

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING—May 12, 2010
Town Hall, Lower Conference Room

PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

Erica White, Student Representative

Convened: 7:00 PM

Adjourned: 9:15 PM

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The four elementary school are in the process of administering the math and science MCAS for grades three, four and five.

Avery: They are beginning the final round of enrichment classes-with two offerings Musical Theater and Creative Cupcakes. The brochure for the Avery Summer Institute will be distributed to the schools by the end of this week. There are 47 different workshops being offered through the month of July. The brochure will also be posted on the website. Second grade teacher Mrs. Michelle Canty received a letter from Creative Communications, an organization hosting a poetry contest, A Celebration of Poets. 14 of the 17 students in Mrs. Canty's class chose to enter the contest. Ordinarily about half the poems entered into the contest are rejected for publication. However, all of her students were accepted. In her letter explaining the change in protocol, Ms. Hernandez, the editor, stated that "each poem entered was true to the form and did the form very well." Top 10 Contest winners will be notified later in May. Those students have the opportunity to win \$50 savings bonds.

Riverdale: On Saturday May 8th the school hosted the Riverdale International Spring Fair. In spite of the inclement weather, the fair was superb. There were many activities for the children such as games, crafts, the infamous 'jail' and a new addition which was the Cake Stroll. The school is very grateful to the following parents who for the third year coordinated this event: Mrs. Rachel Macgregor, Mrs. Maggie Kelly, and Mrs. Jean Martens. In addition to their organization, there were many teachers and parents who volunteered that day to make this a very successful fair.

Oakdale: On April 30th students at Oakdale participated in a celebration of Arbor Day as well as a Spirit Day called Flower Power Day. Students brought flowers to school (either purchased or from their gardens) to school and each classroom made an arrangement with the flowers. At an all school assembly the topic of Random Acts of Kindness was discussed. All of the flower arrangements were then donated to local hospitals, nursing homes, and elderly. Thanks to the Oakdale PTO, our students in grades one through 4 were able to view the *Bamidele Dancers & Drummers* performance. The Bamidele Dancers & Drummers give the students a taste of dances, rhythms, folklore, and songs from West Africa, Brazil, and the Caribbean. This program included audience participation (including the entire staff!), authentic costumes and instruments.

Greenlodge: Third graders will be taking a field trip to the Arnold Arboretum on Thursday, May 13 as part of their science unit on plants and flowers. The buses for the trip were funded through a grant from the Endicott Community Greenhouse. They are very thankful for their support. The PTO is once again sponsoring the Greenlodge Open "Nine, Wine, and Dine" golf tournament. It will be held on Monday, May 24 at the Norfolk Golf Club. The tournament will

be nine holes of golf followed by dinner and a silent auction. The money raised through the tournament is being dedicated for technology and will be used to purchase additional smart boards or a mobile computer cart.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

The last day of school is June 17th 2010. Next Monday, May 17th is the Annual Town Meeting. Question #4 is the Siemens Performance Contracting Grant which if approved will be a great benefit to the schools. Fiscally it makes good sense where there is a tremendous infrastructure throughout the town that needs to be maintained. The schools will benefit greatly – especially Dedham High School. We appreciate the support of the community.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. White reported that the All-Town Band Concert was performing at High School tonight. Boys Lacrosse played Wellesley today. She gave an update on sports for the week. NHS is hosting a Book Drive to benefit “More than Words” in Waltham. To support this cause, drop off gently used books in the Library. The Scully Awards are May 19th. The All night Grad Party are accepting photos of seniors – put name on back so that they can be identified.

REPORTS

Principal Clare Sullivan introduced the faculty advisors to the Avery Student Council. Stephanie Hoyt has been in charge for the past five years. Joan Stranding volunteered to join her last year. There are 12 members of the Avery Council present. The other 10 members had other commitments. They recognized the members that were not present: Kerstin Fontanez, Alexas Cusman, Brett Santangelo, Gabby Sabatino, Gina Walsh, Madison Meaney, Asia Vo, Despina Muratoglu, Cassie Rapoza, and Kaitlyn Naddaff. The members present were: John Keaney, Thomas Leva, Cassidy Repetto, Lexi Mason, Charles Von Schoppe, Nicole Rampino, Brianna Ruiz, Nicolina Soucy, David Long, Elizabeth Mellen, Gregory Pascuito, and Veronika Melnik.

