

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

April 24, 2018

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Steve Bilafer, Chair

Kevin Coughlin, Vice-Chair

Mayanne Briggs

Joshua Donati

Lisa Laprade

Dr. Melissa Pearrow

Tracey White

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT:

None

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Michael Welch, Superintendent

Dr. Ian Kelly, Assistant Superintendent

Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance

Meeting Location: Avery Elementary School

Meeting commenced at 9:55 p.m.

Supt. Welch stated there would be a meeting tomorrow to negotiate the Unit A Contract. As of now, the two parties have only settled on ground rules.

Supt. Welch explained that there is a new representative from the MTA who wanted to have open negotiation sessions. The two parties were able to agree on having 6 observers each. The names of the observers will be known and expressed ahead of scheduled meetings. Everything that is said and occurs in the negotiation room is confidential to all parties in attendance.

Supt. Welch informed the Committee that the Police have settled a three year deal with the Town at a 2.5% retroactive rate and then 2% for the next two consecutive years.

The main purpose of tonight's Executive session is to lay out a strategy plan moving forward. Supt. Welch wanted to give the Committee a chance to voice their concerns.

The Committee discussed asking for a start date for teachers/educators prior to September 1 for the purposes of professional development.

The Committee discussed changing start and end times of the school day- aligning the start times with the contract, potentially lengthening the school day.

The Committee discussed adding additional religious holidays to the school calendar/contract. The general consensus was that this would only work if school began prior to September 1.

The Committee discussed the language around career leaves. Right now a Unit A educator with professional status may take up to a two year career leave. Supt. Welch explained his thoughts on this being detrimental to student learning as educators miss out on pertinent professional development during this time period. Supt. Welch would like to have the language changed so that any career leave must be approved by the Superintendent.

Ms. White motioned to end Executive Session, Ms. Laprade second; a roll call vote was taken:

Mayanne Briggs- Yes
Joshua Donati- Yes
Lisa Laprade- Yes
Dr. Melissa Pearrow- Yes
Tracey White- Yes
Kevin Coughlin, Vice-Chair- Yes
Steve Bilafer, Chair- Yes

Ms. Briggs motioned to adjourn the meeting of April 24, 2018; Mr. Coughlin second. A roll call vote was taken:

Mayanne Briggs- Yes
Joshua Donati- Yes
Lisa Laprade- Yes
Dr. Melissa Pearrow- Yes
Tracey White- Yes
Kevin Coughlin, Vice-Chair- Yes
Steve Bilafer, Chair- Yes

Meeting concluded at 10:25 p.m.