

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES December 18, 2013

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Joe Heisler, Chair	Jen Barsamian, Vice Chair	Tom Ryan –absent
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

Meeting opened at 7:03 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

DMS School - Congratulations to the following students who will serve this year as part of the student advisory council to the DMS School Council:

Elizabeth Cochrane – Grade 7
Amelia Layne – Grade 7
Patricia Somera – Grade 7
Corey Kilroy – Grade 8
Nicolas Mercuri – Grade 8

Project 351 DMS Student Representative Selected

Congratulations to Shanaya Theodore, grade 8 who will represent Dedham Middle School at Governor Patrick's annual day of service in January. Shanaya was nominated by her teachers for this honor.

Oakdale School

The Oakdale School annual Holiday Gift Shop kicked off today. Many parents have volunteered to make this a very successful event each year. Students visit the gift shop to purchase items such as jewelry, sports memorabilia, games, scarves, hats, and lots of trinkets. The 5th grade Student Council is once planning the annual Caroling for Coins event on Friday, December 20th. The whole school will have a PJ day in conjunction with the event. Student Council members will go classroom to classroom singing holiday favorites and collecting coins which will be donated to 4C's for Kids. This is always an enjoyable event.

Avery School - December is an extremely busy month at the Avery School. Today students received their first term progress reports. Parent conferences are being scheduled. Night conferences will be held on December 11th. The cafetorium stage will be transformed into a Holiday Shoppe.. Students will be able to purchase gifts for their family and friends. Our Holiday concerts will be held Friday,

December 13th at 9:15 am. and 1:45 p.m. On that same day, the fifth grade chorus will be performing at Dedham Savings. Finally, the Student Council members will make the annual visit to O'Neill Drive for Holiday Bingo, goodies and a sing along. Avery students are excited to see the return of iPad Wednesdays. Students are invited to come to school at 8 a.m. to use the iPads with their friends in the library.

ECEC - The ECEC began a Playgroup for 2-3 year olds who are not currently in our preschool program today. This program is intended to support the social, emotional, cognitive and motor development of children while introducing them to school. If you know someone who may be interested, please contact the ECEC at 781-310-8000, there a few spots left. Also, the PTO sponsored Holiday Shoppe is going on this week, Wednesday through Friday. The ECEC Book Fair will be held in the Library, next Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The PTO will sponsor the Polar Express next Friday evening for all ECEC students and their families.

Mrs. Doe acknowledged Mr. Bolduc, who did an outstanding job with the Middle School and High School holiday concerts.

Dedham High School Update - Gail Coughlin

The Annual Fall Rake Leaf Community Service Event took place on Saturday, November 23, 2013. The event was a huge success! The seniors won this year's Annual Powder-puff game 10 to 0. There was a great crowd for the event and the participants were treated to pizza, drinks, and cake after the game in the DHS Cafeteria. The post-game activities were sponsored by the DHS Parent Connection. The DHS Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Dinner was held on Sunday, November 24, 2013. Six former athletes, coaches, and supporters were inducted. The DHS Football team defeated Norwood High School on Thanksgiving. Our team beat Norwood 20 - 18. Norwood had an opportunity to win the game with one second left but our defense cam through and blocked the field goal attempt. We had a very successful parent connection meeting on Monday, December 2, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in our cafeteria. Members of the Technology Department, teachers, and one student gave parents an overview of how the 1:1 electronic device has improved communication for teachers and parents and how it has improved teaching and learning at DHS. The Annual Fall Booster Athletic Banquet took place on Tuesday, December 3, 2013. The event had 428 attendees which is the biggest number in the history of the banquets! This is a result of the number of student-athletes and the support of parents and community members that attended the event. The mandatory student-athlete / parent and guardian meeting for all winter athletes took place on Monday, December 9, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in our auditorium. On Tuesday, December 10, 2013, the DHS band and chorus conducted our annual Holiday Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the DHS auditorium. It was amazing! Winter athletics have started. The seniors will be having a breakfast on Friday, December 20, 2013. The seniors would like to thank the DHS Parent Connection for all of their work on the breakfast. Auditions for the enior play began today and again tomorrow. Holiday break starts at the end of the day December 20th.

