

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING—January 13, 2010
Middle School - Auditorium

PRESENT

Dave Roberts, Chair
Margaret Connolly, Vice Chair
Thomas Ryan
Tracy Driscoll
John Healy - Absent
Kevin Coughlin
Joe Heisler

ADMINISTRATION

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

Convened: 7:06 PM

Adjourned: 8:49 PM

The School Committee held a reception for the recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Awards. Principal Santamaria read off the names of the students and certificates were presented by Chair Dave Roberts and Superintendent Doe to those in attendance. Recipients for 2009-10 are: Carmine Ballarano, Julia Bednar, Julia Berkey, Zachary Berry, Julia Burkett, Lydia Caissy, Kelly Celata, Justin Chen, Jenna Coakley, Theresa Collins, Mary Ellen Condon, Leeann Coogan, Cara Corcoran, Jessica Cote, Elizabeth Dawnarowicz, Sarah Dellea, Daniel Dwan III, Alexandra Elliott, Shannon Fahy, Jeffrey Farrell, John Fay, Fadi Ghantous, James Gilligan, Bernard Girard III, Marguerite Griesmer, Brynn Hogan, Mohamad Kassab, Cameron Keefe, John Kotkowski, Cathleen Lawless, Salim Mansour, Matthew Mariano, Michael McCormick, Sarah Mosca, Scott Murphy, Brendan O'Connor, Charlotte Randall, Francia Rodriguez, John Rouhana, Victoria Sliwa, Christina Sullivan, Patrice Vettori, Samantha Vincente, Meredith Wagner, Ryan Welch.

HS Foreign Language Department: Nancy Bradley, Alison Reilley, Katelyn O'Regan presented a proposed trip to Costa Rica for February 11 – February 19, 2011. Christina Gamel will be an additional chaperone. The trip is provided by the National Educational Travel Council.

The Superintendent made a recommendation to the School Committee endorsing this student trip. She acknowledged Dedham is fortunate to have teachers willing to take on the responsibility of doing student tours; it is a lot of work and extra responsibility. It requires a lot of preparation and dedication.

Motion made by Mr. Ryan to support the recommendation of the Superintendent to endorse the trip to Costa Rica. Seconded, by Mr. Coughlin. Approved: Unanimous.

The Chair turned the microphone over to Margaret Connolly who announced her plans to not seek re-election. She made a personal commitment to her family for two-terms and that time is up. She expressed her thanks to her supporters and asked for all residents to come out next Tuesday to vote yes for a new Avery School and the high school athletic facility.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

All elementary schools had training for grades K-4 in Everyday Math on January 12.

Greenlodge: The Winter Session of afterschool enrichment has begun. There are 10 classes being offered, and there are over 120 students signed up for classes. We are very pleased with the interest and participation in this new initiative. Diane Postoian, a storyteller, will visit on Thursday, January 21. She will be holding performances for grades 1-2 and grades 3-5 in the morning followed by workshops with each of the fifth grade classes in the afternoon. Her visit is possible because of a DEF grant.

Oakdale: On December 23rd the 5th grade Student Council went each classroom "Caroling for Coins". Over \$700.00 was raised. All of the proceeds will go to the Dedham Food Pantry. Oakdale is very excited to be partnering with the Fred Astaire Dance Studio who is offering Ballroom Dancing for Kids. Martin Rycroft who was Ms. Armstrong's dance partner during the Dancing with the Dedham Stars fundraising gala will be one of the featured instructors.

Avery School: The Avery School has been recognized as 1 of 36 schools in the Commonwealth for narrowing performance gaps between its Limited English Proficient students and the state average for all students between 2008 and 2009. Because of this recognition Avery School has the opportunity to participate in the Title I Academic Achievement Schools Grant. The purpose of this program is to recognize best practices and provide

the opportunity for these to be shared across districts and the state. In order to be eligible the school had to have 20 or more LEP students participating in the 2008 and 2009 MCAS. Through a series of mathematical computations, the schools were determined to be a "Gap Closer". This grant has two phases. Phase I will be this year and will potentially bring up to \$60,000 to the District to complete a review, \$5000 will come straight to the District. An additional \$30,000 will be provided to eligible schools for professional development, teacher planning materials, etc. Part of this funding is to participate in a Best Practice Summit. In the second year, Avery could receive up to \$30,000 more and the town could receive up to \$150,000. We are extremely pleased to be recognized for our work with this population of students. The fall Avery Enrichment programs are coming to a close and the winter ones are just beginning. Once again we will have cupcake decorating. Additionally we will have Yoga, drama, chess club, as well as some other opportunities. Through one of our parents, English classes will continue for our ELL parents.

