

**DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
RETREAT**

RETREAT MINUTES

June 7, 2021

(Approved 6/16/2021)

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Tracey White, Chair
 Dr. Melissa Pearrow, Vice-Chair
 Mayanne Briggs
 Joshua Donati
 Victor Hebert
 Cailen McCormick
 Christopher Polito

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT:

None

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Michael J. Welch, Superintendent

Meeting Location: Dedham Middle School Library

Meeting commenced at 5:30 p.m.

The Committee reviewed and reorganized its subcommittees and community representatives. The following assignments were created:

Sub Committees 21-22						
<u>Budget</u>	<u>Policy</u>	<u>Negotiations</u>	<u>Finance/Warrant</u>	<u>Communications</u>	<u>Traffic Circulation Study</u>	<u>SBRC</u>
Mayanne Briggs	Josh Donati	Victor Hebert	Tracey White, Chair	Mayanne Briggs	Mayanne Briggs	Mayanne Briggs
Victor Hebert	Cailen McCormick	Chris Polito	Melissa Pearrow, Vice-Chair	Josh Donati	Chris Polito	Victor Hebert
Chris Polito	Melissa Pearrow, Vice-Chair	Tracey White, Chair	Mayanne Briggs	Cailen McCormick	Melissa Pearrow, Vice-Chair	
			Josh Donati			

Community Representatives 21-22			
<u>TEC</u>	<u>Park & Rec</u>	<u>Human Rights</u>	<u>D.O.S.A.</u>
Ian Kelly	Cailen McCormick	Victor Hebert	Melissa Pearrow, Vice-Chair
(Mayanne Briggs)	Chris Polito		
<u>Master Plan</u>	<u>Transportation Working Group</u>	<u>Norfolk County Sheriff</u>	<u>Anti-Racism Coalition</u>
Josh Donati	Trish Sullivan	Any Member	Oneida Fox Roye

Committee reviewed bullet points of goals development and added and edited language as follows:

1. Communications
 - a. Outreach to Community
 - i. Dedham Times (Consistency)
 - b. Quarterly School Committee Reports
 - c. Communications Subcommittee
 - i. Monthly meetings
 - d. With Communications Director
 - e. Policies and practices around Committee practices
 - f. Explore Live vs. Hybrid vs. Remote meetings
 - i. Make recommendations by September to increase community participation
 - g. Face to face listening
2. FY2023 Budget Development
 - a. ESSER 3 - one time grant spent by 2024 (\$2.1 mil)
 - b. Norfolk County Funding
 - c. Remediation Support
 - d. Additional Needs
 - e. Mental Health
 - f. Town ARP Funds
 - g. Capital Improvements - 10 Year Look
 - h. FY22 Operational Request - Personnel, new curricula, programs, materials
 - i. Traffic Study Recommendations
3. District Infrastructure
 - a. Oakdale Project
 - i. Fall Town Meeting Feasibility Study
 - ii. Review elementary school needs
 - b. DHS Upgrades
 - i. Library
 - ii. ADA compliance (e.g., door handles)
 - iii. Auditorium upgrades
 - iv. Electrical upgrades
 - v. Window replacement
 - vi. Elevator upgrades
 - vii. Roof repairs

- viii. Gymnasium Upgrades, they have been
 - ix. Turf Field & Track
 - c. Traffic study recommendations review and plan
 - d. Fields at elementary schools
- 4. Equity - Safe, Supportive, Inclusive Schools and School Environment
 - a. Highlighting and elevating student voice
 - b. Safe and inclusive learning environment
 - i. Share with community bullying response and prevention activities
 - ii. Focus on diversity and inclusive environments
 - c. Data driven assessments
 - i. Metrics such as universal screening
 - ii. School climate survey (VOCAL) - <https://www.doe.mass.edu/research/vocal/>
 - iii. Panorama
 - d. Forums for conversations around equity

Committee broke into groups to begin writing goals.

Committee came together to review and edit its goals. The final versions of the goals are as follows:

Communications

The Communication Subcommittee will, by December 1, 2021, recommend to the full Committee a comprehensive set of School Committee strategies for communications to the Dedham community, in coordination with the District Communications and Community Engagement Coordinator. Once approved by the full School Committee, these agreed upon activities will commence beginning January 1, 2022. These strategies will include meeting formats, quarterly reports/publications, and annual listening goals for Committee members.

FY2023 Budget Development

By late January 2022, the School Committee will develop, communicate, and support a budget that strives to meet the learning and social emotional needs of all of the students, educators and staff of the Dedham Public Schools, given COVID-19 funds (ESSER-3, Norfolk County/ARP). This budget will also address the aging infrastructure and facilities including upgrades in ADA accessibility, safe and efficient traffic patterns in and around our schools, and upgraded learning environments for our students. This will include effective listening and communication with district educators and leadership, parents, appropriate Town committees and departments and collective bargaining units. The final FY2023 budget will support ongoing initiatives and previously prioritized commitments, and provide for district improvements planned during the budget cycle.

District Infrastructure

At the Fall Town meeting, the School Committee will submit a warrant article requesting funding for a feasibility study for the elementary schools' facilities. The School Committee, using input gathered from public hearings and forums, will develop and plan necessary facility upgrades for the high

school to meet legal and safety requirements. By spring, the Committee will also review traffic study recommendations and offer a plan for ongoing improvements, in collaboration with Town departments.

Safe, Supportive, Inclusive Schools and School Environment

By October 2021, the school committee will review the district's mission, vision, and definitions around diversity, equity, and inclusion. The School Committee will then receive bi-monthly reports that analyze the equitable allocation of resources to support learning for all students and with a particular eye toward high needs and low incidence groups. These reports will evaluate any disproportionalities with regard to student engagement and success in academic and extracurricular experiences. This data will be used to make budgetary recommendations about future programming to support a more equitable climate for all students.

The Committee reviewed its meeting norms one last time and decided to keep them the same.

Meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m.