

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING—June 9, 2010
Town Hall, Lower Conference Room

PRESENT

Tom Ryan, Chair
Kevin Coughlin, Vice Chair
Tracy Driscoll
Dave Roberts
Joe Heisler
Dimitria Sullivan
Mayanne Briggs

ADMINISTRATION

June M. Doe, Superintendent
Cynthia Kelly, Asst. Superintendent
Michael La Francesca, Business Manager

Convened: 7:00 PM

Adjourned: 8:25 PM

Superintendent Doe introduced Principal Gately of the Middle School who announced the winners of the New England Math League Contest. Assistant Principal Boles, and Department Chair Mr. Hickey were also present.

Grade 6 high scorers: John Dowling, Robert Lau, Cindy Wang, Michelle Carty, Steve Acosta, Nicholas Andres, and Matthew Jenest.

Grade 7 high scorers: Colin Sargent, Joseph Von Schoppe, Andres Molano, Joseph DeVirgilio, Meghan Simone, and John Carrigan.

Grade 8 high scorers: Molly Burke, Emma O'Toole, Robert Curran, Kahlil Washum, Jennifer Guccione, and Meghan Cochrane.

Algebra Test – High Scorers:

Matt Naddaff, Owen Tuite, Ty Walko, Ryan Turner, Sabrina Ferhani, Elizabeth Masalsky, John Moran, and Maggie O'Connor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Superintendent announced the final days of the school year were approaching with many activities going on at the schools. There is a high school retirement function tomorrow evening. Joe Brogran, Paula Marini, Sal Fazio, Don Ross, Adele Traniello will be recognized. Some personnel items: The search for an assistant principal for the high school is ongoing. There is a candidate for the Director of Fine Arts and will be finalizing the details this week for the appointment. Interviews are ongoing for two psychologist positions at the high school with some very strong candidates. The position of principal for the ECEC has just been posted and we will be commencing that search as well. The Director of Athletics, Mr. Tom Arria has submitted his resignation and it has been accepted. Mr. Arria has accepted a position in Nashua, NH. He will be the Athletic Director and Director of Physical Education with 4300 students at the secondary level. He will be responsible for a staff of 250 coaches and all of the PE teachers K-12. It is a significant position he is going on to and we congratulate him and wish him well. Graduation went well. Final exams are commencing. There are many summer programs district-wide. This week we had a team visiting from DESE evaluating and gathering data on our ELL program, specifically the Avery School. Last year our Avery population of ELL students did an outstanding performance on MCAS. This group scored 28% higher than the state average. This visiting team of administrators is part of the grant process. Training was provided to the administrators this week from the Federal Office of Civil Rights on 504's. Assistant Superintendent Kelly reported on professional development. "Teachers 21" is developing a list of courses to be offered. Dr. William Ribas will continue with Best Teaching Practices. Mrs. Doe wanted to clarify that our football field will be available for practice use this fall.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

Congratulations to the Class of 2010. Mr. Ryan attended both Awards Night and Graduation. He was impressed by the students both with the awards they received, the colleges they are attending, and also their

well mannered behavior. He noted there is a strong camaraderie the students share. Mr. Ryan also noted he attended the baseball tournament game in Swansea where the Dedham pitcher was struck by a line drive. Student Brian Coakley was released from the hospital that night and is doing fine. Mr. Ryan wanted to recognize the athletic trainer Mark Carney, coach Savi, and Sue Riley (parent and RN) who provided immediate care to the injured player. Thirdly, the Chair recognized Mr. La Francesca for all his efforts this year as the Business Manager. We did not issue layoff notices this year and we are thankful with the municipal side of town government and our working relationship with the selectmen and finance committee. Flag Day is Monday, June 14. The School Committee will be marching.

REPORTS

Elementary Math Programs: Presented by Principal Armstrong, Department Chair Ed Hickey, and Nancy Clements.

Documents presented to SC members with a Power Point presentation. They stress the importance of summer assignments based on research that indicates summer learning loss occurs in both math and reading. Each grade has specific summer math activities.

Elementary Reading Programs: Presented by Principal Claypool.

Documents presented to SC members. Information contained in the packet includes lists of suggested summer reading books. It is recommended the students read a minimum of six books over the summer. It is recommended 20 minutes of reading per day for grades 1-3, and 40-60 minutes per day for grades 4-5.

Principal Gately presented the summer reading program for the Middle School. She also noted the MS is instituting a summer program for English and Math. Many students go to other towns for remedial courses and now they will be able to stay in Dedham for summer school replacement classes. The program will run July 6th through July 30th and the cost is \$200.00 per course. Tomorrow night at the Middle School will be the first National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony with approximately 70 students from grades 6th, 7th, and 8th participating. June 17th will be the 8th grade promotion ceremony.

Reading Program: The key to the program is the students read books that interest them. Another key for summer reading is the "Read-Write-Win" program sponsored by the Dedham Education Foundation. All material is available on the DPS website.

High School Summer School Program: presented by Principal Santamaria and Assistant Principal Murray. Brochure was handed out to SC members with information, schedule of classes, and program guidelines. Access to the program is available on the DPS website. Mr. Murray said they need 12 students in each subject area to be self-sufficient.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Roberts, and seconded by Mr. Coughlin to approve the minutes from May 12, 2010.

Approved: Majority with 1 abstention. 6:0:1

Motion made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Mr. Heisler to approve the minutes from May 26, 2010.

Approved: Unanimous 7:0

DONATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

None

OTHER

The Chair announced the June 23rd school committee meeting will be held in abeyance.

Motion made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Ms. Driscoll to adjourn. Approved: Unanimous 7:0

Open meeting adjourned at: 8:25 p.m.