

**DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

May 1, 2013

**MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:**

Joe Heisler, Chair

Jen Barsamian, Vice Chair

Tom Ryan

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

Meeting began at 7:09

Mrs. McGregor asked the School Committee to hold a moment of silence for the DHS student, Peter Melville, who recently passed away and the Melville family.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE:**

Congratulations to the District Choral Concert, an annual event that was held last night. Recognized elementary staff members, Elementary staff, Brian Bigelow, Heather Kirby and Samantha Gelfon, Jeff Taylor from the Middle School and High School Director William Nicholson. The District Art Show will be held at the Middle School on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, all are welcome. The Horizon's program, located at Dedham Country Day, held an annual fundraiser on Saturday evening. Dedham has approximately 60 students attending this six week program with math and English Language Arts and classes. This summer an added writing program will be implemented. The SBRC Meeting was held on Monday night this week. Superintendent Doe gave a brief overview and background to the master plan.

**RIVERDALE SCHOOL** - On Friday, April 26, Kaitlin Sullivan, a third grader was surprised during her art class by her parents, brother, grandmother, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kelly, Principal Dr. Lucas, and Mr. Brad Kittle, Territory Manager for the Casella Corporation. Art teacher Ms. Castonguay invited all fourth grade students to submit original artwork for the Casella Corporation's Annual Recycling Calendar Contest. Kaitlin was one of just 13 students selected for this honor, out of more than 300 entries statewide. Kaitlin received a \$25 gift card, a framed copy of her poster, and will receive multiple copies of the completed calendar. On Saturday, May 11 the Riverdale PTO will host its annual Spring Fair from 10:00-3:00. There will be a bouncy house for kids, a bake sale, grilled food and snacks for sale, crafts, games, dancing and more. All are welcome to attend. Riverdale will host its spring book fair on May 21<sup>st</sup> - May 24<sup>th</sup> for students and families. Proceeds will benefit the Riverdale library.

**Oakdale** - Grade one participated in a program called "Savings Makes Good 'Cents'" presented by the Dedham Institute for Savings. Students were taught about money, the importance of saving and how they can save for the future. Each child was given a "goody" bag with a coloring book, some crayons, poems and a \$10.00 gift certificate for opening up a savings account. Thank you very much to Dedham Saving for bringing this wonderful program to our schools. Oakdale will be offering one more session of BOKS (Building Our Kids Success) this spring. This has proven to be a very successful program! The students have enjoyed it. All of the other elementary schools now have the BOKS program in place.

**Greenlodge School** - Last Thursday Greenlodge School observed "Pay It Forward Day," sponsored by the Greenlodge Student Council. Student council members asked all students and staff to make a difference and do a good deed for someone at our school with no expectation other than the recipient in turn does a favor for someone else. They visited classrooms to collect names of those who had Paid It Forward, and announced some of those students and staff and their good deeds at the end of the day. We all learned it is possible to change the world, one good deed at a time. Staff members from the high school and middle school visited Greenlodge today to present a hands-on science/technology workshop in the gym. These activities provided valuable review in preparation for next week's MCAS science test. Each class visited the gym for a 40 minute block to rotate through the activities.

**ECEC** - On Saturday, there were over 30 volunteers to include staff, parents, PTO families and volunteers from Kohls and the John Thomas Fund. The volunteers planted flower beds and painted shapes and alphabet stencils for games for the children. A huge thank you to all who came out and volunteered for the children of the ECEC.

**AVERY** - On Friday, May 3rd, Avery School will celebrate "School Lunch Super Hero Day." We will honor our cafeteria staff with cards and origami flowers, created by the Student Council. WE will also present the staff with a banner signed by all Avery students. This celebration was created by author and illustrator Jarrett Krosoczka, whose Lunch Lady graphic novels have inspired many students to read and imagine. In the books, a Lunch Lady transforms her kitchen utensils to help her fight crime in the school and in the community. Avery's Got Talent! On Friday evening, students in grades 1 through 5 will show off their talent by singing, dancing, playing musical instruments, and telling jokes. The students have been practicing and will be ready to show off their talent at 6 p.m. Friday.

### **STUDENT UPDATE**

Jackie Sullivan reported DHS has spirit week. The Junior/Senior prom took place last Friday. 132 students took the Peter Pan bus. Congratulations on the Track team who qualified for the states. MCAS Math exams will take place on May 13 and 14 with delayed openings. Last day for seniors is May 24<sup>th</sup>. Class night will take place on June 4<sup>th</sup> and Graduation will be Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

### **REPORTS**

Principal McCarthy updated the School Committee with upcoming High School events, AP testing, SAT dates, senior's last day, class night, graduation dates and presented the members with the current list of college acceptances. He also gave an update on the NEASC process – entering final stage.

### **OLD – NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Briggs motioned to open the Public Hearing On Inter-District School Choice, Mrs. Barsamian seconded. Roll call vote taken: Rachel McGregor-Yes, Susan Butler-Walko –Yes, Kevin Coughlin – Yes, Mayanne Briggs – Yes, Tom Ryan-Yes, Jen Barsamian – Yes, Joe Heisler - Yes

Superintendent Doe presented background pertaining to the annual discussion and vote on School Choice Law and the requirement to vote for or against School Choice each year. The recommendation from the Superintendent is to continue the policy of the Dedham School District not to admit non-resident students under the terms and conditions of this inter-district School Choice Law stating we do not have adequate space. Mrs. Doe's recommendation is to vote no. The Chair asked for comments from the public. No public comment. No discussions from the school committee members.

Motion made by Mr. Coughlin to close the Public Hearing on Inter-District School Choice, seconded by Mrs. McGregor. Roll call vote taken: Rachel McGregor-Yes, Susan Butler-Walko –Yes, Kevin Coughlin – Yes, Mayanne Briggs – Yes, Tom Ryan-Yes, Jen Barsamian – Yes, Joe Heisler - Yes

Motion made by Mrs. Briggs to vote no, not to have interdistrict school choice, seconded by Mrs. Butler- a “yes” vote would agree with this motion. Roll call vote taken: Rachel McGregor-Yes, Susan Butler-Walko –Yes, Kevin Coughlin – Yes, Mayanne Briggs – Yes, Tom Ryan-Yes, Jen Barsamian – Yes, Joe Heisler – Yes. Voted unanimous.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Rob Blaney from Dedham Youth commission running “Jog for Jobs” event at DHS track and field. Next meeting – Middle School Improvement Plan, and Presentation of Study on Special Education services

### **MINUTES**

Motion made by Mrs. Briggs to accept the minutes of the April 3, 2013 meeting, seconded by Mrs. Walko, voted unanimous. (Mrs. McGregor abstained)

Motion made by Mrs. Barsamian to accept the minutes of the April 24, 2013 meeting, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous.

### **DONATIONS**

NONE

Update on prior donation, a scholarship funded by Anne and Donald Corcoran Trust which will enable the High School to initiate a scholarship of \$2500 for a senior male student and \$2500 for senior female student with the intention of entering the field of education. Guidance will inform the students this week.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

NONE

Motion made by Mr. Ryan to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, voted unanimous.

Meeting ended at 8:52p.m.