

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2014

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE:

Superintendent Doe reported that she had a meeting with members of the legislature today, Secretary Malone, Senator Rush and Representative McMurtry visited the High School today. Administration had the opportunity to discuss budget issues and initiatives pertaining to education in Dedham. Secretary Malone spoke about the initiative to increase the Early Childhood Education and help districts move to a full day kindergarten. Representative McMurtry and Senator Rush were very supportive in that discussion also. They continued on a tour of the High School with Principal McCarthy. Secretary Malone had an interesting discussion with the students as he visited the seniors. He spoke about his experience in the military, and college experiences, and spoke extensively about community colleges to the students. Mrs. Doe welcomed Secretary Malone back soon.

Parent Presentation: Maria Trozzi, a psychologist, will be having a parent presentation across the district, we urge all parents to attend. She will be joining us on January 23 at 7:00 – “Finding Resilience (After Looking in All The Wrong Places). Topics include coping skills and how students deal with electronic media. Her talk is free, which will be held at the Middle School auditorium. Principal Gately will prepare to have childcare if needed.

High School Student Update: Gail Coughlin

Mid Year Exams start Tuesday, January 21st and will continue until Friday, January 24th. Auditions have concluded for the senior high school musical. Term 2 ends soon. Many seniors have started hearing back from colleges. No School on Monday, January 20th – Martin Luther King Day. School wide talent show on Thursday, January 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the DHS auditorium. The Drama Club will be working on their play for festival. Auditions will take place on January 16th.

CHAIRS UPDATE

The Public hearing on proposed FY15 budget will be scheduled for the January 29th School Committee Meeting. The Budget Sub Committee will be setting up a date to meet.

REPORTS

RESIDENCY VERIFICATION: Officer Ron Pucci, Juvenile Officer updated the school committee regarding residency checks. Officer Pucci stated that he has been doing residency checks for 5 years, doing 75-100

residency checks. He usually visits each home 3-4 times. Officer Richie Cawley is the new Resource Officer for the Middle School and High School. Neil Cronin is taking the elementary schools. Discussions took place.

UPDATE ON SUPERINTENDENT SCREENING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Briggs stated they are still on target on the timeline that was developed in December. Met all the goals, with the link for the on-line survey on the Dedham Public School website. The dates on the focus group meeting, and information on the screening committee is also on the website.

Dr. Bettencourt from NESDEC update the committee on activities. He thanked Mr. Heisler and Mrs. Briggs for staying in touch and being available. He also thanked Michael who has been very gracious. Office staff has been very helpful. There are over 100 responses from the surveys and focus groups.

A hard copy of the letter was mailed to 700 recipients. The brochure was mailed in hard copy to 700 recipients. The announcement is on the NESDEC website, School Spring, etc. Focus group meetings were held this week. Administrative team provided some very interesting information. NESDEC met with Mr. Keegan and Mrs. Baker, providing names and contacts. The focus group meetings in the afternoon were well attended. More focus groups scheduled for next week. The electronic survey is up and running, with many responses. Discussions took place following.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Briggs stated that a modification needs to be made, a slight error in the wording of the motion at the last School Committee Meeting regarding the search committee motion. The minutes will also need to be modified. Point of clarification on #3 below in red:

MOTION: The Chair (Mr. Heisler) moves the following:

1.) That the Supt. Search Screening Committee ~~shall~~ may be composed of the following:

- 2 Dedham SC members (SC Chair and Vice-Chair or their SC designee(s))
- 2 DPS administrators
- 1 DPS principal
- 2 DPS teachers
- 1 DPS support staff (Para's/Secretary's/Custodians)
- 1 Dedham Town official or administrator
- 1 senior citizen
- 1 ECEC/Elementary parent
- 1 Middle School parent
- 1 High School parent
- 1 business/state official (Rep. Paul McMurtry)
- 1 at-Large

Mr. Heisler stated that there ~~will~~ may be up to but not more than 15 members of the screening committee working with NESDEC reviewing applications and ultimately recommending 3-5 finalists to be chosen, then to be interviewed by the full School Committee.

2.) That the SC Chair and Vice-Chair (or their designee(s)) shall serve, respectively, as the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Screening Committee, and that the Screening Committee Chair (or designee) shall serve as the official "spokesperson" for the Screening Committee.

- 3.) That NESDEC ~~will be responsible for identifying, recruiting and recommending all other~~ will assist the School Committee in developing a plan to recruit members of the committee.
- 4.) That Screening Committee members must make the time commitment necessary to fully participate in the entire screening process in order to be considered for inclusion.
- 5.) That Screening Committee members shall be sworn in by the Town Clerk prior to participating in the committee deliberations, and shall swear to maintain the confidentiality of applicants.
- 6.) That the Screening Committee Chair shall have the authority to consult with School Committee Legal Counsel regarding any legal questions or about the requirements of the Open Meeting Law.
- 7.) That upon request, the Supt. shall be authorized to provide appropriate staff to assist the Screening Committee.

Motion by Mrs. Walko to reconsider for the purpose of amending the motion presented on December 18th motion outlining the minutes, to clarify the minutes of the motion #1 and #3, Mrs. McGregor seconded,

Discussions took place.

All in favor of reconsidering the motion, voted unanimously.

Mr. Heisler reinstated the language as it relates to #1 and #3 as it states in the minutes (see above) and the minutes need to be amended as well.

Motion made by Mrs. Walko, seconded by Mrs. McGregor to vote for the purpose of amending the motion presented on December 18th with the changes in red above.

MINUTES

Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2013 School Committee meeting, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian, voted unanimously – Mr. Ryan abstained. Mrs. Barsamian noted that the designees for the Screening Committee for the Superintendent Search are Mrs. Briggs (Chair), designated by Mr. Heisler and Mr. Ryan (Vice Chair), designated by Mrs. Barsamian.

DONATIONS

1. DHS Alumni Association donated \$100 towards the membership cost for the DHS Library to become a member of the Digital Commonwealth (MA Collections On-line) to preserve / store past DHS yearbooks digitally. Mrs. Barsamian motioned to accept with grateful appreciation the, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, voted unanimously.
2. Blue Hills Charitable Foundation grant that was awarded to the Riverdale School for \$5,000 for science, technology, engineering, and math Professional Development for teachers and interactive science workshops for students in grades 1-5. Mrs. Walko motioned to accept with grateful appreciation, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jessica Porter – thanked the SC for the outreach for the Superintendent Search. If possible she requested to add another forum in the evening for parents. Mrs. Porter suggested changing the language on survey monkey.

Ty Walko, DHS student – thanked Mrs. Doe for updating the toiletries at the high school.

Mrs. Barsamian moved to adjourn, Mrs. McGregor seconded.