

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING—September 9, 2009
Town Hall, Lower Conference Room

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
Michael La Francesca, Business Manager

Convened: 7:00 PM

Adjourned: 9:17 PM

Introduction of New Staff for 2009-2010 School Year

High School staff introduced by Principal Santamaria - Karen MacKenzie (shared with MS), Amanda Bragan, Christine Logue, Tara Fountain, Mary Elizabeth Matthews

Middle School staff introduced by Principal Gately - Elizabeth Haddada, Stephanie Reis, Karen MacKenzie (shared with HS), Brian McCabe, Christian Pierce, Amy Wyllie

Ms. Gately also wanted to promote the Grade 6 Team Building Day on Friday Sept. 11, she held up tee shirts with “Dedham Middle School” on the front and “When Four become One” printed on the back.

Avery School staff introduced by Principal Sullivan - Lisa Silletti, Kelly Welch, Michelle Luongo, Abbie Spencer, Jenny Hopkins

Riverdale School staff introduced by Principal Claypool - Melissa Quintal

Oakdale School introduced by Principal Armstrong - Julie Erwin

Greenlodge School staff introduced by Principal Kiewlicz - Samantha Gelfon, Bridget Castenguay

Mr. Roberts welcomed the new staff on behalf of the Board. The credentials presented are very impressive.

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

The Superintendent reports all of the schools opened and it was a very smooth transition. Every teacher was very well prepared. Thanks to the teachers and support staff. Particular thanks to custodial staff – the facilities are immaculate. We have a very small maintenance staff of 3 men who do an incredible amount of work. We could not work without our school secretaries and support staff so a special thanks to them.

HS Booster Club will be holding their annual decal membership drive this Sunday from 11-2. Athletes will be canvassing town. The Dedham HS Parent Organization will meet on Monday, September 14th at 7:00 p.m.

The HS School Council will hold its first meeting on Monday, September 21 at 3:00 p.m. in the Library. Mr. Santamaria will be attending a Bay State Conference re-alignment meeting tomorrow in Norwood.

The Middle School is having Team Coffee hours at 8:00 a.m. September 11th the Grade 6 Team Building Day will be held.

CHAIR’S UPDATE

None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Our student representative for the 2009-2010 school year is Erica White. Ms. White talked about the new schedule with a new order of days. The cafeteria was painted and rearranged which surprisingly everyone likes. Sports have started. Boys’ soccer won 5-0. Cross Country, Field Hockey and girls’ soccer competed today.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Thank you Mr. Chairman, for the record my name is Brian Keaney from My Dedham News.com. Asked at the last meeting why the Chair would not be acting on a complaint brought by a parent at a special education sub

committee meeting and forgot to ask why not. Chairman Roberts responded to him by stating, for the record you've identified yourself as a report of My Dedham News.com. As you've been told many times this is not a news conference, this is a business meeting therefore we will not be entertaining any questions from the media. Mr. Keaney then introduced himself as a resident. The Chair would not allow his retroactive identification as a resident. The Chair asked him to sit down. Mr. Keaney stated he would keep coming back and asking his questions.

Sam Celata spoke about his disappointment with the Library Board of Trustees. The Chair asked him to call him directly to set up a meeting to discuss his concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

none

REPORTS

Discussion and Recommendation on warrant article for new Avery School. Andy Lawlor, Chairman of the SBRC.

Good news is there is no hard political decision that needs to be made tonight. The Committee has made a clear policy judgment – Avery School is a necessary project for the town. The facility is no longer suitable for elementary school children. The committee is looking at combining Avery and Athletic Complex projects at the same time. It wasn't clear if MSBA would allow the bundling of non-grant projects with grant projects. We worked out some language for the warrant articles. The 1st warrant remains as is in packet. The 2nd warrant has changes – revised language.

If town votes to approve funding for Avery project, the MSBA will allow the athletic complex to be combined. The expectation is both projects are presented at the special town meeting and both are presented for town wide debt exclusion vote. Article II is null and void if Article I does not pass. The language on debt exclusion ballot questions is prescribed by statute and can't be deviated.

