

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES September 25, 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 7:06

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE: New teacher introductions:

Principal Sullivan introduced 3 new teachers at Avery School: Nicole Savi, Julie Moise, Catherine O'Neill. Principal Hammond introduced 1 new teacher at ECEC: Katherine Branagan. Principal Banios introduced Jennifer Hawkins and Maria Price from the Greenlodge School. Principal Armstrong from Oakdale introduced Maggie Martin and Kathleen Burke. Principal Lucas from Riverdale introduced Ali Zahka. Principal Gately introduced 3 new staff members at the middle school: Alison Knight, Stephanie Meyler, and Colleen Barber. Principal McCarthy introduced 5 new staff members at the High School: Ariel Katz, Alvin Nguyen, Elizabeth Sawyer, Michelle Singer and Conor Kenney. Mrs. Gaudreau introduced ndsay Bastable.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

High School - The first three days of school went smoothly. Students reported for a brief x-block on Wednesday and the regularly scheduled x-block on Thursday to receive handbooks, schedules, and forms. September 10th: Junior and Senior Assemblies during x-block. Senior College Planning Night was well attended. The guidance staff gave a presentation on the college search process for parents, guardians, and seniors. September 18th: Senior Book Awards were presented at 5:30 p.m. before the Open House for parents and guardians. Faculty members reviewed the Mission, Core Values, and 21st Century Learning expectations as well how the 1:1 electronic device initiative will impact teaching and learning. September 25: First DHS School Advisory Council Meeting at 5:00 p.m. Mr. McCarthy announced the new parents on the school council will be Ann Mercer Tony Morganelli and Lynn Canavan.

Middle School - Grade 6 Team Building Day - the annual "Four Become One" day was held on Friday, September 13 at the middle school and Memorial Field, sponsored by the Dedham Middle School Parent Group. On September 18th at 6:00 pm there was a presentation for parents by speaker Brooks Gibbs who is a youth crisis counselor and bullying prevention expert. There were student assemblies held during the day for all students. Mr. Gibbs is the president of the Kalman Research Institute for Bullying Prevention and the national spokesman for the Office Depot Foundation's "Be the Difference. Speak Up Against Bullying" program in partnership with the band One Direction. At the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association meeting on September 19th, members of the middle level committee for the MSSAA elected DMS principal Ms. Gately as their chairperson. Throughout the year, Ms. Gately will work with middle school administrators across the state.

Avery School - Enrollment has increased to 302 students. Over the summer the Avery School held 4 summer programs: the Avery Institute, the English Language Learners, Title I, and Special Needs programs. The Avery Institute offered 28 different sessions of enrichment with 247 children participating. Students started off the year with a visit from the Dedham Fire Department for our first official fire drill. This week Avery students were able to shop for books to start off the school year. Mrs. Garland, the Avery library/media specialist has organized the fair this year to coincide with our Back to School Night and Summer Academic Awards Assembly. The Avery School Back to School Night will be held tomorrow night Thursday, September 26th. This evening provides our parents the opportunity to meet their child's teachers and hear about

class activities and expectations. Avery will join together Friday afternoon to recognize students who read, wrote and completed that summer math activities. First grade students will visit Honey Pot Hill Orchard on Monday, September 30th.

Oakdale - There is an assembly this Friday recognizing all of the students who participated in the summer reading and math program. The Annual Fall Book Fair run by Mrs. Meghan Nels our Library/Media specialist was held last week. Each teacher had a "wish list" basket where families could purchase books for the classroom library. The book fair was a huge success raising many funds for the Oakdale School Library. On Thursday, September 19th, the Oakdale PTO hosted the annual Mingle and Open House. The Mingle was held in the gym from 6:00-7:00 with snacks and access to the Book Fair, then from 7:00-8:00 families visited classrooms, 100 % participation.

Riverdale - Tomorrow beginning at 6:00 pm the Riverdale School is hosting its PTO Open House event. Parents and caregivers will be able to visit their children's classrooms as well as our Scholastic Book Fair, which will be open this year throughout the event. On Tuesday, September 17 the second grade parents hosted an ice cream social for the incoming first grade parents. Special thanks to Donahue Realty who once again volunteered to donate and serve ice cream to the attendees. Also last week, on Friday, September 20, from 5:00-7:00, families participated in the annual Pizza Picnic at Riverdale School. Families were encouraged to bring blankets or chairs and pack a dinner to share, or enjoy a delicious pizza together. Both events were free, and Dr. Lucas spoke to many students who told her that the pizzas, picnics and ice cream treats were delicious.

