

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING—August 16, 2007**  
**Library, High School**

**PRESENT**

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

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Christopher Campbell, Asst. Superintendent**  
**Michael La Francesca, Business Manager**  
**Timothy Ruggere, Principal**  
**Jacob Santamaria, Asst. Principal**

**Convened: 7:10 PM**

**Adjourned: 8:30 PM**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Asst. Supt. Campbell provided an update to the committee in the Superintendent's absence. He reported that representatives from the School Building Authority (SBA) visited the Avery School on August 2. He said it was the second visit to the school in response to the Dedham's submission of a statement of interest for the school. He said the administration feels they clearly conveyed that a new school is a priority for the district. He said the SBA will be visiting all schools rated level four in the next several months.

Mr. Campbell stated that August 27 is the date they have tentatively chosen for a first meeting to initiate the development of a new strategic plan for the district and to review the mission statement. He said that representative constituents will be identified to participate in this process. He stated that consultant Dr. Ladd will work with him and Cindy Kelly as co-chairs of the steering committee.

Mr. Campbell reported that a cluster aide was hired for Grade 5 at the Oakdale School. He said the aide is a Master's candidate.

Mr. Campbell reported that an eighth grade text for math has been selected. He said that they are currently negotiating with two publishers to get the best price. He stated Mr. Ruggere and Mr. Hickey would speak to that in a moment.

Ms. Flatley asked who would be invited to the August 27 meeting. Mr. Campbell responded that the entire community will be invited to this initial meeting. She asked if there would be another opportunity for the community to participate. Mr. Campbell said there would be several more initial meetings to receive input. He said the first meetings are to shape the process and identify the areas of concern to the community.

**CHAIR'S UPDATE**

Ms. Driscoll said today is the last day for honors level summer reading. Mr. Santamaria said he met with Dr. Laflamme to discuss the confusion about what was due as of today's date, but that has since been clarified. He also spoke to Ms. Matthews' concern about the computer testing. Ms. Matthews added that there were more ways to get points than taking the test.

Ms. Driscoll stated that a new Assistant Principal at the High School has been hired. Ms. Matthews stated that he begins officially on September 1. Mr. Santamaria said he believes the new assistant principal will be a good fit for the school.

Ms. Driscoll reported that there is a new drop off procedure for the Middle School, which Mr. Ruggere reviewed. Mr. Santamaria said athletic buses were relocated to the gate at Stone Park. Mr. La Francesca stated the bus pickup at the High School is also changing.

#### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS**

There was none.

#### **NEW GRADE 8 MATH TEXT**

Mr. Ruggere said the math text review began in January, and was narrowed down to two choices about a month ago. Mr. Hickey described the two selections and noted they are very similar in content. He said both allow access to the text on-line, but Holt has one extra feature. This text also has a five to ten minute video lesson for each unit accessible on-line. He said he would be pleased to have either textbook. They are just waiting to see what the best price is at this point. Mr. Hickey noted the text is aligned to the state's curriculum guidelines.

Mr. Ruggere said they would like to utilize the on-line version of the text and are currently surveying parents to find out what their accessibility is.

Ms. Matthews clarified that the text is for the non-algebra students. Mr. Hickey said this is the secondary level's biggest need; these students are currently using an algebra book and the teachers are supplementing with other materials. He thinks a text is a better teaching tool.

Ms. Flatley asked about prices. Mr. Hickey provided a number, but Mr. La Francesca interjected that pricing should not be discussed while negotiations are ongoing.

Mr. Roberts asked about the process for selecting the text. Mr. Hickey stated that the two eighth grade teachers Ms. Podolski and Ms. Nicoletti were consulted and the curriculum committee looked at it as well.

Ms. Driscoll asked about potential changes to the math sequencing. Mr. Hickey said that next year he is hoping to get away from the split year of algebra. He stated that students need a full year of it. There was also brief discussion about the availability of honors classes to the Course 3 math students.

Ms. Matthews asked how many new math teachers they have this year. Mr. Hickey stated that they have four, three at the High School and one at the Middle School.

