

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
REMOTE MEETING

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

August 19, 2020

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT via REMOTE PARTICIPATION:

Lisa Laprade, Chair

Tracey White, Vice-Chair

Steve Bilafer

Mayanne Briggs

Joshua Donati

Dr. Melissa Pearrow

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT:

None

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION REMOTELY PRESENT:

Michael J. Welch, Superintendent

Dr. Ian Kelly, Assistant Superintendent

Sam Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance

Meeting Location: Remote Meeting

Remote meeting commenced at 8:30 p.m.

Ms. Laprade called the remote Executive Session to order. A roll call attendance was taken:

Steve Bilafer- Present

Mayanne Briggs - Present

Joshua Donati - Present

Dr. Melissa Pearrow - Present

Tracey White, Vice-Chair- Present

Lisa Laprade, Chair- Present

Superintendent Welch explained he had been presented a 14 page list of demands from the Dedham Education Association (DEA). The demands included teachers not wanting to come back into the buildings, carbon dioxide testing every week, not entering the school buildings if the heat index is above 85 degrees.

Mr. Rippin stated the school department must prepare for leaves of absences.

Mr. Bilafer explained the Memorandum of Agreement is currently a working draft.

The Negotiating Subcommittee noted other Union demands:

- COVID Leaves (Union wants to be able to take them at anytime, rescind on 2 weeks notice)
- Live streaming lessons
- Working from home (especially during remote learning)
- Child Care
- Monitoring student behavior

The Subcommittee discussed how they have been bargaining in good faith and the DEA keeps throwing new demands in at each meeting.

The Committee discussed the ineffectiveness of Preschool remote learning. If there is no preschool, PK teachers (who hold two licenses) would have bumping rights (attrition) causing a ripple effect through other grades.

Supt. Welch discussed the employee survey on who was planning to return to work. He mentioned two EL teachers had decided to retire.

The Committee discussed staff deciding to take leave due to child care issues.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of Covid-19 testing for all students and staff. Tests are costly and only valid for one moment in time. Need help from the State who is starting some pilot programs. Dedham Director of Health Bridget Sweet is not recommending testing for all to reopen schools. It is currently not part of the reopening plan.

The Committee discussed teachers being allowed to teach remotely from home. In the spring, the teachers claimed it was a violation of their privacy. They discussed the needs of the teachers and the needs of the community to have children back in school.

The Committee discussed the reopening plan and the changes the Union was trying to make to it.

The Committee stated their commitment to continue to bargain in good faith, addressing every point and concern. More negotiation dates are set up for this week.

Mr. Donati motioned to close the remote Executive Session of August 19, 2020, Ms. White second; a roll call vote was taken:

Steve Bilafer- Yes

Mayanne Briggs - Yes

Joshua Donati - Yes

Dr. Melissa Pearrow - Yes

Tracey White, Vice-Chair- Yes

Lisa Laprade, Chair - Yes

Motion passed 6-0

Ms. White motioned to close the remote meeting of August 19, 2020, Mr. Bilafer second; a roll call vote was taken:

Steve Bilafer- Yes

Mayanne Briggs - Yes

Joshua Donati - Yes

Dr. Melissa Pearrow - Yes

Tracey White, Vice-Chair- Yes

Lisa Laprade, Chair - Yes

Motion passed 6-0

Remote Executive Session concluded at 9:15 p.m.