

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING—April 28, 2010**  
**Town Hall, Lower Conference Room**

**PRESENT**

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

**ADMINISTRATION**

**June M. Doe, Superintendent**  
**Cynthia Kelly, Asst. Superintendent**  
**Michael La Francesca, Business Manager**  
  
**Student Representative, Erica White**

**Convened: 7:00 PM**

**Adjourned: PM**

Superintendent Doe convened the meeting for the purpose of reorganization of the School Committee. She welcomed new members Mayanne Briggs and Dimitria Sullivan. Nomination for Chair was made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Mr. Coughlin – Tom Ryan was nominated.

Vote conducted by Roll call: Ms. Driscoll-yes, Mr. Coughlin-yes, Ms. Briggs-yes, Mr. Heisler-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes, Mr. Ryan-yes, Mr. Roberts-yes. Nomination: Unanimous

The meeting was turned over to the Chair, Mr. Ryan

Nomination for Vice Chair was made by Ms. Briggs and seconded by Mr. Roberts – Kevin Coughlin was nominated.

Vote conducted by Roll call: Ms. Driscoll-yes, Mr. Coughlin-yes, Ms. Briggs-yes, Mr. Heisler-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes, Mr. Ryan-yes, Mr. Roberts-yes. Nomination: Unanimous

Sub-committee assignments for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year:

Budget Sub-Committee: Tracy Driscoll, Kevin Coughlin, Joe Heisler

Finance Sub-Committee: Mayanne Briggs, Tracy Driscoll, Dave Roberts, Kevin Coughlin

Negotiation Sub-Committee: Open

Policy Sub-Committee: Dave Roberts, Mayanne Briggs, Dimitria Sullivan

School Building Rehab Committee: Dave Roberts, Tom Ryan

Special Education Sub-Committee: Mayanne Briggs, Joe Heisler, Tracy Driscoll

Superintendents Goals: Tom Ryan, Kevin Coughlin

School Committee Goals: Joe Heisler, Dimitria Sullivan

TEC Board of Directors: Joe Heisler

School Council Liasons:

HS – Dimitria Sullivan

ECEC – Mayanne Briggs

All other schools remain the same.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

**Oakdale School:** All of the elementary schools had assemblies for students in grades 3 and 4 presented by Officer Ron Pucci. The focus of the assemblies was Bully Prevention. Each school viewed a video produced by the District Attorney's office highlighting types of bullying (rumors, physical, verbal, internet), how to stop bullying, and roles of students (victim, bully, bystander). This program was very well received by the students. We would like to congratulate the following students who were chosen winners of the Cambridge Science Festival Curiosity Challenge: Ryan Roberts, Josh Rooney, Patrick Leone, John Tigliandis, Alondra Msallem, Sammy Welch, Rochelle Casey and Jack Tocci. **These students wrote an essay, drew or took a picture about your curiosity** and how it prompted them to explore their world. The winners will be honored at The Curiosity Challenge celebration at the Cambridge Science Festival May 2nd 2010!

All 5<sup>th</sup> graders once again participated in a workshop organized by Mr. Jim Dellot, Mr. Steve Dewar, and Mr. Dave Haluska, as well as a group of students from Dedham High School. Centers were set up showing the 5<sup>th</sup> graders how to use various tools and each student made a pencil holder. This workshop is an outstanding review of and Science and Technology frameworks for 5<sup>th</sup> graders particularly Simple Machines. We would like to thank Mr. Dellot and his crew for taking the time to come to Oakdale once again!

The **Avery School** welcomed author Peter Reynolds on Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup>. Avery families joined together for a spaghetti dinner and then were entertained with a reading of *The Dot*. Mr. Reynolds remained after the presentation to autograph copies of his books. On April 16<sup>th</sup> the students were treated to a presentation of Perseus and Medusa by the Tanglewood Marionettes. This assembly was made possible through a grant received by Mrs. Cheryle Biggar from the Dedham Education Foundation.

**ECEC:** On Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, our kindergarten students traveled to the Middle School to see their performance of Aladdin. I would like to thank Chris Nadeau and Ms. Gately for having us. The children certainly enjoyed the performance and were an excellent audience.