CHAIRS UPDATE

Mr. Heisler reminded the committee, they will be meeting three times in January - the next meeting is Jan. 8th.

REPORTS

The Budget Sub Committee met tonight to discuss Capital items. Mr. Coughlin thanked Michael LaFrancesca, Taissir Alani and the principals for all their help. Mr. LaFrancesca presented a

PowerPoint presentation that included a summary of projects in the years 2012-2013/2013-2014, and the proposed Capital Projects.

Other information included Education Technology –

- \$272,450 for computer replacement and network upgrade, replacement of 300 desktop computers, 1:1 initiative. Current Netbooks are being used by the 9th graders, with one year expectancy. Free-reduced lunch students \$22,750
- Network Infrastructure update Phase 2 \$128,270 – central switches at the town hall, high school, and network connections into virtual machines - \$85,000.

At the Middle School, the Re-Commissioning and Engineering Evaluation \$20,000 – testing the whole building every 5 years including boilers, electrical, windows, etc. , bringing back everything to its original state.

Other updates included: the DHS Front foyer renovations, the High School Kitchen Plumbing, the new ceiling tiles at the High School and Greenlodge School, The High School electric service pgrade, interior painting at Greenlodge, the Middle School driveway/busway repairs, IT Data Center Cooling System, and Tennis Courts repairs totaling \$1,345,000. Discussions took place The Sub Committee recommended to move forward.

Mrs. Barsamian motioned to approve the FY15 Capital Budget, Mrs. Briggs seconded, voted unanimous.

REVISED CONCUSSION POLICY

The Policy Sub Committee met a few weeks ago to discuss the revised Concussion Policy. Mrs. McGregor updated the committee on the town concussion study. Discussions took place. Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve the revised Concussion Policy, Mrs. Butler-Walko seconded, voted unanimous.

SCHOOL BUILDING REHAB UPDATE

The town meeting approved the warrant article on language to move forward to feasibility and schematic design for new or rehabilitated Early Childhood Education Center. The District is working with MSBA. Mr. Coughlin updated the committee on behalf of the School Building Rehab Committee that they voted to go forward with the RFP, which went to the town attorney for review. Mrs. Doe followed up on that, they have confirmed for us that the District has a date of January 29th to go to the next stage, and the District anticipates a favorable vote then. MSBA is not prepared to go forward with our request for an OPM, the project manager. We were ready to go forward, but there is a new procedure. We have to wait until the first of February, then we hire an OPM, after which, then we would go thru the same process to find an architect. Timewise, we get voted on Jan. 29 – then start the OPM follow that with an architect, hopefully potentially, by June we will have a team on board to begin that next phase. The vote was for \$600,000 approved by the Town Meeting. We anticipate that the OPM budget would be \$150,000, and the designer architect would be \$350,000, and an additional \$50,000 for environmental costs, and that leaves \$50,000 for other anticipated costs.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SEARCH UPDATE

Mrs. Briggs gave an update on the Superintendent Search process with a selection date of April 2, 2014. NESDEC reworked their proposed timeline with the new date to review applications of February 4, 2014. Mrs. Briggs states that this is an aggressive timeline, and Dr. Bettencourt and Dr. Burke have

been extremely responsive and they are very knowledgeable. Mrs. Briggs informed the members of the screening committee meetings and the Focus Group meetings would begin on January 7th at 9:30 a.m. for the administrative team members.

Mr. Heisler stated that the Marketing Sub Committee is helping with the brochure; Mrs. Butler Walko gave an updated, regarding brochure details. NESDEC is working on a draft of the brochure. Mr. Heisler thanked the Marketing Committee.