The students described the process of becoming a student council member. There is an informational meeting in the fall. Candidates and their parents signed an “intent to run” agreement, wrote and read speeches, and visited classrooms. They all agree to uphold the Avery School Constitution. The council members visit classes they were elected to represent and listen to concerns and suggestions. Meetings we give reports. Some events include a visit to the O’Neill Drive Senior Center, Pet of the Day Contest which raised money for the American Red Cross Haiti Relief Fund, assist the Avery PTO in collecting coupons to send to the school’s adopted military base in Germany. To date they have sent \$14,740.10 in coupons to the base. They also raised \$487.00 and collected supplies for the people of Haiti. A total of 749 items were collected. Hats on Day raised \$123.00 for the Foundation of Children with Cancer. School Spirit Days are organized throughout the year and the Flag Day Parade to show their Avery Pride.

Thank you to the Avery Student Council for coming in this evening.

Avery School Improvement Plan: Power Point presentation by Principal Sullivan.

It is a two year plan. Copies of the plan were given to committee members in advance of the presentation. The Chair recognized Principal Sullivan for all her hard work in the passage of the new Avery School.

ECEC School Improvement Plan: Power Point presentation by Principal Dineen

It is a two year plan. Copies of the plan were given to committee members in advance of the presentation. The Chair thanked the committee for the work put into the plan.

Memorandum Of Agreement – On-Line Courses

Superintendent Doe gave some background on the MOA. A visit by the State last year for audit determined DHS was not in compliance in the offerings of physical education to every student every year. Next year, the HS is offering a semester long physical education segment and in order to do that they backed it with another semester course – ½ PE, ½ Technology. There are approximately 60 students who will not be able to be scheduled due to staffing. The solution was to offer an on-line technology program. It

is a pilot for one year with a possible extension to a second year. The MOA has been reviewed by school counsel. The Superintendent recommended to the committee to approve pilot agreement. The Chair pointed out this is a graduation requirement. Mr. Langenhorst spoke on the accountability factor of the students doing the work.

Motion made by Mr. Heisler, and seconded by Ms. Sullivan to accept the MOA as presented. Approved: Unanimous 6:0

The Technology Plan 2010-2013 was presented by Don Langenhorst

Copies of the plan were given to committee members in advance of the presentation. The Plan is also on the DPS website. Mr. Langenhorst reviewed the plan with the committee. He introduced Cathy Oravetz, who was just appointed the new Technology Integrator for next year. The plan was approved by a 30 member committee. There is a substantial investment in technology in the Dedham Public Schools. Mr. Langenhorst formally requested approval of the technology plan so that it can be forwarded to the State. Motion made by Mr. Roberts, and seconded by Ms. Sullivan to approve the Technology Plan as presented. Approved: Unanimous 6:0

The Education Cooperative recently revised their by-laws. Documents were presented tonight for review and signature of revised agreements.

Motion made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Mr. Heisler to vote to approve the revised by-laws as submitted to committee from TEC (Handout). Approved: Unanimous 6:0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Mr. Heisler to approve the April 28, 2010 minutes with the following corrections: correction to vote taken to support Siemens Project to 6:1. Executive Session was called under exemption 7 – student discipline matter
VOTED: Approved 6:0

DONATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing on School Choice

Superintendent Doe presented background pertaining to School Choice and the requirement to vote for or against School Choice every year. Ms. Doe recommends not approving School Choice.

The chair accepted a motion by Mr. Roberts, and seconded by Ms. Sullivan to open the public hearing.

Approved: Unanimous 6:0

No Discussion

A motion was made by Mr. Roberts, and seconded by Ms. Sullivan to close the public hearing. Approved: Unanimous 6:0

Motion was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Ms. Sullivan not to participate in School Choice for the 2010-2011 school year. Approved: Unanimous 6:0

Update on meeting for SBRC – vote taken to accept appraisal for rights on Pottery Lane that were held in Cherubini Family Trust – Assessed value \$2200.00. The land taking was access to the railroad bed at top of Pottery Lane. The next meeting of the SBRC is 5/24.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn: Approved: Unanimous 6:0 **Open meeting adjourned at: 9:15pm**