Mr. Ryan expressed concerns about pitting the Avery School against the Athletic fields and would like to view the project more comprehensively. The land is part of the DHS campus and has been used for athletics for the past 50 years. We need a new Avery school but not at the expense of DHS.

Mr. Lawlor continued discussion on tentative plans and anticipated impact to practice field and access road. All parking spots would have to be replaced on the RR bed heading down toward Whiting Avenue with improved parking as a goal. The SBRC is struggling to find a way to get both projects to move forward together.

Mr. Coughlin asked about the footprint of the Avery School on the high school. Where would the back of the school be in reference to the football field? In order to widen the field if the Athletic Complex went through – the visitor side stands would need to be eliminated. (only if both pass). Is there any talk about the basketball courts being moved? The potential is to put them on the other side of the pool. The basketball courts were named after a student from Oakdale, Chris McGowan. The family came before policy sub-committee and we said the courts may be moved but they would be re-built and his name would remain. It is our responsibility to make that happen. Do we need to build a school of this size at this time? The extra square footage (6000) is designed to meet needs of special education in the hopes to keep children in district and reduce out of district costs. Mr. Roberts stated there will be more discussion. SBRC meetings will be available to SC members. There is a meeting tomorrow night. There will be a presentation made to the neighborhood. Mr. Heisler asked for a clarification of the practice field being synthetic as well? Mr. Lawlor stated it is included in the renovation.

Report on Capital Projects and Summer Repairs – Director of Maintenance Brian Lynch

Thanks to custodian and maintenance staff for their hard work.

We removed carpeting in offices, classrooms, new VCT tile at the ECEC. The principal painted her office and her secretary's office and did a really nice job. We painted classrooms and the principal's office at the Avery School. At Riverdale, the auditorium floor was sanded. We replaced 4 sets of exterior doors at the Greenlodge School. We removed the red posts with chains from the front of the high school. MWRA Grant provided funding for toilet replacement at Greenlodge. We were able to replace 17 toilet fixtures. All boilers

are broken down and inspected during the summer to prepare for winter. We moved over 20 classrooms over the summer, some were within the schools but 9 were moved from one school to another. We worked with Don Langenhorst with projector installations. All schools with the exception of Avery now have projectors in each classroom.

Capital Projects:

Dexter Roof Project is approximately 90% done. This project should be finished by next week. The Oakdale boiler is on site and they are starting to prepare installation. The HS Cafeteria project went very well. New lighting, ceiling and paint created a nice fresh look to it. New refrigerators were purchased for all elementary schools. New equipment has been ordered for the serving lines at the high school. The Auditorium front stairs has been put out on the street. We are waiting for bids to come in. Painting the exterior of the high school was delayed this summer due to the weather. Ms. Connolly asked if we could paint the flag poles while the lift is rented.

Mr. Heisler asked about the graffiti on the stairway over the tracks by the practice field and the Greenlodge School. Mr. Lynch said the graffiti at Greenlodge was taken care of this summer and three cameras were installed at the back of Greenlodge to deter future issues.

AP and SAT Results – Joanne McCormick – Director of Guidance
Presented Power Point presentation – handout given to SC Members

Mr. Santamaria wanted to recognize some incredible stats. In biology, the national percentage of students receiving a score of 5 was 19% - Dedham High School had 45.5%. 15% nationally scored 4 - Dedham High School had 17%. 15% nationally scored 3 - Dedham High School had 25%.

MINUTES

Minutes not available

DONATIONS

None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Budget Sub next SC meeting Sept 23rd. at 6:15 p.m.

Policy Sub next SC meeting

Flu Season – the school is working closely with health department to have a flu clinic at the MS for school age children and family members to receive flu vaccines in early October – meeting tomorrow to confirm the details tomorrow. They will hold another event for H1N1 vaccine.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Update on Bay State Conference realignment

Update on response/reaction to President Obama's speech

Update HS class size

MS class size

MCAS scores first meeting in October

School Improvement Plans - asking for abbreviated presentation

New HS Schedule

Adjourned: 9:17

The Chair announced the need to enter into Executive Session:

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