Mr. Heisler stated that based on a recommendation that NESDEC made, the composition of the screening committee will be discussed and considered.

Joe Heisler motioned the following:

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

1.) That the Supt. Search Screening Committee shall 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 be 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 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.

The motion was seconded by Kevin Coughlin – voted unanimously. Mr. Heisler stated that Mrs. Briggs will be the chair’s designee on the screening committee because he does not have the time to dedicate to the process.

Mr. Heisler stated we are on a very aggressive time schedule in order to hire a new Superintendent by April 2nd and in his discussions with NESDEC, the fairest way is to designate the Chair and Vice Chair to be on the screening committee. Discussions took place.

SURPLUS MATERIALS

Mr. LaFrancesca reported that he had a list of foreign language textbooks and elementary math textbooks that need to be declared as surplus, then the books would be donated. Mrs. Briggs motioned to declare the materials surplus, Mr. Coughlin seconded, voted unanimous.

MINUTES

Mrs. Barsamian motioned to approved the minutes of the Dec. 4, 2013 meeting, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous.

DONATIONS

1. Oakdale School is the recipient of a generous donation of \$15,000.00 from the Dedham Institute of Savings to purchase a mobile Ipad Cart for Oakdale School. This cart will enhance the integration of technology at Oakdale School.
2. \$5,050 donation from the Dedham Education Partnership towards the implementation of a “Link Crew” program for the 2014-15 school year
3. \$3,000 donation from the Dedham Education Partnership towards the development of a DHS digital lending library of eBooks for student use.
4. \$2,500 grant donation from Blue Hills Bank Charitable Foundation for materials for Ms. Belge’s Technology Engineering class at the middle school.
5. \$500.00 donation from the Dedham Junior Women’s Club to purchase specialized playground equipment for the Riverdale School playground
6. \$500.00 donation from the Dedham Junior Women’s Club to purchase a notice board at the Oakdale School
7. \$75.00 donation from Lueders Environmental, Inc. a lawn care company

DEF GRANT DONATIONS

8. \$729.40 donation from the Dedham Education Foundation towards the Understanding American History program for the DHS library and media center

9. \$4,950 donation from the Dedham Education Foundation towards the implementation of a “Link Crew” program for the 2014-15 school year
10. \$220.00 donation from Dedham Education Foundation to the Dedham Middle School DEF Grant - Mai-Linh Cummings - to support “Reaching Reluctant Readers” program
11. \$301.00 donation from the Dedham Education Foundation to the Dedham Middle School DEF Grant Elizabeth Hegarty - to support “Exciting Writing”
12. \$250.00 donation from the Dedham Education Foundation to the Dedham Middle School DEF Grant Phil Nerboso - to support Science classroom library
13. \$180.00 donation from the Dedham Education Foundation to the Dedham Middle School DEF Grant Shelly Pagnotta to support completion of atomic model project completed during chemistry unit.
14. \$993.00 donation from the Dedham Education Foundation to the Greenlodge School for Read Naturally Live a web based reading fluency program to supplement and strengthen our reading capabilities. This grant will provide additional resources to support 50 students at our school in their efforts to become stronger more confident fluent readers.

Ms. Briggs motioned to accept donations 1-7 – with grateful appreciation, seconded by Ms. McGregor with grateful appreciation, the vote was unanimous.

Ms. Barsamian motioned to accept donations 8-14 with grateful appreciation, seconded by Ms. Briggs with grateful appreciation, the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Fay spoke regarding the funds to renovate the tennis courts. The current conditions are horrible. She is happy to see funds are being set aside from the Capital Budget to fix the courts. The disrepair around the court, with a bench that’s been ripped up, it doesn’t represent Dedham well. She thanked the committee for their attention this matter.

Mrs. Butler-Walko thanked Megan Rutherford for her help coordinating the senior breakfast with students and advisors.

Mr. Coughlin motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Briggs.
The meeting ended at 8:54 p.m.