

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES November 20, 2013

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Joe Heisler, Chair 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, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance
Kathy Gaudreau, Director of Special Education

Meeting began at 7:04 p.m.

Article 14 passed on Monday night, Mr. Heisler publically apologized to the Board of Selectmen regarding his demeanor at the mini town meeting.

Mrs. Doe thanked the town meeting members for passing Article 14, and we will be ready to go forward to Phase II with the MSBA to find a project manager with SBRC.

STUDENT UPDATE

Dedham High School is hosting Norwood for the Thanksgiving Football game. The Girls Soccer team lost to Cardinal Spellman. The concert jazz band will perform at the Winter Concert on December 2nd. NEASC visited Dedham High School since Sunday, today was the last day. Annual fall rake was held this week. The Parent Night Connection will be held High School cafeteria at 6:30.

CHAIRS UPDATE

The John and Abigail Adams Scholar reception will be held at the next meeting on December 4th.

FALL SPORTS UPDATE – Mr. Traister, Athletic Director introduced the Girls Soccer Coach, Don Savi the four Soccer Captains, Emily Pike, Libby Masalsky, Sabrina Ferhani and Brianna Nelson were congratulated on their successful season. The team made it to the South Sectional Finals in the MIAA Division 3 Tournament with the final record of 15-1-4. Mr. Traister gave a wrap-up of the fall season.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROPOSALS

- Mr. Arthur Bettencourt, Executive Director of NESDEC provided a powerpoint presentation along with Dr. Carolyn Burke outlining the search process, strategies, approach and plan.
- Mr. James Hardy, Field Director, Massachusetts Association of School Committees provided the School Committee with information on the overall scope of issues related to the superintendent search and responded to the School Committee's questions in order to prepare for the process.
- The School Committee members filled out a rating sheet for both consulting services to using the following scale:
Highly Advantageous(score of 3), Advantageous (score of 2), Not advantageous (score of 1), Unacceptable (score of 0). Mr. LaFrancesca totaled the rating scores
- Mrs. Briggs announced that the Committee had chosen NESDEC as the consultant for the Superintendent Search as a result of the rating scores.

SUPERINTENENT'S UPDATE

Avery

Avery School celebrated National Education Week. Each class invited parents and friends into participate in a variety of activities or view demonstrations and plays. In fourth and fifth grade, students showed their parents the different math games they use to practice skills. In third grade, students presented poems, stories, and worked with parents on Science projects. In first and second grade parents are invited to a variety of small performances centered on Thanksgiving. Avery students elected representatives to the Student Council on Friday, November 8th. Thirty-six students chose to run. Elected to represent grade 1 were Jessie Bonilla-Reyes, Audrey Cusack, and Mya Runyan. Representing grade 2 are Amanda Ambuter., Niko Soutoulidis., and Conor Zaferacopoulos. In third grade, the representatives are Miguel Alvarez, Anjealis Rodriguez., and Yajaira Torres. Representing grade 4 are Flynn Rodgers, Juliana Velazquez., and Trinity Vo. In fifth grade, the representatives are Alyssa Bukowski, Kevin Krueger, and Ikenna Nwachukwu.

Oakdale - November 8th the Oakdale School honored Veteran's Day. Student Council members gave the history of Veteran's Day, classes performed songs and poems. Sgt. Matthew Menz, US Army, and Sgt. Zachary Martin, US Army spoke to the students about what it means to be veterans. Mr. Dan Hallassey did a great job videoing the assembly which can be viewed on Dedham Cable. The 5th grade Student Council is once again collecting food items for Thanksgiving baskets as well as the Dedham Food Pantry. They will be providing 12 baskets for needy families and the rest of the non perishable items will be going to the Food Pantry.

Middle School - The annual Veteran's Day assembly was held at the middle school on November 8, 2013. We thank U.S. Army Sgt. Roger Pilat, father of grade 7 student Lilly Pilat, for being our featured speaker. Also extending his well wishes to the students and invited guests was State Senator Mike Rush. The DMS Student Council successfully completed their annual food drive for the Dedham Food Pantry last Wednesday. This year we collected a total of 2300 items. We will be running a similar drive at the middle school this December as the Food Pantry is in serious need of personal care items. On Monday, November 18th, 150 grade 6 students attended Viva Flamenco! at the Berklee Center for the Performing Arts. Thank you to Ms. Farry and Ms. Gamel who were the coordinators of this trip.

Greenlodge School held a Veteran's Day assembly on Friday November 8th. Several students shared poems dedicated to our veterans. Pictures were solicited from the Greenlodge Community of relatives and family members who are or have served in the military. Mrs. Bryant created a moving slideshow using these pictures set to music. Grade Five featured students who wrote about a time in their lives when they went from worst to first in the same way our Red Sox did this season. Dan Hallisey from Dedham Educational TV helped us to record the assembly which will run on cable access and is available on a protected website for all parents to view who were unable to attend. The literacy instruction this year is very focused on writing in response to reading. All the upper grade level students have a reading response notebook that includes summaries, sequencing, character traits, story maps and other related comprehension strategies.

Riverdale

In celebration of National Education Week classrooms at Riverdale invited parents in for visitations, participated in a Screen Free challenge, and hosted a no homework night to promote time for families. This week all classes at Riverdale are encouraged to participate in the class collection drive. Each classroom has been assigned an item to purchase for Thanksgiving baskets to be distributed to needy families.

MINUTES

None

DONATIONS:

Mrs. Barsamian motioned to approve the donation made by DonorsChoose.org – This donation of non-fiction books for Allison Kieffner's classroom at the Avery School, valued at \$487.35, was requested by Mrs. Kieffner through a grant entitled "Nifty (and Necessary) Non-fiction; seconded by Mrs. McGregor with grateful appreciation, voted unanimously.

Mrs. McGregor motioned to approve the donation made by DonorsChoose.org – this donation of books valued at \$155.85, was requested by Alexis Tochka, ELL teacher at the Avery School through a grant entitled "Girl Power"; seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko with grateful appreciation, voted unanimously.

Mr. Ryan motioned to approve the donation made by the Dedham Junior Woman's Club for \$500.00 to the Avery School Library, to be used to purchase two Nook readers and e-books for the library, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko with grateful appreciation, voted unanimously.

Mrs. Barsamian motioned to approve the donation from the Dedham Library Innovation Team (DLIT) for \$3500, Information was provided by the President of the DLIT, Kristen Overman, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko, voted unanimously.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Barsamian stated that the Policy Sub Committee met earlier this evening. They will be voting on the new Concussion Policy at the next meeting.

Mrs. Briggs reported that one firm was chosen for the Superintendent's Search, with an average of 93.7 score. The Board chose NESDEC as the top scorer.

Mrs. Butler-Walko reminded everyone that the Turkey Trot will take place at the Endicott Estate on Thanksgiving morning.

Principal McCarthy updated the committee on the NEASC visit this past week.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to adjourn at 9:25, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian, voted unanimously