

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES November 6, 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 7:02 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Read-Write-Winners

In response to the summer reading program at the Middle School, the top summer reading winners were announced and present:

Grade 6 - Cookie Duncan
Grade 7 - Gina Pasciuto
Grade 8 - Stephanie Delva

OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP REQUESTS

Mr. Doug Simon (co-coordinator Ms. Liz Vail) requested permission to take a High School Ski Trip on Sunday January 26th to Cannon Mountain in NH for grades 9-12. Mrs. Butler Walko motioned to approve the field trip, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian, voted unanimously.

Mr. Jeff Taylor proposed to take the 7th and 8th grade students on an overnight trip to New York City for April 11-12, 2014 replacing the Six Flags Trip at the Middle School. Teacher chaperones would be: Principal Gately, Ms. Tracey, Ms. McLaughlin, and Mrs. Taylor.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve the April 11th trip to New York, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimously.

Ms. Alison Reilly, Foreign Language Dept. Chair proposed an 8 day trip to Costa Rica for the Middle School on February 12, 2015 – February 19, 2015. Cost is approx. \$3000.

Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the trip, Mrs. Barsamian seconded, voted unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Oakdale - All of the elementary schools participated in an Anti Bullying program presented by Officer Ron Pucci of the Dedham Police Department. Students in Grades 4 and 5 participated in this program using the DA's video on bullying to lead the discussion. Students in Grades 1-5 enjoyed an assembly from Blue Hills Bank called Ms. Money, teaching the students about setting money goals, saving, and donating money. Each class received a piggy bank to save money for a class item. This program was free of charge. On October 31st Oakdale held their annual Halloween Parade.

Greenlodge – The first annual Halloween Costume Parade was held with the first and second grade students parading outside in their costumes. Friday, November 1st Greenlodge hosted a Halloween Dance sponsored by the PTO and Grade 5 committee. PTO memberships and profits from every Fall event are significantly up from prior year. PTO has agreed to make purchasing of an IPAD cart the focal point of their fundraising this year with a goal to have in place prior to next school year. Grade 5 students formed an organization called Band Together to sell bracelets to benefit the PTO and sold out both days. Language Arts Benchmarks have been developed and shared

with each grade level for input and revision. Grades 4 and 5 will be implementing a structured open response and practice writing program this month. At grades 3, 4, and 5 teachers will provide after school extra help sessions weekly. Mr. Banios has written and submitted a grant request for Read Naturally a web based reading fluency remediation program.

Middle School – The Middle School held three very successful parent meeting nights on October 17, October 23 and October 30. This was the first year using an online scheduling system for meetings. On October 16th Dedham Middle School began its second year working with the memory support unit at Newbridge on the Charles, under the advisement of Mrs. Tracey, a teacher of Art at DMS. Students will be conducting weekly visits to the patients and will be using their Advisory program time every other Friday to plan out activities. An open house was held last evening for grades 3-5 at the middle school. Approximately 125 students and parents attended the presentation. This is the third year hosting elementary students and their families. Ms. Gately and the department chairs gave a presentation on the middle school and curriculum. Grade 7 & 8 students on the Leadership Team guided families around the middle school.

Riverdale - The Arabiqua presentation will be held Friday, November 8th at 1:45 pm. This performance will introduce students at all grade levels to Middle Eastern culture through music, dance and storytelling. The presentation is provided courtesy of the Riverdale PTO. On Wednesday, November 13, the Riverdale PTO will host a financial literacy presentation for parents. This presentation, hosted by the Dedham Savings Bank is designed to be interactive and will assist parents in addressing questions like: how to discuss a family budget with children, the best ways to teach children needs versus wants and more. The librarian, Mrs. Mayyasi has used the success of the Red Sox World Series win as a tool to connect kids to books. The Riverdale library is encouraging readers of all ages to participate in the World Series of Reading. Students are encouraged to read books in a series. After reading, children fill out a bookmark with the books they've read, and turn the bookmarks to Mrs. Mayyasi for a special treat. Each child who completes a bookmark gets to have a baseball with their name written on displayed outside the library.

ECEC - Last Thursday, on Halloween, the preschoolers and kindergartners participated in a Costume Show and Parade at the ECEC. This event will be aired on Dedham TV. Please check the website for the link to the video that was taken to share this with families and the community. The students at ECEC celebrated the Book of the Month this week with the story, Fall, Leaves Fall. The Book of the Month is an opportunity for all ECEC students to join together to celebrate literacy while learning at the same time. Dr. Hammond extends the invitation to tour the facility during the school day hours of 8:30-3:30. The ECEC will also be open on Wednesday, November 13 and Thursday November 14 from 4:30-7:30 for tours. Also, on November 14th, parents of incoming students are invited to an Information Evening at the ECEC at 7:00pm. This evening will showcase both Preschool and Kindergarten. Preschool Applications continue to be available until November 15. All applications must be postmarked by the 15th to be included in the Preschool Lottery to be held on November 20th at 9:30 at the ECEC.