Taken out of order.

#### **AGREEMENT WITH TEC – DEXTER LEASE**

Mr. La Francesca stated that the Dexter lease was put out to bid a few months ago. TEC was the only bidder. He stated that legal counsel advised that they could make an amendment to TEC's current lease expanding the space. It would be from September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2008. The cost is \$30,000 for the portion where Central Office was located. There would also be a possibility of a six month extension at the conclusion of the lease date, if agreed upon. He said

the reason for the one year term is to keep the ability to go out to bid for the entire Dexter School at one time.

Mr. La Francesca said he would need the School Committee's approval and signature on the lease amendment. He would then bring the lease amendment to the Town for its approval. He said the Selectmen are meeting next week.

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

**VOTED:** to accept the lease agreement addendum for the Dexter School with The Education Cooperative, which would be dated today, August 16, 2007.

Mr. Ryan emphasized that the School Department followed the bidding laws, one bid was received, and the committee was awarding the bid to that bidder.

Mr. Roberts recommended a School Committee member attend the meeting at which the Selectmen vote on the lease amendment to answer any questions the members might have. Mr. La Francesca stated the Superintendent might attend that meeting.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*June 13, 2007*

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

**VOTED:** to approve the June 13, 2007 minutes.

*July 25, 2007*

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

**VOTED:** to approve the July 25, 2007 minutes.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S GOALS**

Ms. Driscoll said there would be no vote on the Superintendent's goals this evening due to the Superintendent's absence.

Ms. Matthews stated a section on professional development was added to the goals based on the committee's input. She said this was a change from the last draft the committee had.

Ms. Flatley suggested adding a financial component to the goals. Ms. Matthews felt that this addition was not necessary. Ms. Flatley responded that there were many important aspects to the financial health of the district. Mr. Ryan agreed with Ms. Matthews that this component would seem superfluous as it is part of her job description. He said they can look at her fiscal accomplishments during her evaluation.

Ms. Driscoll asked why there were ESOL specific targets under #4 of the teaching and learning goal. Ms. Matthews stated that the ESOL goal was probably developed with the grant money the district received for translations in mind. Mr. Campbell said that Supt. Doe has done significant work to do outreach to the ESOL students and their families. Ms. Driscoll said she would like to see it expanded, unless this is an area that needs particular attention.

Ms. Connolly suggested that the Connect-ED foreign language message goal should include languages in addition to Spanish. Mr. La Francesca said he did not believe Connect-ED had the capacity to translate to other languages.

Ms. Matthews emphasized that the goals will be measurable.

#### **RE-ORGANIZATION OF SUBCOMMITTEES & LIAISON DESIGNATIONS**

Ms. Driscoll said that in Mr. Healy's absence this item would be postponed. She said as a committee they are going to have to be flexible. She said Mr. Roberts would remain as the representative to the School Building Rehabilitation Committee until the end of the present committee. She stated the 40B liaison is no longer needed because the project is completed. She said they would be trying to get the "state of the school" report out this year in a timely manner. She, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Healy are on this sub-committee.

Ms. Driscoll noted that the following subcommittees were set: School Committee goals (Ms. Flatley and Ms. Connolly), the Senior Center committee (Mr. Roberts and Ms. Connolly), the Superintendent's Goals (Ms. Matthews and Mr. Ryan). Ms. Driscoll asked for a draft of the School Committee goals for the next meeting.

Ms. Driscoll said that the Policy and Budget Subcommittees, the School Liaisons, and the negotiating teams would be designated at the next meeting.

#### **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

Ms. Driscoll stated the next agenda would include the Superintendent's goals, the re-organization of the board liaison designations and the subcommittees, a draft of the School Committee calendar and its goals.

There was some discussion about the fall School Committee meeting dates, which remain undecided. Ms. Matthews said she would like quarterly postings of the meeting schedule for the benefit of the community members that would like to attend.

Mr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Flatley, so moved, and it was

**VOTED:** to adjourn.