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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING—June 10, 2009
Town Hall, Lower Conference Room

PRESENT

Dave Roberts, Chair
Margaret Connolly, Vice Chair
Thomas Ryan
Tracy Driscoll
John Healy
Kevin Coughlin
Joe Heisler

ADMINISTRATION

June M. Doe, Superintendent
Cynthia Kelly, Asst. Superintendent

Convened: 7:00 PM

Adjourned: 8:59 PM

Recognition of Student Councils from all Schools:

Avery Student Council: Grade 5 – Darcy Rump, Melissa Martinez, Ahmad Monzer, Madison Repetto, Brendan St. Clair, Guy Grant, Jessyca Villante-Slavin, Jessica Lorenzana, Stephen Acosta, Bo Devine, Amber Shepard, Tessa Loudor. Grade 4 – Jessenia Cruz, Alicia Gonzalez, Isa Martinez, Veronika Melnik, Jacob Moulton, Kaitlyn Naddaff, Madison Meaney, Gina Walsh, Roisin Glynn, Zeinab Monzer, Cassie Rapoza, Asia Vo.

Advisors: Stephanie Hoyt, Aubrey Cochrane, Joan Standing

Visit to O'Neill Drive. Pet of the Day fundraiser for the Animal Rescue League. School Spirit Week. Flag Day Parade.

Oakdale Student Council: Zoe Anastasio, Courtney Walsh, Jay Paxson, Pierce Gaughran, Heather Schmidt, Joseph Borsellino, Emma Lane, Alyssa Pinkham, Molly McKenna, Christian Piasano, MJ O'Malley, Jason Sulinski.

Accomplishments: Suggestion boxes in classrooms. Thanksgiving Food Baskets. Lollies for Life – proceeds went to the Dedham Food Pantry. Flower Power Day. Present at school wide assemblies such as Veterans Day and Flag Day.

Greenlodge Student Council: Grade 5-Amelia McDonough, Jessica Pucci, Eric Reyes, Anthony Gilardi, Caroline Mitchell, Hannah Ryan. Grade 4 – Allison Stearns, Cassidy Sullivan, James Connell, Kayla Spinello, Olivia Corrado, Lindsay Patterson.

Advisors: Julie Kilgoar, Stacy Mucci, Maura Dugan

Organize food drive for the Dedham Food Pantry. Collected recycling – bottles and paper. Hosted Sharing Assemblies. Hosted Lifetime Learners.

Riverdale Student Council: Grade 4 – Alex MacPherson, Norah McGregor, Alex Heilmann, Nina Heilmann, Katherine Cabot, Tomas Gonzalez. Grade 5 – Collin Cramer, Alexandra Naddaff, Perry Letourneau, Tori DeBardinis.

Advisors: Sara Robillard, Caitlin Joyce

Many accomplishments listed in the Riverdale Gazette. Do not idle cars in the circle. Won 2nd place in the recycling contest. Wrote Valentines for people who didn't have family around. Play to prepare students for MCAS.

Middle School Student Council: Grade 8 – Connor Curran, Sarah Bennet, Fern Kaufman, Andrea Morganelli, Zachary Perez, Jackie Sullivan, Travis Forosisky, Hayley Driscoll, Stephen Ashe, Ryan Aljondi, Elias Elias, Emily Hill, Jackson Lawlor, Alex Kyriakis, Jodie Munchback, Kailene O'Neill, David St. Cyr. Grade 7 – Mason Costa, Sean Cuddy, Jared Hunt, Matt Nash, Stephanie Matar, Jack Moran, Kristen Aldous-Traynor, Maggie O'Connor, Jackk Duffy, Daniel Kavenaugh, Mikey Sampson, Stephen Whistler, Ty Walko, Marianne Hage, Elizabeth Masalsky, Michale Munchbac, Jen Guccione. Grade 6 – Sarah Dell Iacono, Jannine Flaherty, Malcome Grandy, Ryan Hicks, Michael Morganelli, Mason Maternowski, Andrew Maher, Ronnie Pucci, Ryan Nolan, Paul Riley, Joey DeVirgilio, Geneva Driscoll, Delaney Kabat, Unity Jean-Louis, Sara Martin, Carolyn Neill, Alexandra Perez, Jacquie St. Cyr, Angela Pettiglio, Edda Perry, Meghan Simone, Sean Kineavy, Brendan Kineavy.

Advisors: Ms. Lyons, Mrs. Unger, Ms. Weber

Accomplishments: Halloween Dance – highest ticket sales in years. Thanksgiving Food Drive. Collected loose change for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society “Pennies for Patients”. School Spirit Week.

High School Student Council: Mr. Santamaria announced all students present tonight would receive a Marauder’s Pride tee shirt donated by Mr. Arria Director of Athletics at DHS.

2008 Officers: Kelsey Driscoll, Meredith O’Connor, Andrea Hage, Lindsey Kelly. 2009 Officers: Matt Mariano, Shannon Fahy, Jack Fay, Anthony Hage.

Advisors: Kelly Beck, and Christina Gamel

DESE Representatives: 2008: Kelsey Driscoll and Lindsay Kelly. 2009: Matt Mariano and Jack Fay

Accomplishments: DHS Pep Rally and Mascot Contest. Staff Member of the Month. Dedham Food Pantry Drive. Holiday Candy Grams, Raised money for the Walk for Hunger. District Attorney’s Annual Youth Town Hall Meeting. Kiss a Senior Goodbye. Staff Appreciation End of the Year.

Mr. Roberts spoke on behalf of the board. A common theme has run through this year is the tremendous involvement of all students – this presentation wraps up what we have been hearing from our principals and administration. It speaks well of the commitment to community from our students. Thank you.

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

Middle School – Many middle school athletes participated in the walk-a- thon held on May 30th.