Riverdale: Under the direction of Mr. Aron Parisi, students will produce a play as part of the after school programs *You're A Good Man Charile Brown. Act One - What is this theater thing anyway* begins the first week in February and *Act Two - On With the Show* begins in early March. The play will be performed to the Riverdale community in early June. Grade five will have a new ballroom dancing instructor for eight weeks. Her name is Chris Walter. She works with Traveling Dancesport. The students will continue to work on several dances and teach our grade five students to be ladies and gentlemen. Also, children will learn good social skills, teamwork and learn about culture through dance. A performance for grade five parents is planned for June. Mary Teti and Chris Walter will be very proud of our grade five children for that event. The student council is working toward strategies to obtain a bully free environment. The slogan from the students is "*Be a Buddy, Not a Bully – Please show kindness and respect in your words and actions.*" An assembly is planned for January 22. We want to thank Verizon Telecom Pioneers the world's largest corporate volunteer organization for donating dictionaries on January 7th. There were 57 dictionaries given to our third grade students. Even with our outstanding technology, dictionaries are a valuable tool which will be used for the remainder of their school career.

Early Childhood Education Center: Information Night will be held for students entering kindergarten for the 2010-2011 school year on Thursday, January 21st at 7:00 pm in the school gym. There will be teachers available to answer any questions. This will be followed by our monthly PTO meeting where preschool staff will present the preschool report card. All are welcome. Our Full Day Kindergarten lottery will be held on January 26th at 9:30 am in the gym. You do not need to be present, but again all are welcome.

High School: Dedham High School received a letter from the Deputy Director, William Gaine from the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) congratulating them for qualifying for the 2009 Sportsmanship Honor Roll. This award recognizes schools that did not have any coaches or student-athletes disqualified from a contest for an entire academic year. A banner is given to the High School to be hung in the gymnasium. Mr. Santamaria commented that it is an honor to receive this recognition. There are 380 high schools in Massachusetts. It says a lot about our kids, how they compete and our coaches. Also, two new score boards were installed today.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mid year exams start on Tuesday. Open house was held at the high school on Monday for 8th grade students. Over 60 high school students offered tours and answered questions from Middle School parents. The senior play – *Zombie Prom* has finished casting and they are starting rehearsals. Production will be held on March 12-13th. Senior privileges have increased. Students can go to the Café during x-block; use the senior lounge during lunch, leave early or come in late if they have a study period, free admission to sporting events. Eligibility includes being a student in good standing, no disciplinary infractions, and at least half of their community service completed.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

REPORTS

FY11 Capital Project Budget: presented by Michael La Francesca, Brian Lynch, Jeanne Johnson, Don Langenhorst

Requests:

- \$275,000.00 - Education Technology Program.
- \$ 70,254.80 - Middle/High School Library book acquisition
- \$208,000.00 - Renovations to HS café (Phase 2)

\$225,000.00 - Roof Replacement, Dexter School (Phase 2)
\$ 45,000.00 - Storage sheds
\$ 40,000.00 - Elementary Furniture (4th and 5th grades)
\$ 19,838.00 - Replace Maintenance van
\$ 26,070.00 - Fuel storage tank maintenance
\$ 48,700.00 - Repair Gym ceilings – Greenlodge, Oakdale, Riverdale
\$ 28,270.00 - High School furniture (desks and chairs)

\$986,132.80 - Total request

Power Point presentation made to School Committee with detailed data of above figures presented. (Presentation is available on the DPS website).

Members would like to see details on size of storage sheds requested. Also, would like to see the health department and building inspector's reports on deficiencies.