Greenlodge School - On September 12th the PTO and second grade parents hosted a spaghetti supper for the incoming first grade parents. We had a tremendous turn-out and it was a great introduction to our school for new parents. On September 17th Mr. Banios had his meet and greet with parents from 6-8 in the school library. Many parents attended and it was a terrific opportunity to get to know our parent population and share information about my background and plans for our school. September 26th is our Open House night. October 5th is our annual Pumpkin Patch event. All students are undergoing a battery of assessments to determine reading and math levels. Academic support systems for literacy have been established for Grades 1 and 2 and are in process for other grades once assessments are complete. Mr. Banios is analyzing ELA data and Jennifer Hawkins Math Coach is analyzing Math data to determine trends and identify students needing support. Mr. Banios is meeting with each grade level individually to establish goals for the year and coordinate support and curriculum.

ECEC - The ECEC is off to great start to the school year! The children are acclimating well to the rules and routines of school, and the bus. The school and PTO have organized many activities for the children this year. The PTO sponsored a literacy enrichment program for students called, Once Upon a Time and this morning all kindergarten students took part in the Bus Safety program offered by Connolly Buses.

CHAIRS UPDATE

- Finance committee meeting will meet on Oct 1, 8, 15, 16. Warrant Article submitted regarding the Dexter School will be coming before special town meeting once it gets approved by the finance committee.
- October 2 - next school committee meeting, the agenda will be to review the full MCAS results
- The DEF Bernie's Run will be held on Oct. 6th

REPORTS

Dr. Kelly presented a PowerPoint presentation on information regarding the MCAS district wide results. Preview of coming attractions for next week. Dedham is a level two district. Breakdown of schools are the same as last year: Avery and Oakdale are level one schools and the others are level two. Cumulative PPI Progress and Performance Index information was given for all schools. Principals explained their plans for MCAs improvement, identifying students to target for academic support. Discussions followed.

PARCC - (The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) 2014-15 MCAS is going to be replaced with PARCC Assessment, to be taken by students in 20 states. Standards that will be set come from the common core standards. Developing common, high quality ELA and math tests for grades 3-11. Two summative assessment components: Performance Based assessment (PBA) and End of Year Assessment (EOY). Field tests will take place between April - May. End of Year Assessments are May 5- June 6.

MARKETING SUB COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT - Purpose: Communicate the success of students and staff to the community in order to increase pride and enthusiasm about our school system.

Mission:

1. Inform the public about the educational programs and activities of the schools and the central office. Goals: A. During Chair update at School Committee meetings, Chair announces upcoming school events that are 2-3 weeks out (depending on calendar) B. SC members offer feedback about school events attended

2. Identify and provide the means for delivering information and explanation of the district plans and programs. Goals: A. Consistently use all current means of communication, such as website, connect-ed and media in a well-timed approach. B. Support activities that may require assistance in promotion and publicity.

Take a proactive approach to facilitate communication across the district. Goals: A. Research available technology, such as texting to deliver pertinent information to school community. B. Arrange subject matter experts from the district to appear and present about timely and relevant topics at School Committee meetings and on the public access education channel.

Immediate Action Items:

1. Technology:
 - Research texting technology to send district/school messages to school community
 - Deliver overview of new website at upcoming PTO meetings
2. DHS: Open House, Tuesday, Oct.22, grades 4-8
 - Assist in publicizing the event throughout the Town
3. Summer facility projects:
 - Post photos and descriptions to highlight building improvements and maintenance from recent Facilities report
4. Research and schedule District updates, which may include specific data and information, by submitting news releases and correspondence to local press and community.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

None

MINUTES

Mr. Ryan motioned to accept the September 10, 2013 School Committee minutes, seconded by Mrs. Butler Walko, voted unanimous.

Mr. Ryan motioned to accept the September 16, 2013 School Committee minutes as amended (Add Mr. Coughlin's name to the SBRC Committee), seconded by Mrs. Briggs (Mrs. Barsamian abstained). Voted unanimous with the correction.

DONATIONS:

Mrs. Barsamian motioned to accept an Ipad donation to Mrs. Sacoco's preschool classroom at the ECEC, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko. The donation made by Ms. Geanie Melendez and Mr. Jose Cotto. The iPad was donated on behalf of the law firm of WilmerHale Boston/Washing in honor of Wilmar Hale and specifically Rich Ewenstein.

Mr. Ryan motioned to accept a grant made to the Dedham Middle School from Office Depot Foundation, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko. The grant valued at \$4000 was awarded in order to bring Mr. Brooks Gibbs – a national best-selling author and youth motivational speaker to the Middle School on September 18th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Mr. Heisler stated the need to go into executive session to discuss strategy for litigation
Mrs. Briggs motioned, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko to go into executive session. Roll call vote taken Mr. Ryan, yes, Mrs. Butler-Walko-yes, Mr. Coughlin-yes, Mrs. Briggs-yes, Mrs. McGregor-yes, Mrs. Barsamian-yes, Mr. Heisler-yes. Vote 7-0

Meeting ended at 8:59 pm