

# **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES December 7, 2011**

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

Kevin Coughlin, Chair	Joe Heisler
Mayanne Briggs, Vice Chair	Dimitria Sullivan
Dave Roberts	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

The Chairman of the School Committee, Kevin Coughlin, convened the meeting at 7:06 p.m

## **RECOGNITION OF THE ABIGAIL ADAMS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:**

Reception for all students and their parents held at 6:15. Representative Paul McMurtry congratulated the 52 seniors' accomplishments on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Senator Rush. Superintendent June Doe acknowledged each students individually.

## **STUDENT MEMBER REPORT**

Fall sports banquet held at the High School last night. Next Tuesday the Winter Band and Chorus Concert. The Senior Musical practice begins. Progress reports will be issued on December 8. The winter sports practice has begun. Girls' hockey opens up on Saturday and the Boys ice hockey game vs. Needham at Nobel's on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Basketball opens up on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES:**

Mr. Coughlin welcomed Mr. Taissir Alani to the School Dept and Town of Dedham as the new Director of Facilities. Mr. Alani thanked everyone and discussed his goals and plans for preventive maintenance concentrating on energy and efficiency. Mr. LaFancesca spoke about Mr. Alani's background and experience.

## **SUPERINTENENT'S UPDATE:**

**ECEC** – On Monday, December 5, children's book author, illustrator and musician, Barney Saltzberg visited the ECEC for a special program of music, art and creativity. This wonderful event was graciously brought to us by the Blue Bunny in Dedham. Kindergarten Parent Teacher Conferences are being held this evening at the ECEC as well as during the day on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Avery School** – On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Hempstead Theatre Group presented a performance of the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe, sponsored by the Avery PTO. Parent teacher conferences will take place tomorrow night 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. The book fair is continuing through this Friday.

**GREENLODGE SCHOOL** – Student Council elections were held recently, the student representatives for the 2011-2012 school year are - Grade 4 – Molly McDonough, Zachary Spinello, Joey Lennon, Ailiyah Galvez, Connor Freeman, Jack Roslonek, Michal Flynn and Allison Reilly. Grade 5 representatives are Kevin McDonough, Gavin Nehily, Eli Feldman, Madison Rella, Colleen Connell, and Jenna Hache.

Greenlodge students were also treated to a performance by the Hampstead Players of the "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" on December 1<sup>st</sup> sponsored by the generosity of the PTO. Evening conferences for parents will be held at the Greenlodge School tomorrow night from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**RIVERDALE** – The following teachers at Riverdale School were recipients of the annual DEF scholarships.

Mr Andrew Podolski for a grant to Minuteman National Park. Ms. Lisa Stanton for the program Tune Into Learning. The Power of One for all schools which was a program to understand and utilize strategies to conquer bullying. For all schools - library/media specialists are recipients of a grant for author Mr. Brian Lies.

Riverdale Book Fair is Dec. 13, 14, and 15. We hope everyone will come by on those days and purchase a book for the holidays and to support literacy in the home.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL** - Middle School Winter Concert will be held on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. 340 middle school students were recognized at an honor roll ceremony/ice cream party on December 6<sup>th</sup>. November 30<sup>th</sup>, the following students were recognized and honored for their submissions to the "Dedham 375<sup>th</sup> Essay Contest." These writing pieces were completed in June of 2011. Congratulations to these students and all of the teachers who were involved!

**Upcoming Holiday Concerts:**

DHS Winter Concert on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00  
Oakdale School Winter Concert on December 16 9:15 and 1:15  
Greenlodge School Winter Concert on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:15 and 1:15  
Riverdale School Winter Concert on December 21 at 1:45  
Avery School Winter Concert on December 22 at 10:45 and 1:45

