

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 24, 2013**

**MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL, COMMITTEE PRESENT:**

Mayanne Briggs, Chair	Joe Heisler, Vice Chair	Kevin Coughlin
Jen Barsamian	Tom Ryan	Susan Butler-Walko (late)
Rachel McGregor		

**MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

June Doe, Superintendent  
Cynthia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent  
Kathy Gaudreau, Director of Special Education  
Michael LaFrancesca (late)

Meeting began at 7:28

Superintendent June Doe called the meeting to order. The first order of business was the reorganization of the school committee.

Town Clerk, Mr. Paul Munchbach swore in Rachel McGregor as the new school committee member.

**RE-ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Election of Chair – Superintendent Doe called for nominations.

Mrs. Barsamian motioned to nominate Mr. Heisler as the new Chair of the School Committee, seconded by Mr. Coughlin. Roll call vote taken: Mr. Coughlin – YES, Mrs. Barsamian – YES, Mr. Ryan – YES, Mrs. McGregor – YES, Mr. Heisler – YES, Mrs. Briggs – YES. Voted unanimous.

Election of Vice Chair

Mrs. Briggs motioned to nominate Mrs. Barsamian as the new Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Coughlin. Roll call vote taken: Mr. Coughlin – YES, Mrs. Barsamian – YES, Mr. Ryan – YES, Mrs. McGregor – YES, Mr. Heisler – YES, Mrs. Briggs – YES. Voted unanimous.

**RECOGNITION OF NEW ENGLAND MATH LEAGUE STUDENTS:**

Principal Gately recognized the New England Math League high scholars in math assessment.

**Grade 6**

Jack Sargent  
Nicholas Tai Thurber  
Kyle Martens  
Sarah Averill  
Devin Maida  
Gina Pasciuto

**Grade 7**

Caroline Barkowitz  
Dylan Maida  
Davin Sweeney  
Kyle Micciche  
Madelyn McKenna

**Grade 8**

Nate Reynolds  
Vitaliy Andrusyshyn  
Joanne Hatch  
Melissa Bradbury  
Brendan Hart

**SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE:**

**Avery School** - The Avery fifth grade students visited the Museum of Science on Tuesday. The learned about the various constellations and planets through students visited the show *The Sky*

*Tonight* in the planetarium. They particularly enjoyed the lightning show, the animal habitat exhibit, the engineering room, the water room and the Science in the Park exhibit in which they explored the effects of motion. This trip was made possible through the Avery PTO. The Spring Enrichment program is just beginning. Offerings include arts and crafts, cupcake decorating, morning gym class, origami, and delicious desserts. The BOKS program has restarted. The Wednesday morning IPAD drop in continues as well as the after school book club

**Riverdale School** - On Monday, April 22, in celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day, all fourth grade students received live pine tree seedlings from the Arbor Day Foundation. Children were encouraged to bring their seedlings home and plant them with their family members.

Fifth graders at the Riverdale School were recently treated to a special engineering day presentation. Under the direction of Dedham High School science teachers, our fifth graders were able to use saws, hammers, and their intellect as they constructed inclined planes, solved problems and discussed engineering concepts. There were two DHS teachers: David Haluska and Steve Dewar who helped the kids during engineering day as well as Mary Belge from the DMS. On April 30, all first graders at Riverdale will visit the Wheelock Theatre to see a performance of the classic children's book, Pippi Longstocking performed live on stage. Riverdale fifth graders are invited to perform at the All-Town Chorus event at 7:00 pm on April 30.

**Middle School - National Geographic Geography Bee** - Congratulations to grade 8 student Alex Heilmann represented Dedham Middle School at Worcester Academy on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> for the state level competition of the National Geographic Geography Bee. Alex advanced to the 8<sup>th</sup> round of competition.