Avery - The Avery Institute After School Enrichment program is in full swing. Students are participating in workshops on Animation, Paper Airplanes, Cupcake Decorating, Arts and Crafts, Chess, and the Avery Buzz. Students in the Avery Buzz workshop are creating a school newspaper to distribute to families and staff. The first issue will come out in December. This week Avery fourth and fifth grade students are running for Student Council. The election will be held on Friday. Third grade students visited Plimoth Plantation and the Mayflower II. Joining the students was Dan Hallissey, the new Elementary School Representative on the Dedham Cable.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

October 14-18 was Spirit Week at the High School. The Drama Club Production Night held Friday, November 8th and 9th. The Girls Soccer team won their game tonight. The Homecoming Football game will be held in Dedham on Thanksgiving morning.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

Article 14 was presented to the mini town meeting Monday night, it was well received. November 18th is the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Heisler encouraged town meeting members to tour the ECEC on November 13th and 14th.

REPORTS

The Budget Sub Committee met regarding Capital requests, group projects. Mr. LaFrancesca reported that work is in place for a 20 year Capital Plan, which will be driven by the Master Plan. Mrs. Briggs stated that the 20 Year Plan, Capital Expenditures will meet in January.

Student Activity Accounts: Housekeeping item, the new town treasurer needs a statement in writing that the school committee acknowledges the school principals can transfer monies. Mr. Coughlin made the motion to approve the Preface to Motion, as follows, Mrs. Briggs seconded the motion, voted unanimously.

Preface to Motion

The Town's Treasurer/Collector has requested that the School Committee reconfirm the votes taken a number of years ago that authorized the creation of student activity accounts and corresponding student activity checking accounts in each of the Dedham schools. Thus, I have a motion to make.

Motion:

I move that the principal of each of the Dedham schools be authorized, consistent with G.L. chapter 71, section 47, to receive money in relation to student activities at that principal's school and to deposit such funds with the Town Treasurer in an interest bearing account known as a "Student Activity Agency Account." I further move that the Town Treasurer be authorized to establish a checking account corresponding to each of the schools to be known as a "Student Activity Checking Account" to be used by the principal for expenditures related to student activities, and with the maximum balance that may be on deposit at any one time in each checking account as follows:

High School: \$50,000.00

Middle School: \$35,000.00

Elementary Schools and ECEC: \$20,000.00

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McCarthy updated the committee members with the schedule for the NEASC visit. The Fall Sports Update was deferred until the next school committee meeting.

Surplus Materials

Mrs. Briggs motioned to declare outdated instructional materials at the Riverdale School as surplus, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimously.

Mrs. McGregor motioned to declare the 20 year old equipment at the Greenlodge School as surplus, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian, voted unanimously.

Robotics Club

Mrs. Doe made a recommendation to the members for a new Robotics Club at Dedham High School, with two advisors.

MINUTES

Mrs. Walko motioned to approve the September 25, 2013 School Committee Meeting Minutes, Mr. Coughlin seconded, voted unanimously.

Mrs. McGregor motioned to approve the October 2, 2013 School Committee Meeting Minutes, Mrs. Briggs seconded, voted unanimously.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve the October 16, 2013 School Committee Meeting Minutes, Mrs. Butler-Walko seconded, voted unanimously.

DONATIONS

Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept with grateful appreciation donations of books in honor of Maureen Simonson, retired teacher, at the Riverdale School, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian, voted unanimously.

Mrs. Butler-Walko motioned to accept with grateful appreciation a recent grant awarded to Dedham Middle School from the Blue Hills Bank Charitable Foundation. Ms. Mary Belge, Technology Engineering teacher at Dedham Middle School, was awarded a grant in the amount of \$2500.00 in order to purchase materials for her Engineering program, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimously.

Mrs. Barsamian motioned to accept with grateful appreciation a recent donation of \$500.00 in gift cards from the Dedham Junior Women's Club to Dedham Middle School. The gift cards to Best Buy, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, iTunes, and Showcase Movie theatres will be used as prizes for our monthly student recognition program at the middle school, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, voted unanimously.

Superintendent Doe expressed sincere appreciation of Mrs. Maureen D'Amico, who taught at the ECEC, who recently passed away after a serious illness.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to enter into Executive Session under Exemption 3 to discuss strategy in regard to collective bargaining for union contracts, seconded by Mr. Coughlin. Roll call vote taken
Tom Ryan-YES, Susan Butler-Walko-YES, Kevin Coughlin-YES, Mayanne Briggs-YES, Rachel McGregor-YES, Jen Barsamian-Yes, Joe Heisler-YES

Meeting concluded at 8:39 p.m.