**CHAIR'S UPDATE** – Mr. Coughlin thanked the Middle School staff for hosting a fundraiser at Moseley's for Donald Heald, the Music and Band Teacher at the middle school. It was a wonderful time and congratulated them for a successful evening. Dedham's 375<sup>th</sup> Celebration Essay Contest was held on November 30<sup>th</sup> recognizing students, thanked Principal Gately. Dancing With The Stars was a huge success at Moseley's.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Principal McCarthy discussed the High School Graduation schedule and survey results indicating approx. 65% of respondents wanting graduation on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> after 12:00 p.m. The schedule 2 weeks before graduation:

May 29 – Two Senior Exams  
May 30 – Two Senior Exams  
May 31 – One Senior Exam  
June 4 – Make-up Exams  
June 4 – Superintendent's Dinner  
June 7 – Graduation Rehearsal at 9:30 am  
June 7 – Senior Awards Night at 7:00 pm  
June 8 – Graduation Rehearsal at 10:30  
June 9 – Graduation at 1:00 pm

**FISCAL YEAR CAPITAL BUDGET**

Mr. Heisler and Mr. LaFrancesca discussed how the Budget Sub Committee had met to review the Capital improvements. The committee developed a list and prioritized it based upon recommendations from the Superintendent and principals. Superintendent Doe spoke about the need of a generator at the high school. The total FY2013 budget is \$893,200,000. ***Mr. Heisler made the motion to accept the FY13 Capital Budget in the amount of \$893,200,00. Mrs. Briggs seconded, voted unanimously.***

**OLD BUSINESS**

Statement of Interest – Renovation / Repair of the Dexter School. Superintendent Doe made the request to the School Committee to allow the Superintendent to submit a statement of interest to MSBA under option 5, Repair / Renovation of the Dexter School, in keeping with the Master Plan, Phase 3. The goal is to relocate the Early Childhood Education Center from the Capen School, to a renovated Dexter School.

***Mr. Roberts made the motion for the School Committee to authorize the Superintendent to submit the Statement Of Interest to the Mass. School Building Authority. Mr. Heisler seconded, voted unanimously.***

Kevin Coughlin, Chair - YES	Joe Heisler - YES
Mayanne Briggs, Vice Chair - YES	Dimitria Sullivan - YES
Dave Roberts - YES	Susan Butler Walko - YES
Tom Ryan - YES	

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

***Motion made by Mrs. Sullivan to accept the revised minutes of the November 16, 2011 minutes (change McKee's spelling) and seconded by Mrs. Briggs. (Mr. Coughlin and Mr. Roberts abstained). Voted unanimously***

***Motion made by Mrs. Briggs to accept the minutes of the November 16, 2011 Executive Session and seconded by Mrs. Sullivan. (Mr. Coughlin and Mr. Roberts abstained). Voted unanimously.***

### **DONATIONS:**

- Westbrook Crossing Knitting Club donated 100 knitted hats for children throughout the Dedham Schools. ***Mrs. Sullivan made the motion to accept with grateful appreciation, Mr. Heisler seconded with grateful appreciation, Voted unanimously.***
- Boosters Club donated \$1738.00 to the Dedham High School athletic department to be used to purchase new field hockey uniforms. ***Motion made by Mrs. Briggs to accept with grateful appreciation and seconded by Mrs. Sullivan with grateful appreciation, voted unanimously.***

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brian Keaney thanked Principal Gately for the 375<sup>th</sup> celebration essays. He commented, saying “negotiations are coming up after the New Year, before you negotiate, teachers are grossly underpaid. If you look at the value of what teachers are adding to our society, they are at least as valuable as a doctor or lawyer, and they should be compensated the same way, I don’t think a six figure salary wouldn’t be unreasonable for a teacher.” He further commented that the School Committee and bargaining committees should “throw out the current contract, start with a white sheet of paper, work with the teachers union, develop a system that make teachers more effective, make our students learn more”. He stated that President Obama and Governor Patrick support different models of performance based system.

***Mrs. Sullivan made the motion to adjourn, Mrs. Walko-Butler seconded, voted unanimously.***

Meeting ended at 8:57 p.m.

School Committee Meeting on December 21st cancelled.

Next School Committee Meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2012.