**Middle School Trip to Costa Rica** - Congratulations to the students from DMS and faculty members who traveled to Costa Rica April 11 – 18, 2013. Students had the opportunity to travel throughout the country and experienced many educational and cultural opportunities. The students note that their favorite part of the trip – in addition to the zip lines – was the visit to the primary school in Puntarenas. They were model representatives of the Dedham Public Schools. Trip participants included:

Ms. Sutton, Mr. Nadeau, & Mrs. Magnan – DMS teachers of Spanish  
Mrs. Machinist – DMS teacher of Science  
Ms. Gately

**Grade 7**

Caroline Barkowitz  
Julian Buitrago  
Juliandra Castillo  
Rena Coben  
Maggie Doldt  
Emma Francis  
Ryan Malone  
Nicole Rampino  
Davin Sweeney

**Grade 8**

Alyssa Bednar  
Jim Duncan  
Michaelles Fana  
Kayla Haney  
Tim Lahiff  
Alec MacLean  
Sara Molano  
Emma Porter  
Nate Reynolds  
Maggie Rocha  
Sal Spada  
Emma Tolley

**ECEC - The ECEC's Beautification of the Grounds project sponsored by the PTO, the John Thomas Fund and Kohls has been rescheduled to this Saturday, the 27th from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. We are looking forward to a fabulous morning!**

**Also, on May 7th and 8th the ECEC students will participate in an event called, Celebrating Diversity. Classes will "visit" three different countries and experience stories, games and crafts. This event has come to fruition as a result of a DEF Grant awarded to Dr. Mary Joyce and Mrs. Jennifer Robins.**

**Proud to say that US News and World Report – Dedham High School has achieved #42 in recognition, which is a silver badge.**

### **CHAIRS UPDATE:**

**Mr. Heisler welcomed Rachel McGregor as a new member to the board. Mrs. McGregor stated she is honored to be part of the School Committee board and thanked everyone and her family for the support. Mrs. Briggs also thanked the public for her re-election. Mr. Heisler expressed his gratitude to Mrs. Briggs for her service as Chair. Mrs. Barsamian also thanked everyone and is honored to be Vice Chair. The re-organization of the sub committees will be announced by the end of the school year. Mr. Heisler announced a search committee in preparation for the search for a new Superintendent's appointment in July 2014. The committee will include Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. McGregor and Mrs. Barsamian.**

### **REPORTS:**

**Riverdale School Improvement Plan – presented by Principal Dr. Lucas and the Riverdale School Council. Powerpoint presentation will be available on the Riverdale School website. School Council members: Kris Ahl, Parent, Bernadette Costello, Teacher, Angela Daniel, Member at large, Ingrid Mayyasi, Library Media Specialist, Julie Jeannetti, Parent, Benjamin Lavine, Technical Support, Margaret Mullen, Parent, Lauren Shea, Teacher  
Discussions and questions from the School Committee followed.**

**Avery School Improvement Plan – presented by Principal Clare Sullivan. Powerpoint presentation will be available on the Avery school website. Discussions and questions from the School Committee followed.**

**Budget update from the Fincom meeting tonight - Vote on Article 3 passed (vote 6-3) the operating budget - Article 4 – the capital projects passed (8-1) to fund \$85,000 additional money – shared effort with the town.**

**\$35,000  
\$10,000 to fund technology  
\$40,000 from DPW  
\$10,000  
Total of \$85,000**

## **OLD OR NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. LaFrancesca presented the agreement for the update to the Master Plan with Dore and Whittier to be completed by August.

Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the contract between Dedham Public Schools and Dore and Whittier to update the master plan study.

Roll call vote taken: Mr. Coughlin – YES, Mrs. Barsamian – YES, Mr. Ryan – YES, Mrs. McGregor – YES, Mr. Heisler – YES, Mrs. Briggs – YES. Voted unanimous.

## **MINUTES**

None

## **DONATIONS**

None

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

Mrs. Briggs motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, voted unanimous.  
Meeting ended at 9:34.

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