

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

March 6, 2019

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT:

Lisa Laprade

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Michael Welch, Superintendent
Ian Kelly, Assistant Superintendent
Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance

Meeting Location: Dedham Middle School

Executive Session commenced at 9:45 p.m.

Mr. Bilafer called for an Executive Session to provide the Committee with an update on Unit A negotiations. He stated that yesterday's negotiation meeting was not productive. A great deal of time was spent discussing language issues. After caucusing, the DEA focused on items that had already been agreed upon back in September. Kevin Bresnahan, attorney for the School Committee, asked the DEA to make a counter offer on finances. The Union denied and would not commit to having a counter offer at the next meeting. At that point the Negotiation Subcommittee decided to go to mediation. He explained that the Committee will need to make the argument to the State that the parties are at an impasse.

The Committee discussed how the DEA has purchased signs and bumper stickers to distribute to members and the community.

The Committee discussed how it has been 6 months since the last counteroffer was made from the DEA on September 25, 2018. The parties have met 18 times and the DEA refused to meet over the summer.

Mr. Rippin explained how the Department of Labor Relations screens and processes requests for mediation. The Committee discussed how and when to file.

The Committee discussed how the last two weeks an MTA organizer has attended the negotiation meetings. They also talked about the Union using health care costs as a bargaining item.

Mr. Bilafer explained how the mediator is an independent third party who will look at the facts on both sides.

Ms White inquired into the cost of the mediation. Mr. Bilafer stated it would be \$1,000 plus the cost of attorney fees.

The Committee discussed the union and public response to mediation.

Mr. Bilafer stated the attorney would type up a public statement on why the Committee asked to go to mediation.

Supt. Welch asked the Committee for verification on whether they wanted the attorney to file for mediation.

The Committee discussed if given more time would there be any movement from the DEA. The Negotiating Subcommittee did not feel that the DEA would make a counteroffer.

Ms. Briggs motioned to allow the Negotiating Subcommittee to move forward with mediation in the Unit A negotiating process with the Dedham Education Association, Mr. Donati second; a roll call vote was taken:

Mayanne Briggs - Yes
Joshua Donati - Yes
Dr. Melissa Pearrow - Yes
Tracey White - Yes
Kevin Coughlin, Vice-Chair - Yes
Steve Bilafer, Chair – Yes
Motion passed 6-0

Ms. White motioned to exit the Executive Session, Ms. Briggs second; A roll call vote was taken:

Mayanne Briggs - Yes
Joshua Donati - Yes
Dr. Melissa Pearrow - Yes
Tracey White - Yes
Kevin Coughlin, Vice-Chair - Yes
Steve Bilafer, Chair – Yes
Motion passed 6-0

Dr. Pearrow motioned to adjourn the meeting of March 6, 2019, Mr. Donati second; a roll call vote was taken:

Mayanne Briggs - Yes
Joshua Donati - Yes
Dr. Melissa Pearrow - Yes
Tracey White - Yes
Kevin Coughlin, Vice-Chair - Yes
Steve Bilafer, Chair – Yes
Motion passed 6-0

The meeting concluded at 10:00 p.m.