**Middle School:** Congratulations to the students of DMS who recently held performances of "Aladdin." DMS foreign language teacher Mr. Nadeau and music teacher Mr. Taylor worked with several grade 6, 7 & 8 students on a fantastic production. We also had the pleasure of hosting grade 5 students from all of the elementary schools as well as the students from the Curran Early Childhood Center. The grade 8 students attended a field trip to see "The Diary of Anne Frank" at the Boston Children's Theatre on April 16<sup>th</sup>. This trip was funded, in part, by the Dedham Educational Foundation and by money raised earlier in the year by a Patriots ticket raffle. The All-Town Art Exhibit will be at DMS on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The DMS after school MCAS Enrichment program concluded on April 15<sup>th</sup> and the following schedule will be in place for testing in May:

- May 10 & 11 – Grade 6 Math
- May 12 & 13 – Grade 8 Math
- May 17 & 18 – Grade 7 Math
- May 19 & 20 – Grade 8 Science/Technology

Congratulations to John Rocha and Marianne Hage who were recently selected by the staff at DMS to receive the Scholar Leaders Award. This program is sponsored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Middle Level Educators, the New England League of Middle Schools and the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association. The program is intended to give public recognition to two students from each middle level school in Massachusetts who have distinguished themselves in terms of outstanding scholarship and leadership. The banquet will be on May 27, 2010 at the DCU Center in Worcester in which both students have invited family members and one teacher to join them at the dinner.

**Riverdale School:** We were quite surprised coming back from school vacation week to find a complete makeover of the teacher's dining room at Riverdale School. As an early Teacher Appreciation Week present which is May 3-7, many parents cleaned, painted and spruced up the room. There are new curtains, plants and baskets. Also, there is a mini refrigerator to hold some cold drinks such as milk for coffee. The staff would like to thank the PTO Board members especially Lisa Whitney, Treasurer, who sewed the curtains. Mr. Tom Milojkovic was also instrumental since he painted the entire room. The Riverdale staff is very grateful to **every parent** who was involved in this project. Upcoming events: Project Based Learning Presentations – Grade One – Animals April 30, 2010 and Grade Three: Space Exposition May 7, 2010. Students spend 8-12 weeks becoming responsible for an interdisciplinary project which is presented to the Riverdale parents.

Field Trips: Grade Five – Lexington and Concord – April 26 Grade Four – Immigration: Lowell, MA. April 27. The Riverdale spring fair is May 8<sup>th</sup>. Please come and enjoy the festivities from 10-3.

**Greenlodge School:**

Fourth graders from the Greenlodge School traveled to the high school on Monday to dissect squid. The students worked in groups with a high school student lab partner. Prior to going to the high school, Louise Young, Science Department Chair, and Nancy Dewar came to Greenlodge to present a Power Point to prepare the children for the lab. The final count has been made and a check for

\$1000.00 was sent this week to Partners in Health to be used for earthquake relief in Haiti and Chile. This money was collected over the last several months from three activities undertaken by Greenlodge students: a hat day, the Greenlodge Hope for Haiti Variety Show, and a month-long collection of spare change. We are very thankful for the generosity of the Greenlodge School community.

Ms. Doe spoke briefly on The Education Collaborative. TEC has provided the 15 member districts of the Collaborative programs that individually could not be afforded as a school district and also cooperative purchasing of supplies and equipment. In addition, they offer professional development for the districts. As a Superintendent she has never participated in a Superintendent's retreat.

### **CHAIR'S UPDATE**

The Chair reminded everyone about the three major events in the Arts coming up. The All-Town Art Exhibit – Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. 6-8pm at DMS. The All-Town Choral Concert, Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the All-Town Instrument Concert, Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

The seniors have seventeen days of class left. The Prom will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Tickets go on sale next week. The Rotary Club Scholarship applications are available in Guidance. Ms. White also gave an update on sporting events in the past week.