Motion to accept the FY11 Capital projects as presented made by Mr. Ryan, seconded, by Mr. Heisler.

Approved: Unanimous

MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Coughlin and seconded by Ms. Connolly to approve the December 2, 2009 minutes.

Approved: Unanimous

DONATIONS

FableVision Learning donated software programs and licenses for their products: SmartMoves, Animation-Ish, Stationery Studio, Get A CLUE. This donation retails for \$52,600. The publishers and owners of this business are longtime residents of Dedham, Peter and Paul Reynolds.

Don Langenhorst spoke about a number of meetings with the Reynolds and he also met with the elementary principals. He said what began as a conversation turned into a very generous donation.

Motion made by Ms. Connolly to accept this donation with grateful appreciation and seconded, by Ms. Driscoll with grateful appreciation. Approved: Unanimous

Dedham Education Foundation Grants: A total of \$20,596.73 was awarded in grants to teachers.

The Trustees of the Dedham Institute for Savings Foundation awarded \$10,000.00 grant to the High School and Middle School libraries.

Mr. Langenhorst spoke about the increase in readership, the details of which are in the capital expenditures report.

Donation from GenPower of \$250.00 in memory of Catherine Irene Shephard, grandmother of Brianna and Amber Shephard to the HS library toward the purchase of a specific reference set "The World and Its People: the Americas

Motion made by Mr. Heisler to accept the above donations with grateful appreciation and seconded, by Mr. Ryan with grateful appreciation. Approved: Unanimous

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

none

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

none

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The Chair asked the Superintendent to give an overview of grant application. There has been information in the newspaper regarding federal funding of a grant that Massachusetts is actively pursuing, Race to the Top. The Commonwealth feels we are a state that is in a very good position to receive substantial funding from this grant. Every educational agency was asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with a deadline midnight, tonight. This MOU requires signatures of support from the School Committee, the Superintendent of Schools, and the President of Local Education Association. Part of the grant is attached to being a Title I school. At the present time we are still waiting for signature from our local president but as of this moment we do not have a signature. I would like to submit the MOU with two signatures. Mrs. Kelly has some additional information on the grant.

The grant expects to bring \$250M to Massachusetts, with 50% being divided among the Title I districts. They would grant between 15-20% of our title one allotment. We have "Targeted Assistance". This is not a one shot deal; this represents money over a period of years.

Motion to endorse the School Committee Chair and Superintendent signatures without the signature of the Local Teachers Union Leader for the RTTT grant MOU was made by Ms. Connolly and seconded, by Mr. Ryan.

A question was asked what amount of money Dedham would be entitled to. Mrs. Kelly responded about \$30,000 per the Title I allotment but the half the DESE will administer; we would qualify for that as well.

The Superintendent was asked if she spoke with the DEA representative. She did, and he indicated he personally was not willing and on his recommendation, the executive board supported his decision not to sign as well.

Approved: unanimous

The Chair noted the MTA has endorsed their locals signing this MOU.

MMSI Grant. Students were bused to Northeastern last weekend, the parents were quite impressed. Ms. Doe will invite the AP teachers to come in and share how the grant is working and the student experiences. Ms. Connolly would like to hear from parents as well.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Ms. Driscoll announced the Budget calendar time line.

February 3rd – Public Hearing on Budget

February 10th - School Committee adopts FY11 Budget

February 17th – FY 11 School Budget is submitted to the Town Manager

March TBA – FY11 School Budget presented to Finance Committee

May 17 – Annual Town Meeting

She is recommending extra meeting on February 3rd to hold a Public Hearing on budget.

January 27 meeting:

Changes in academic reporting

8th grade Seminar

Freshman Academy update

AP Teachers – report on Saturday sessions

At a future meeting, Ms. Doe would like to talk about student performance and steps being taken to address students failing courses and identifying potential summer school candidates. A presentation will be prepared within the next month. Pilot for summer school, outline. School improvement plans at Greenlodge and ECEC.

The Chair announced the need to enter into Executive Session under Exemption 3.

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

Open meeting adjourned at: 8:49 p.m.