

**DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2013

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Joe Heisler, Chair

Jen Barsamian, Vice Chair

Tom Ryan -ABSENT

Kevin Coughlin

Mayanne Briggs

Susan Butler-Walko

Rachel McGregor

MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

June Doe, Superintendent

Cynthia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent

Michael LaFrancesca, Assistant to the Superintendent for Business

Kathy Gaudreau, Director of Special Education

Meeting began at 7:07

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE:

RIVERDALE SCHOOL - Today, Riverdale's third grade students went to the Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary for a field trip. This trip provided students with opportunities to observe native birds, animals and insects in their natural habitats. Funding for this trip was provided by the Riverdale PTO. On Saturday, May 10, the Riverdale PTO staged the annual Spring Fair fundraiser. Many Riverdale staff members served as volunteers for the various booths at the fair, including games, bouncy houses, face painting, and food.

OAKDALE- Last Friday, Oakdale had the honor and privilege of having children's author/illustrator **Jarrett J. Krosoczka (Crow-saw-ska)** author of "Good Night Monkey Boy", and the "Lunch Lady series", came to talk to the students and sign his newest book "Platypus Police Squad". His message to the audience was; Reach for your dreams and work hard and you will succeed! The staff and students loved the presentation! This Friday students will participate in a student council sponsored spirit day called Flower Power Day. Students and staff are encouraged to bring in a flower of their choice. This may be a wild flower from a garden or a purchased flower. Flowers will arrange the flowers in vases and the 5th grade student council will bring the vases to a local nursing home to promote Random Acts of Kindness.

GREENLODGE - Third graders took a field trip to the Arnold Arboretum yesterday as part of their science unit on plants and flowers. The buses for the trip were funded through a grant from the Endicott Community Greenhouse. We are very thankful for their support. The PTO is once again sponsoring the Greenlodge Open "Nine, Wine, and Dine" golf tournament. It will be held on Monday, June 10 at the Norfolk Golf Club. The tournament will be nine holes of golf followed by dinner and a silent auction. The money raised through the tournament is being will be used to purchase a SmartBoard for the reading room.

MIDDLE SCHOOL - All families are reminded that monthly and weekly newsletters from the Principal are available on the school website. Additional helpful information that can be found on the website includes: Team newsletters, information for school supply ordering for next year, and daily Announcements

ECEC- On Friday, the ECEC will hold the Annual Open House for incoming students. Students with last names A-L will join us at 10:00 am and students with last names M-Z will join us at 1:00. This is a special opportunity for you and your child to visit the school and classrooms. Next week, May 20-23 the ECEC will hold Kindergarten screening for incoming students. If you have a child who will be 5 before September 1, and you do not have a screening appointment, please contact the school's office.

AVERY - Avery 3rd, 4th and 5th grade have completed the MCAS assessments. The students worked extremely hard throughout the 1 ½ week period. The first grade classes made their annual trek to the Endicott Library on Friday, May 10th. Although most of the students had applied for library cards earlier in the year, the remainder did on their visit. Students were given a tour of the library; the librarian read the first graders a story and then explained how they would use their library cards. The children were able to browse around and those who had brought their card could check out books. The children then went over to the Endicott greenhouse where they met Mrs. Donovan and Mrs. Devine, our weekly plant volunteers. The volunteers gave the students a tour of the greenhouse and talked about the different environment found in a greenhouse.

The DHS Alumni and Staff Chorus has returned and will be joining the High School Chorus in concert on next Tuesday, May 21st. The Alumni have been practicing as a group and are hoping to hold their own when they meet the high school students next week for a combined practice. The concert should be a wonderful event.

The District wide art show next week at the middle school, open from 6-8, everyone is welcome to see art work Pre-K – grade 12. Thanked both Art Teachers, Arlene Tracey and Mrs. Dempsey.