### **REPORTS**

Updates on the Avery School Project and Athletic Fields were presented by Andy Lawlor, Mike Butler. The committee anticipates the project will go out to bid in August with ground breaking in late September, early October. Mr. Lawlor reviewed the adjustments made to the design of the school. The gymnasium has been enlarged (interior) to allow for better school and community utilization. The stage was originally set at the back of the gymnasium and has been relocated to the cafeteria. This will be a benefit by creating two large assembly spaces in the school. There was discussion on access to the school. The architects are looking at different solutions in lieu of a potential lawsuit and safety issues along Pottery Lane. It is a very congested and busy area. The alternative plan is to look at entering from Recreation Road and make the access road two-way from Whiting Ave. to High Street. They will also look at putting a sidewalk along the east side of the pool where there is a field used for practices. Discussion was held on the traffic pattern for the school. There is a plan for a full size, outdoor basketball court beside the gymnasium. The contract terms are in the process of being negotiated for the Athletic complex. The committee requested an update at the next meeting.

Endorsement of the Siemens Project: Mr. La Francesca introduced Mr. Rob Naser, Chairman of the Building, Planning, and Construction Committee and on the working group looking at the performance contracting project. This is a procurement process established by the State Legislature to give municipalities the tool to invest in energy efficient infrastructure improvements to their buildings. It is funded by the energy services company (ESCO). They have to sign a contract with a guaranteed minimum energy savings for the project. He provided a handout to the committee that highlights the scope of the project. A detailed presentation is scheduled for next Wednesday evening at the Middle School. The total project cost is \$9.2M. The school building portion of the total amounts to \$6.3M.

Grants, energy rebates, state grants through the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative are included in the total amount.

Motion made by Mr. Heisler and seconded by Mr. Coughlin to endorse the Siemens Project as proposed to the Town. Approved: Majority 6:1

### **MINUTES**

Motion made by Mr. Roberts, and seconded by Ms. Driscoll to accept the minutes from the April 7, 2010 meeting. Approved: Majority. Abstaining from vote were Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Briggs

## **DONATIONS**

Donation was received from Verizon in the amount of \$750.00 on behalf of their employee, Joan Conners community service work.

Motion made by Mr. Heisler with grateful appreciation and seconded by Ms. Driscoll with grateful appreciation, and it was

**VOTED:** to accept the donations. Unanimous

## **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Policy on Boys and Girls State, Mr. Santamaria explained the process. There has never been a written policy and there needed be a consistent process followed year after year. The policy was presented to policy sub-committee. The policy was previously approved DHS Faculty and School Council. Andrew Morton sent an email addressing his staff members of the History department which Principal Santamaria read to the School Committee. Mr. Coughlin spoke on behalf of the Policy Sub-Committee that they voted unanimously to endorse the policy. Motion made by Ms. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Heisler to approve the policy for selecting students for Boys and Girls State as proposed and approved by the Policy Sub-Committee. Approved: Unanimous

Dexter Lease Agreements went out to bid. Two bidders resulted.

Little Sprouts

TEC Collaborative

Mr. La Francesca presented two lease agreements to the committee for signatures. The lease period is from September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2012 with the option to extend for two additional 12 month terms exercised individually at the time of the lease renewal.

Motion made by Mr. Roberts and seconded by Ms. Sullivan to endorse lease agreements with Little Sprouts and the TEC Collaborative. Approved: Unanimous

## **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

Public Hearing on School Choice

May 12: ECEC and Avery School Improvement Plan

Avery Student Council

May 26: Oakdale and Greenlodge School Improvement Plans

HS Student Council

A request was made for a sign to be created and erected to indicate where the gymnasium is located.

The Chair announced the need to enter into Executive Session: Exemption 7 – Student Discipline Matter

Motion made by Mr. Roberts and seconded Ms. Driscoll: Vote conducted by roll call: Mr. Ryan-yes, Mr. Coughlin-yes, Mr. Heisler-yes, Ms. Driscoll-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes, Ms. Briggs-yes, Mr. Roberts-yes.

A member of the audience requested to make a public comment. A parent who has a son on the freshman wrestling team, wished to speak concerning Coach Jim Maher and his dismissal. Mr. Ryan stated it is a personnel matter that cannot be discussed in a public meeting. He allowed the parent to continue to speak on Mr. Maher's behalf.

Brian Keaney read a letter he recently dropped off to Principal Santamaria praising the efforts of high school students to obtain signatures on a petition for a charter commission to change how town government functions.

**Open meeting adjourned at: 8:45 p.m.**