

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING—November 18, 2009
Middle School Auditorium

PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION

June M. Doe, Superintendent
Cynthia Kelly, Asst. Superintendent

Convened: 7:16 PM

Adjourned: 8:57 PM

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Superintendent introduced the Middle School students who were the winners of Read, Write, Win Contest held this summer. This program is funded by a grant from the DEF.

The top sixth grade winner is Carolyn Snyder. She is a member of the Olympian team and enjoys reading realistic fiction, mystery and adventure. She is interested in a career in journalism or owning her own book store.

There was a tie in the seventh grade top reader category. Joanna Abramchuk is a member of the Dolphin team and enjoys reading mysteries and fantasy. She has several career interests. She is interested in becoming a pediatrician, interior designer, lawyer and also possibly an author.

Elizabeth Doherty, the other top reader in the seventh grade, is a member of the Dolphin team. She has won the top reader award two years in a row. She enjoys reading mysteries and fantasies. Elizabeth is interested in pursuing a career as a member of the Secret Service.

There was a tie in the eighth grade top reader category. Owen McGuire is a member of the Red Sox team. He has won the top reader award for the 3rd consecutive year. He enjoys reading fantasy and fiction. Owen is interested in pursuing a career as an astronaut or a doctor.

John Rocha, the other top reader in the eighth grade, is a member of the Red Sox team. He enjoys the excitement and suspense of action books. John's career interests include working as a writer, a psychiatrist, and a musician.

Student Council members from Oakdale School were introduced by Principal Armstrong.

Lauren Ashe, Elisabeth Dillon, Daniel Emery, Kevin Lynch, Grace McCarthy, Madison McKenna, Emma Porter, Nathaniel Reynolds, Andrew Springer, Sarah Stapleton, Emma Tolley, Melissa Bradbury.

The students recited some of the events they organize throughout the year. They organize many community service projects. Currently they are organizing Thanksgiving baskets to be distributed to families at Oakdale who are experiencing financial hardship. "Lollies for Life" is a fundraiser with proceeds going to the Dedham Food Pantry. Members sell hearts for a dollar and they are delivered on Valentines Day with a lollipop attached. Flower Power day is held in the spring. Each classroom is provided a vase and the students are encouraged to bring in a flower of their choice to school. There is a school wide assembly to discuss Random Acts of Kindness. After school the vases are delivered to local nursing homes and hospitals. The student council present themselves at school wide assemblies such as Constitution Day, Veteran's Day and Flag Day. The School Committee members were presented Oakdale tee shirts to wear with pride.

Student Council members from Riverdale School were introduced by Principal Claypool. In addition Mrs. Claypool recognized two teachers, Ms. Sara Robillard and Ms. Caitlyn Joyce who are advisors to the Council.

Kathryn O'Shaughnessey, Aiyanah Guinier, William McCaig, Mimi Cabot, Kelsi Brennan, James McDonagh, Mackenzie Briggs, Nina Heilmann, Brianna Thissell.

The fundraising activities go toward field day so that each student has a tee shirt. They perform MCAS skits for students in grades 3, 4 and 5; send a Boo for Halloween, Wish for a Friend in 2010. They also participate in Coats for Kids program, collect care packages for Veterans, and collect new hats and gloves to distribute to needy children. They also have Twin Day and Hat Day where they collect canned food to donate to the Food Pantry. They also have "Coins for Kids" and all the proceeds go to Children's Hospital.

Middle School Update: The DMS Student Council held a very successful canned goods drive. Items were also collected for local veterans. The annual Veteran's Day Assembly was held on November 10th. They would like to acknowledge all the community representatives and local veterans who were in attendance. Special thanks go to Paula Marini for coordinating a very moving slide show presentation. Grade 8 students toured the Norfolk County House of

Correction over the past two weeks. The Middle School hosted the annual faculty volleyball game as an annual fundraiser for DEA Scholarship

Elementary Schools Update:

An all day in service was held on November 3rd. Each school celebrated Veteran's Day with assemblies, songs, poems, and writing letters to Veterans. The schools will be collecting toiletries to be sent to the troops overseas. A second Acuity training was held for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teachers.

ECEC: Teachers continue working on Everyday math. Curriculum work will continue throughout the year.

Oakdale: State Senator Robert O'Leary, the chairman of the Education Committee and State Representative Paul McMurty visited Oakdale School. Senator O'Leary's daughter Christine Barlow is a special education teacher at the Oakdale.

Greenlodge: The first "Golden Sneaker Award" was presented to Mrs. Bryant's second grade class. This is awarded each month to the class who has the most number of pennies in the "Pennies for Pedestrians" jar. Every time a child walks to or from school they put a penny in their container.

Riverdale: The Brickhouse Café/Restaurant hosted a cook off fundraiser for the PTO. The celebrity chefs were School Committee member Kevin Coughlin and Principal Doris Claypool. They prepared Chicken Verdicchio for the event. The owner, Vinny Marino assisted the chefs. Students in grade five are part of a district objective: All students will have meaningful connections to adults and peers in the school setting.

Avery: Student Council elections were recently held. Thirty-three fourth and fifth grade students campaigned for twenty-two positions. Congratulations to all students who ran for student council.

