

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING—January 2, 2008
Distance Learning Lab, Middle School

PRESENT

Tracy Driscoll, Chair
Margaret Matthews, Vice Chair
David Roberts
Thomas Ryan
Margaret Connolly
Joanne Flatley
John Healy

ADMINISTRATION

June M. Doe, Superintendent
Cynthia Kelly, Asst. Superintendent
Michael La Francesca, Business Manager
Alan Winrow, Principal
Clare Sullivan, Principal

Convened: 7:00 PM

Adjourned: 7:50 PM

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Ms. Doe provided the committee with the current list of seniors' college acceptances. She said she was pleased with number of students that sought early action. Student acceptances included Boston College, Brandeis, Bridgewater, Drexel, Elon, Fairfield, Loyola, Marymount, New England Institute for Art, Northeastern, Providence College, Regis, St. Michaels, Syracuse, UMass, Wellesley, Wentworth, and WPI.

Ms. Doe stated that the High School held a student activity event on the Friday afternoon preceding the holiday break. Mr. Winrow stated that Alison Reilley and Christina Gamel chaired the steering committee that planned the event and the objective was to promote holiday spirit, school spirit and unity.

Ms. Doe said they have been working with a consultant Larry Myatt from Northeastern University to have in-house professional development for administration and department chairs.

Ms. Kelly updated the committee on the strategic plan. She reported that they recently taped a public service announcement for the mission statement survey. She said the survey is available until January 10. She said they are scheduling the next meeting of the steering committee and would be touching base with the liaisons.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

Ms. Driscoll stated that the MCAS Special Education presentation is being postponed due to the presenter's inability to attend tonight's meeting. She said she hoped to schedule it for the January 30 meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Butler asked if the committee would be posting their meeting schedule. Ms. Driscoll said their next full meeting would be January 30 and they do intend to post the schedule on-line.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

There was none.

MCAS – SPECIAL EDUCATION

This item was postponed.

OVERNIGHT, OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP

Ms. Nancy Bradley and Ms. Alison Reilley presented a request for a field trip to Peru during the February 2009 break. Ms. Reilley said she has traveled with this company before and it is reputable. She said the company, NETC, is geared toward the educational experience and the trip would give the students the opportunity to use their language skills beyond the classroom. She requested that the group be allowed to leave on a Thursday to save money.

Mr. Roberts asked if they would be fundraising for the trip. Ms. Reilley said she is going to leave that up to the students. She said she suggested that they look at jobs as a means to pay for it. She said most of the students worked to pay their own way for last year's trip.

Ms. Connolly asked about student interest. Ms. Reilley said that there are a number already interested in the trip. She added that they paired with a group of 18 when they traveled to Europe, and there were several chaperones in that group. She was not alone. She also said the students knew what was expected of them and were respectful of behavioral parameters.

Ms. Connolly asked if there were any community service needs the students could fill while visiting the country. Ms. Reilley said she could contact the company about that.

Ms. Matthews asked what the target group is. Ms. Reilley said she is hoping to involve freshmen through seniors.

Mr. Healy moved, seconded by Mr. Roberts, and it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the overnight field trip to Peru for the February 2009 vacation.

Mr. Roberts asked if it was necessary to approve the Thursday departure. Mr. Winrow said the trip is a school sponsored field trip so they should be covered by the previous vote.

Ms. Bradley announced that Ms. Reilley received a grant award from the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese for the development of a lesson that combined teaching with technology. She said that Ms. Reilley was the sole recipient in the country.

Ms. Reilley thanked Paula Marini for working with her to develop the idea. She explained her project required her students to develop videos to talk about a foreign country. She described the film she created based on trips she had made to Spain and Mexico. She said she has shared her video and lesson materials with her department for their use. Ms. Bradley stated Ms. Reilley's video is posted on the AASPT website.

Ms. Doe announced that Ms. Reilley would be offering an ESL course to beginning next week.

The committee congratulated Ms. Reilley on her grant award and thanked her for offering the ESL course.

MINUTES

Mr. Ryan made a motion to approve the December 12 minutes. Ms. Connolly seconded the motion.

Ms. Doe stated that the Boosters banquet was on Monday evening, not Sunday, and should be corrected on page one, line forty-two.

Mr. Ryan moved, seconded by Ms. Matthews, and it was

VOTED: to accept the December 12, 2007 minutes as amended.

DONATIONS

Ms. Doe announced a \$100,000 donation by John E. and Kathleen H. Lennon to establish a scholarship fund for high school seniors accepted to college. The scholarship would be known as the John E. and Kathleen H. Lennon Scholarship Fund. Ms. Doe stated that Mr. Lennon graduated from Dedham High School in 1954, Mrs. Lennon in 1959, and that both received a small amount of money for college as high school graduates and wanted to offer this to deserving seniors as well.

Ms. Doe stated she is very grateful for this donation.

Ms. Doe also announced that the Trustees for the Dedham Institution for Savings Foundation have awarded \$5,000 to the School Department for the software program to support math and ELA at Middle School. She reported the Middle School Social Studies Department also received a \$5,000 grant for its cultural enrichment program.

Ms. Driscoll said the committee would like to host a reception for the Lennons at the High School. Mr. Winrow said the advisor acting on behalf of the Lennons requested that the event be relatively low key. Ms. Driscoll said they would comply with the Lennons' wishes.

Ms. Driscoll asked if they could start the scholarship this year. Mr. Winrow said yes in the amount of \$1,000 to \$2,000. He said that the money is deposited in a five month fund with a 4.9% return.

Ms. Matthews asked if it would be four year scholarship. Mr. Winrow said there would not be sufficient funds to offer a four year scholarship. She asked if there were restrictions placed on to whom the scholarship could be awarded. Mr. Winrow said there were no restrictions.

Ms. Connolly moved, with grateful appreciation, seconded by Mr. Ryan, also with grateful appreciation, and it was

VOTED: to accept the donations.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Driscoll said the Selectmen have scheduled a summit meeting for the 16th, which would have been the School Committee's next scheduled meeting. She said the budget was to be presented to subcommittee in mid January and asked that the full committee receive it on the 16th. She said the committee could meet at 6:30 for this purpose.

Ms. Driscoll stated the next regular meeting would be January 30. The MCAS presentation would be that night. She stated the February 13 meeting would include a public hearing on the budget and an update on the district improvement relative to MCAS.

Ms. Driscoll announced the meeting schedule through the end of the school year. The dates are: March 5 and 19, April 2 and 16, May 7 and 21, and June 11 and 25. She said Town Meeting is May 19 and graduation is June 4.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Ms. Connolly commented on the storage of the fire truck at the High School. Ms. Doe said when the fire station was undergoing renovations they needed to store the truck for a brief period of time.

Mr. Ryan requested an update from Principal Ruggere on his experiences as Principal of the Middle School.

Ms. Matthews asked for confirmation of the dates the committee to discuss the honors and AP programs and weighting would meet. Ms. Connolly said she would forward them to Ms. Matthews and the full committee.

Ms. Driscoll stated there was a need for executive session. She said the committee would meet first and then invite in the Unit A negotiating team.

Mr. Roberts moved, seconded by Ms. Connolly, and it was

VOTED: by roll call to go into executive session under exemption three. Ms. Flatley – aye, Mr. Roberts – aye, Ms. Connolly – aye, Mr. Healy – aye, Mr. Ryan – aye, Ms. Matthews – aye, Ms. Driscoll – aye.

Ms. Driscoll stated the committee would not be coming out of executive session to adjourn.