Pilot program
- Dietetic Interns
- Less waste in the Elementary School Program
- Education Collaborative
- Student tasting panels
- Posting nutritional information on the website
- Products and labels – special dietary plans
- Commodity chicken bid
- Recyclable trays
- Popcorn machine
- Smoothie lunches
- Surveys and feedback for the elementary school lunches
- Staff goals and mission statement

## **SAT REPORT**

Dr. Kelly presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding information from Dr. Ladd regarding data on improving the SAT performances. Information on various data sets containing academic and demographic data for over 700 past and present students. Statistical findings included the mean score was 508 (the average), the modal score was 430 (most frequent) and the median score was 520 (half of all scores fall below this score). 50% of the scores fall between 430 and 582.50. Recommendations:

Review the 6-12 ELA curriculum, develop grade level exit competencies, continue creating and implementing common formative and summative assessments by department for each grade level and Kaplan courses. Dr. Kelly and Mrs. McCormick, Director of Guidance answered questions and discussions followed.

### **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

Superintendent Doe and Principal McCarthy provided National Honor Society by-law information. Currently there are 5 advisors. Academics is one substantial piece, along with character, leadership and a 4.0 GPA has been used. The National by-laws require a 3.0. Mr. McCarthy and Administration is recommending setting the bar at 3.75 GPA for juniors and seniors. 26 more students would have been invited this past year if Dedham had a 3.75. Dedham is one of two schools using the 4.0 GPA.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

**VOTE TITLE CHANGE** - for Mr. La Francesca's position, as proposed by Superintendent Doe from Assistant to The Superintendent for Business and Finance to the new title of Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance, as he has the necessary documentation. Discussions followed. Mr. Coughlin motioned to accept the new title of Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance for Michael LaFrancesca, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian, voted unanimous.

**UPDATE ON BUDGET** – Mr. LaFrancesca updated the committee regarding the Capital Budget. Mr. LaFrancesca was informed last evening from the Finance Committee that all budget items have been approved except the High School foyer recommendation. Mr. Keegan is also asking that the school budget needs to be cut by \$200,000. Discussions followed.

### **MINUTES**

None

### **DONATIONS**

Mrs. Walko motioned to accept with grateful appreciation a grant donation from Toshiba American Foundation titled "Marvelous Mathematicians" in the amount of \$973.00, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian, voted unanimous. This donation was written and submitted by Juliane Lally, Teacher at the Early Childhood Education Center.

The following 6 donations were accepted with grateful appreciation, motioned by Mrs. Barsamian, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous.

1. \$500.00 donation from the Dedham Junior Womans Club for graphing calculators and language composition books at Dedham High School
2. \$700.00 donation to Shannon Findley, Teacher at Riverdale School from the Target Field Trip Grant Program which will be used for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Lowell National Park in April or May.
3. \$200.00 donation from the Dedham Junior Womans Club to the Dedham Middle School to be used to purchase books at the Middle School Library.
4. Anonymous donation of \$100 Grant from the Charity Giving Card Fund thru Greater Horizons
5. \$400.00 donation from the Dedham Junior Womans Club to the Elementary School Libraries to purchase library books.

6. Donation from the ECEC PTO to the ECEC for 7 iPads 2 tablets with a retail value of \$2093 for preschool and kindergarten students.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dennis Teehan asked a question about the SAT scores, if the district has ever looked back on the elementary and middle school test scores, Dr. Kelly responded saying the district analyzes all the MCAS test scores.

Mr. Coughlin requested the Drama Club be recognized at the next school committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned.