

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND SBRC MEETING

MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2013

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Joe Heisler, Chair	Jen Barsamian, Vice Chair-Absent	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

MEMBERS OF THE SBRC COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Mike Butler, Russ Poole, Ron Hathaway, Dave Roberts, Jess Hammond, Derek Moulton
(June Doe), (Tom Ryan), (Kevin Coughlin)

Chair Heisler called the meeting to order at 6:02 as a joint meeting with the SBRC Committee.

Mr. Butler, SBRC member, made a few remarks regarding his comments from last week's School Committee Meeting, where he delivered his comments in a harsh tone, and felt that they were unacceptable, he apologized for letting his emotions get away from him. Chair Heisler appreciated his comments.

Chair Heisler announced that the purpose of tonight's joint meeting was to discuss one agenda item, the Warrant Article for Special Town Meeting, which the School Committee voted to approve at last Tuesday's School Committee meeting. Both committees are meeting tonight to discuss the possibility of broadening the scope of the feasibility study to either renovate the Dexter school or as we have been urged to do, look at other options, combining the facility at one of the elementary schools. As a result of that the Chair is proposing an amendment to the existing article. All members of both committees were given a copy of the amended article.

Chair Heisler read the amended article with the strikethrough's and additional language in red.

Attachment A

ARTICLE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the School Building Rehabilitation Committee for the development of a Feasibility Study and schematic design ~~for a proposed renovation of the Early Childhood Center to be located at the Dexter Elementary School site at 1100 High Street in Dedham, Massachusetts~~ for a proposed renovation or reconstruction of the Early Childhood Education Center to be located at the Dexter Elementary School site at 1100 High Street in Dedham, Massachusetts or the reconstruction of the Early Childhood Education Center facility to house both the ECEC and an Elementary School to be located either at

the Dexter site at 1100 High Street, Dedham, MA , or the Greenlodge School, at 191 Greenlodge Street, Dedham, MA , or at the Oakdale School at 147 Cedar Street, Dedham, MA, or at the Riverdale School at 143 Needham Street, Dedham, MA which feasibility study the Town may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town incurs in connection with the feasibility study in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town.

MOTION/VOTE/ORDER

That the Town of Dedham appropriate the amount of six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) for the purpose of paying costs of the School Building Rehabilitation Committee for the development of a Feasibility Study and schematic design ~~for a proposed renovation of the Early Childhood Center to be located at the Dexter Elementary School site at 1100 High Street in Dedham, Massachusetts~~ for a proposed renovation or reconstruction of the Early Childhood Education Center to be located at the Dexter Elementary School site at 1100 High Street in Dedham, Massachusetts or the reconstruction of the Early Childhood Education Center facility to house both the ECEC and an Elementary School to be located either at the Dexter site at 1100 High Street, Dedham, MA , or the Greenlodge School, at 191 Greenlodge Street, Dedham, MA , or the Oakdale School at 147 Cedar Street, Dedham, MA or at the Riverdale School at 143 Needham Street, Dedham, MA including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and for which the Town of Dedham may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Building Rehabilitation Committee. To meet this appropriation the Dedham School Committee with the approval of the Selectmen is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Town of Dedham acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town of Dedham incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town of Dedham, and further provided that the appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2½)], and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Feasibility Study Agreement that may be executed between the Town of Dedham and the MSBA.

Chair Heisler informed the committees that members of the School Committee and members of the SBRC Committee had a tele-conference call today with SBRC Project Manager, Diane Sullivan, to follow-up with the Warrant language, allowing Dedham to move forward with the Statement of Interest to qualify for MSBA funds, which would be approximately 50%. Chair Heisler recommended to put this amendment of the School Committee's Warrant forward, which we have already passed.

Mr. Moulton added that the legal department is still reviewing the document, and there may be some minor changes to the document as currently written. Mr. Moulton stated, "This has not gone to our town counsel for review yet".

Mr. Ryan motioned to reconsider the Warrant Article and motion passed at last week's school committee meeting and Mrs. Butler-Walko seconded the motion to amend the article. Voted unanimous, Approved 6-0 to reconsider the article.

Mr. Ryan motioned to amend the Warrant Article with the highlighted changes, seconded by Mrs. Walko to amend the Article.

Discussions took place between both committees. Mr. Coughlin mapped out the possibilities:

- Renovation of the Dexter School, with the ECEC moving into it alone
- Tearing down the Dexter School, building a brand new ECEC.
- Tearing down the Dexter School and putting in a brand new ECEC on the Dexter property.
- Looking at the Riverdale site, putting in a new ECEC.
- Looking at the Oakdale School and Looking at the Greenlodge School, whether it's a renovation or reconstruction at either site.

Further discussions took place.

Mr. Ryan stated that this Article would take the Feasibility Study and consider the renovation at the Dexter, the reconstruction at the Dexter, a merged facility at the Dexter or a merged facility at one of those other locations.

Mr. Ryan motioned to approve the Warrant Article as amended, with the striked language and the insertion of the language in red, seconded by Mrs. Briggs. Roll call vote taken: Rachel McGregor-YES, Kevin Coughlin-YES, Mayanne Briggs-YES, Susan Butler-Walko-YES, Tom Ryan-YES, Joe Heisler-YES. Voted unanimous: 6-0, in favor of the new language.

Mr. Moulton stated for the record, that the Finance meeting will be held on Oct. 1, 8, 10 and the 15th and had an idea of putting together a small working group to present the feasibility study to the Finance committee.

SBRC Vote: Mr. Lawlor motioned to endorse the Warrant Article as proposed by the School Committee, Mr. Poole seconded. Voted unanimous.

Mrs. McGregor motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, voted unanimous.