STUDENT UPDATE

The Drama Guild will present their spring production of Steel Magnolias tonight and tomorrow night at 7:00 pm in the DHS Auditorium. This two-act play tells the story of six women who experience joy and heartbreak together over the course of several months in rural Louisiana. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased at the door. The Band and Chorus will be performing in and hosting Mass Bay Music Festival on the morning of Friday, May 17th. Both groups will be evaluated by judges and rated in many categories. The Festival will also include choruses from two other schools. After the performance, our students will go into Boston for an evening theatre performance as part of the Festival. The Computer Club of Dedham High recently sponsored technology education classes for the Council On Aging Members. These classes involved student volunteers who assisted COA members to learn the basics of using a computer. The students answered any questions the COA members had and helped them understand how to use an e-

mail account, searched terms or places, or any applications that COA members wanted to explore. The classes were held over a series of consecutive Mondays. Athletic forms, current physicals and the user fee for fall sports are due by June 1st. Forms can be picked up in the main office or can be found on the DHS website under "Athletics". You can now pay the \$125 user fee on-line as well. Tuesday, June 18th is the last full day of classes for freshmen, sophomores and juniors. And it's official! The senior class has "SENIORITIS"! Last day of classes is next Friday, May 24th. Seniors must return their books and other school property by Friday, May 24th as well. Tuesday, May 28th is the superintendent's academic awards dinner, Monday, June 3rd is Class Night and new this year, the senior class will be going to Six Flags on Wednesday, June 5th. Permission slips are due by this Friday. Graduation is Saturday, June 8th at 1PM.

Mr. Heisler thanked Jackie Sullivan and Connor Curran as today is their last School Committee meeting. He wished both well. Dr. Kelly gave them a gift on behalf of the School Committee and Administration.

REPORTS

Dedham Middle School Improvement Plan 2013-2015 presented by Principal Debbie Gately – located on the DMS website.

Principal Gately introduced all School Council Members:

Dr. Marago Fraczek, Assistant Principal
Mr. Joseph Borsellino, Community Representative
Dr. Estelle Ryan Clavelli – Community Representative
Mr. Michael Emery – Parent Representative
Maureen Leonard – Parent Representative
Mrs. Gemma Martin – Parent Representative
Mrs. Rachel McGregor – Parent Representative
Mrs. Julie McKee – Parent Representative
Mrs. Laura Park – Parent Representative
Mrs. Elizabeth Siemenski – Parent Representative
Mrs. Lauren Butters – Teacher
Mr. Jeff Taylor – Teacher

Discussions took place after the PowerPoint presentation. Dr. LaFlamme spoke about the writing with colors program.

Executive Summary of the DPS Special Education Program and Audit, presented by Director of Special Education, Kathy Gaudreau. Mrs. Gaudreau presented the Program Evaluation that was completed by Ellen G. Honeyman that included enrollment data, impact on staffing. Discussions followed.

Enrollment Data

All school enrollment - 2829

634 students ages 3-21 eligible for special education – 66 which are out of district.

State average of special education 17%

Dedham's special education rate: 22.5%

State average for out of district students: 6.7%

Dedham's average for out of district students: 10.3%

52 Special Education Teachers and 86 instructional aides assigned to 7 schools.
Additional staff members: speech and language pathologists, school psychologists, school adjustment counselors, behavior specialist, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and vision specialists.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Heisler announced the Superintendent Search Prep Sub Committee Chair will be Mayanne Briggs. The Sub Committee will report back to the School Committee by June 19th.
Negotiations Sub Committee will review remaining contracts that have not been settled. And a reminder May 20th town meeting the School Committee will meet next Monday at 6:45.

MINTUES:

Motion made by Mrs. Butler-Walko and seconded by Mr. Coughlin to accept the minutes of the May 1, 2013 meeting with a correction on a spelling error -Horizon's misspelled in the first paragraph. Voted unanimous.

DONATIONS:

Motion made by Mrs. Briggs and seconded by Mrs. Barsamian to accept with grateful appreciation \$500 from Boston College to the Dedham Middle School Leadership fund and \$500 from the District Attorney's Office for the SHAC (School Health Advisory Council) program to defray the costs of the basketball event. Voted unanimous.

Acknowledgement from the Pine Street Inn to the Riverdale School in support of hosting the "Sock it to Homelessness" campaign to benefit the Pine Street Inn.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Motion made by Mrs. Barsamian to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Briggs. Meeting ended at 9:35.