

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

July 31, 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-Absent		

MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

June Doe, Superintendent
Cynthia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent
Michael LaFrancesca
Kathy Gaudreau

Re-convened from the prior executive session, at 7:05 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE:

Mrs. Doe introduced two new administrative staff members, Athletic Director Stephen Traister and the new Greenlodge School Principal, Mr. Philip Banios. The Board welcomed both Mr. Traister and Mr. Banios.

CHAIRS UPDATE

Chairman Heisler reported that the negotiations were concluded with the Superintendent's contract and the committee voted unanimously 6-0 in the executive session to increase the Superintendent's FY14 salary with an increase of 3.5% retroactive to July 1, 2013. Mr. Heisler stated that the committee has asked the Superintendent to take on an awful lot, it has been an extraordinary year and her last evaluation she scored nearly a perfect score of 3.75 out of 4. She has been asked to take on a lot this year including the project of renovating the Dexter school.

The Chair discussed the preparation for the renovating and opening the Dexter school. The Board will meet on August 14th for a workshop with the Mass. Assoc. of School Committees to prepare to go forward with the new Superintendent's search, followed by dinner, and a goal setting session prior to the School Committee meeting.

REPORTS

Mrs. Briggs updated the board on the Superintendent's Search process, the RPF Sub Committee, and discussions took place. School Legal Council Ed Lenox discussed information regarding the open meeting law, the search committee make-up, consulting firms, marketing packet, the interview committee, and outside consulting groups.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Maher, parent at DHS spoke regarding the High School Music Theory Class which was cancelled at the end of school. He is hoping Mass. Bay Community College will offer the course next year.

The Special Education Action Plan that was scheduled for this evening will be deferred to the August 14th meeting.

ECEC Update - Dr. Hammond updated the Board on the relocation of the ECEC. Dr. Hammond presented a Powerpoint/slide show and movie on the ECEC / renovation of the Dexter School and the impact on the current conditions.

Mr. Ryan gave an update on the SBRC meetings and the current update on the Master Plan, explaining that the SBRC is in the process of looking at several alternatives.

The 3 alternative options discussed:

- Upgrade ECEC up to code.
- Upgrade ECEC up to code and add additional space.
- Construct new facility to house ECEC and Riverdale School.

Mr. Ryan stated his opinion that the best alternative is to go forward with the Dexter School renovation in partnership with Massachusetts School Building Authority. Regarding the Riverdale School, Mr. Ryan reiterated that the School Committee has not held any public discussion or conducted any input from the community regarding consolidation of the neighborhood schools. The Superintendent, the Principal of the ECEC, and the ECEC teachers all assured him that the relocation to a renovated Dexter School is in the best interest of the children at ECEC. The renovation of the Dexter through the MSBA process is a financially sound option and is the best interest of the tax payers as well.

Mr. Coughlin added that this renovation of Dexter School is the most fiscally responsible option for the future. "The School Committee put together the Statement of Interest, the BOS voted on it as a committee, let's move forward. Some members of the SBRC are seeking consolidation of the schools, and that is not an option". The Superintendent stated "We are in the process of 2.5 years with MSBA. The current ECEC is in serious condition. It is not an appropriate learning space, and has major health and safety concerns. We need to provide a quality and safe education for Dedham's three to five year old population".

The Chair commented how the process is being bogged down. "MSBA provides a window of opportunity to significantly upgrade our facility and we need to take advantage now". The Chair stated he wants to clear the air regarding closing of schools or changing the educational model; no School Committee member has indicated that. People invest in our community because of the neighborhood schools. We encourage parents to become more vocal for supporting the existing neighborhood school model.

SURPLUS BOOKS

Mr. LaFrancesca provided information on surplus books – biology and history books – need to donate them. Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve to declare books as surplus, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian, voted unanimous.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE CALENDAR DATES:

Proposed calendar 2013-2014 SC meeting dates. Typically 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. September is the exception. Mrs. Walko motioned to approve the 2013-14 School Committee calendar, seconded by Mr. Ryan. Voted unanimous.

2013-14 SUB COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Ryan motioned to accept the sub committee assignments, seconded by Mrs. Briggs – voted unanimous.

MINUTES

- Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept the June 5, 2013 School Committee minutes, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Barsamian abstained. Voted 4-0 approved.
- Motion made by Mr. Coughlin to accept the June 5, 2013 executive session minutes, seconded by Mrs. Walko, Mr. Ryan and Mrs. Barsamian abstained. Voted 4-0 approved.
- Motion made by Mr. Ryan to accept the June 19 School Committee minutes seconded by Mrs. Barsamian, voted unanimous with the amendment of the language regarding the Unit B contract to reflect the vacation time over 3 years – receiving 6 weeks.
- Motion made by Mr. Ryan to accept the June 19 Executive session minutes, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, with the amendment of the language regarding the Unit B contract to reflect the vacation time over 3 years – receiving 6 weeks, voted unanimous.

DONATIONS

- Donation from the Dedham Flag Day Committee to the Dedham High School marching band \$1000 - as well as the middle school band – \$500
- Donation from – Jose Cotto and Virginia Melendez, Wells Fargo support campaign - \$500 for the ECEC preschool special education program.

Motion made by Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mr. Ryan with grateful appreciation to approve both donations. Voted unanimous.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian – meeting ended at 8:46 p.m.