

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
April 4, 2011**

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL, COMMITTEE PRESENT WERE:

Kevin Coughlin, Chairman	David Roberts- absent
Mayanne Briggs, Vice Chair	Dimitria Sullivan
Joe Heisler	Susan Butler Walko
Tom Ryan	

MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION PRESENT WERE:

June Doe, Superintendent
Cynthia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent
Michael LaFrancesca, Assistant to the Superintendent for Business
Kathy Gaudreau, Director of Special Education

The Chair of the School Committee, Kevin Coughlin opened the meeting at 7:02pm. in the Dedham High School Auditorium with an opening statement indicating that tonight's meeting is dedicated to discussions regarding redistricting – tours were offered this evening for families at the new Avery School. The Board has acknowledged what was said 2 weeks ago at the last school committee meeting, the Superintendent will address those issues. There will be no vote tonight. The map has not changed since we met 2 weeks ago. Any additional meetings will be held in a Policy Sub Committee Meeting, which will be well publicized through the media and school. There will be enough time for public comment. There will be no derogatory comments. No commenting on property values or on elementary schools. There is a common core curriculum, with dedicated teachers. We value all of our schools, students and staff. Mrs. Doe discussed the origin and history of the prior 8 school zones before they became 4 districts, and how the adjustments to neighborhood boundaries have changed over the years, the last being Kindergarten students changing from elementary school to the ECEC. Mrs. Doe explained the process of submitting the proposal to MSBA with the plan on re-districting carefully throughout thru 5 years. The process of building a new elementary school was discussed. Discussions regarding the statement of interest, enrollment history and projections were noted and how MSBA noted a flat growth rate over time. The consideration of one large elementary school was not considered, no land available. Substantial growth in Oakdale was noted. The plan was submitted to MSBA on what you see now, the projected growth balancing both Avery and Riverdale Schools. The curriculum is aligned across the district and across the MA standards. Materials are identical in each school, across all grades and schools. The Literacy aligned today resulted in new materials in lower grades. There is quality in each school, staff are proficient in the newest curriculum. Dedham's class sizes are envied by neighboring towns.

Principal Sullivan spoke about the 35 years teaching and how the neighborhoods have changed over the years, sometimes a drastic shift during proposition 2 ½. Kindergarten to ECEC and the 6th grade to the middle school.

Mrs. Doe read an email from Brian Coakley, a student who had attended Avery School, commenting on the excellent Avery teachers, staff and school.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Many parents commented and made suggestions expressing their opinions on the geographical boundaries. Transportation and bus routes were discussed, concentrating on the safety of all students. All proposals and suggestions would have further consideration and were taken under advisement by the Policy Sub Committee members.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion made by Mrs. Sullivan to approve the Science Physics Field Trip conducted by Amanda Bragan, an annual event to Sacco, Maine, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko, voted unanimous

FINANCIAL POLICY

Mrs. Sullivan voted to accept the overall financial policy, Mr. Ryan seconded, voted unanimous.

CAPITAL BUDGET POLICY:

Motion to approve the Capital Policy by Mr. Heisler, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, voted unanimous.

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

Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.