At the Special Town Meeting – Article 4 and 5 were enthusiastically voted to go on the ballot in January.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Last week was Spirit Week which led up to the Homecoming football game, which was later rescheduled, and the Homecoming Dance on Saturday night. The seniors dominated Monochrome Monday and they had a 98% participation rate. Tie Dye Tuesday proved everyone was getting into spirit week including Mr. Santamaria, who tie dyed his hair. On Theme Thursday each grade had a different theme - Grade 9 wore pajamas, Grade 10 wore 80's style clothing, Grade 11 were professional athletes, the seniors had a beach party theme, and the faculty wore clothing representing the colleges they attended. Thursday night was midnight madness, where students from every grade could go to school from 8-10 p.m. and decorate the wings of school. Friday was Dedham Pride Day and the Pep Rally. The dance team performed featuring Mr. Murray, which was interesting. Also there was a basketball tournament featuring a shoot out contest the highlight of which Mr. Murray sunk a half court shot. The dance was very well attended with 450 students participating. Ms. Spies, Ms. Gamel, Ms. Eisenhut, and Ms. Megan did a fantastic job of organizing the dance and the weeklong activities. Sunday was the football game; Dedham beat Brookline 13 – 7. Report cards will be issued on Friday. This Sunday is the Powder Puff Game between Senior and Junior girls.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

Remind everyone Sunday November 22nd at 1:00 p.m. there will be a dedication of a tree at the Middle School for Mr. Lofts McGuire.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Dello Iacono read a letter to the School Committee regarding an incident at a recent football game where their son was injured. They wanted to recognize the efforts of Mr. Mark Carney, the Athletic Trainer. They are very grateful for his presence and his recommendation to transport their son to the hospital for further evaluation. They presented the letter to the Chair and asked if it could be placed in Mr. Carney's personnel file. Superintendent Doe thanked the Dello Iacono's for publicly sharing their experience and shared previous acknowledgments of praise the school department has received for his performance in the past with difficult situations. Mr. Dello Iacono also asked about the survey for parents, which was discussed during the Tri-Valley discussions. Ms. Doe said the survey would be available at the end of the season (fall).

REPORTS

Update on Professional Development, presented by Assistant Superintendent, Cindy Kelly

A handout of materials was given to School Committee members in their packets. This handout is a compilation of all the professional development scheduled throughout the year. Ms. Kelly reported on the use of MRI for research in studying the brain and the effects on learning. Dr. Ribas has been providing training, 90 teachers are currently being trained. The idea behind this method is if you enter a kindergarten classroom or a high school classroom you should be able to walk in and recognize the same kind of teaching strategy whether it's at the earliest stage or the most advanced

stage. The role of Dept. Chairs is to perform supervision and evaluation. They lead the afternoon workshops at the department level. There was a different evaluation method up until about two years ago.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

none

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Coughlin and seconded by Mr. Ryan to approve the minutes from November 4, 2009.
Approved: Unanimous

DONATIONS

The Athletic Department received the following donations:

A recent fundraiser, Alexandria the Great's Worldwide Escape Artist Relay Contest was held on October 24, 2009. Bill and Donna (Alexandria) Purnell donated proceeds from the event in the amount of \$520.00. Sponsors for this event included: Star Nails & Skin, Mike Kelleher-Federal Realty; Oakdale Pizza & Coffee Shop, Nail Pro, Cheryl Welch-Trendz, Centre Deli/Deli After Dark, Computer Domain, and Clay Chevrolet Hyundai.

Mr. Robert Zahka of The Lawn & Pool Associates donated the flowers that were planted at the football field monument and flagpole. (\$600.00)

Mr. JuJu Mucciaccio of the Dedham Boosters Club donated \$2,500.00 for the purchase of new football uniforms, \$920.00 for rental of the portable lights for the annual home night game and \$500.00 for the purchase of a new water hydration system for the teams.

Peter Brock, from the New England Patriots Alumni Club donated \$500.00 which will be used to purchase equipment.

A motion was made by Ms. Connolly to accept the above donations with grateful appreciation and seconded by Mr. Heisler with grateful appreciation. **Approved: Unanimous**

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Policy Sub Committee met on November 17, 2009 and voted to recommend the following policies to the School Committee for vote:

Policy on diploma presentation: "All present and past members of the School Committee will be invited by the high school administration to present the diploma to his/her child at the high school graduation ceremony." Motion made by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Ryan to accept the policy.

Approved: unanimous

GL 71B section 3 – Special Education Observation Law: Incorporate into SC Policy Manual.

Motion made by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Heisler to accept the policy. **Approved: unanimous**

Non-Discrimination/Harassment, Grievance Procedure Policy: This revision updated the existing policy to be in compliance specifically with state religion, age, sexual orientation discrimination laws. The sub-committee incorporated all the mandated language and clearly identified a district coordinator. Motion made by Ms. Driscoll and seconded by Ms. Connolly to accept the policy. **Approved: unanimous**

A recommendation was made for future reference for members to be given copy of policy in their packet.

Discussion was held on the term for determining class rank and whether it was voted previously. Mr. Ryan asked about a reporting requirement on the Bullying Law that is before Committee – need to address at a future meeting.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Update on realignment and MIAA. Has the Bay State League acted on once around scheduling.

Invite 2 additional student councils – Middle School and Greenlodge School

A group from the MS participated in VFW writing contest – Patriot Pen Contest, recognize students

Class Rank and weighted GPA – presentation on how it's working out– future meeting

8th Grade Seminar – working on curriculum and training – future meeting

Sustainability Committee to present

Health Department update on Flu clinic

Update on impact of flu on attendance. Ms. Doe stated attendance was running between 90-93% not a great impact.

Attendance is monitored daily on our attendance reports.

Motion made by Mr. Healy to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Coughlin. Approved: Unanimous