June 2nd, 5th grade students visited the Middle School. June 7th the MS chorus hosted the annual vocal night. 8th grade students will visit the high school on June 15th. The annual dodge ball tournament was a success. Final exams are underway. The evening orientation for all incoming freshmen will be held on June 15th at the high school. The promotion ceremony will be on June 22nd at 8:30a.m. Ms. Doe thanked staff members – letter from Kelly Schultz, the track advisor. They took a large number of students to a conference meet at Lincoln Sudbury HS on June 3rd. Their results were encouraging. Students who earned medals: Emily Hill, Jay Maxwell, Charlie Aylard, Kerriane Downing, Meghan Cochran, Jolanda Nesmith, Jackie Sullivan, Kayla Sharpe.

High School - Finals begin on June 16. The schedule is posted on Website and in classrooms

Congratulations to the graduating seniors of the graduating class of 2009. They were a great group of kids to work with. There was a splendid array of acceptances to colleges. Ms. Doe read a letter from the MIAA director Richard Neal regarding the exemplary displays of sportsmanship this past year. The school received a certificate of recognition from the MIAA “Sportsmanship: The Only Way To Win!”. Announcement: Officer Ron Pucci will be the next school resource officer – upon retirement of Officer Huyler. This position is valuable to all our schools. Officially on December 5th, “Dancing with the Stars Round II” at Mosley’s. Mark your calendars.

CHAIR’S UPDATE

Reminder that Sunday is Flag Day – Division 1. Meet in the Square, it starts sharp at 6:00.

Graduation: All Night Party Event. 148 students participated in this activity. This event creates a safe and welcoming environment with a great deal of activities. Sponsors: Dedham Police Assoc., Dedham Boosters Club and many local businesses. Thanks to the Committee: Millie Lloyd, Loretta Chin, Maryanne MacDonald, Laurie Scott, Anita Poncia, Betty Kilcoyne, Tracey White, Diane DiBiaso. Co-Chairs, Karen Goyette and Laura Timmons. Thanks to the many chaperones and volunteers.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Russ Poole thanks to school administration especially Andy Boles and Louise Young at the Middle School for making the first annual May Green Fair a huge success. 500 people came through. Students conducted tours and discussed the green components of the school. Andy Boles participated in the Sue Scully program, specifically a student did a public service arrangement on the topic of stalking, and he played a wonderful stalker.

Brian Keaney of My News.com stated he has requested interview from Superintendent Doe on several occasions and has also contacted the School Committee on several occasions regarding the reassignment of two middle school teachers to a student’s home during school hours. He has not received answers to his questions. He asked for an interview with the Superintendent. He also had several other questions for the School Committee regarding

SC policies for which the Chair replied at this time we are not going to respond. Mr. Keaney requested to be put on the agenda for the next meeting and the Chair instructed him to submit a letter with his request.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

none

REPORTS

Facilities Director Update: Mr. Brian Lynch

Issue at the Greenlodge School with graffiti. We are looking into placing surveillance cameras in the back of the building. Summer work: The custodians take classrooms apart and put them back together, stripping floors and cleaning equipment and furniture. The custodians take pride in their work. Maintenance staff is down to two licensed maintenance workers and we find it hard keeping up with the work orders.

Capital Projects: Roof project at Dexter School – bid is going out on street next week. Boiler project at Oakdale will be ongoing this summer. The HS Auditorium stairs will be replaced.

Mr. Heisler is more concerned with the exterior – driveways, parking lots - Avery and Greenlodge in particular. Is there collaboration with the DPW. About six years ago, we requested Oakdale and Greenlodge lots to be done with capital projects but were denied.

Budget sub-committee in the fall we can talk about repaving issues for capital expenditures. Mr. Coughlin asked about the HS stands – every year the maintenance staff check the safety of the stands and focus on repairs prior to graduation.

Athletic Director Update: Mr. Tom Arria

Walk-a-thon: A way to start building “Community Pride” had 120 students participate. Raised over \$5500.00 between MS and HS. We coupled the walk with Civic Pride cleanup. 43 students came and cleaned up the area and some stayed for the walk. Music (DJ) started 10:30 a.m. Ran a few contests – gift certificates to school store. The Boosters provided lunch.

What has gone on with athletics:

Fall 2007 – fundraising initiatives, movie night, recycling trailer has been a huge success, the consignment boutique, we had lot of dresses but didn’t sell many. Maybe invite other towns to participate in the future. Fundraisers to date have raised over \$7000.

MIA Academic Excellence Award: Take the GPA of every student on a team and run an average - Over 3.0 Gold over 2.5 Silver certificate. Since the fall, every team has earned a certificate for academic excellence. In the first year 20 teams gold, 6 silver. 436 certificates were awarded. This year 19 teams earned gold, 7 earned silver. 482 certificates were awarded. Average Team GPA 3.16. Student athletes do better – they are focused, they’re involved.

Class of 2008 – 67 out of 76 went on to college. They received 95 scholarships. 12% of the 76 student athletes went on to play intercollegiate athletics.

Class of 2009 – 89 out of 92 are going on to college. They received 100 scholarships – 15% of the 89 are planning on playing in college.

New things: Impact Concussion Management Testing

All students are baseline tested before the season starts it measures reaction, cognitive ability – if during the season or school year they suffer head trauma, concussion; they are held out of sports take post injury test.

Student Athlete/Parent Assembly at the start of each season. Information is presented; guest speakers are featured, and hold parent meetings with coaches. We encourage 100% participation.

Captains luncheon meeting are held once a month – we talk about leadership issues. Look at inviting coaches and teachers to start program back up again.

Coaching evaluation process is new and available on line. It is meant to look at how we can improve.

Handbook (coaches and student athlete) updated to fit athletes today and is available on line.

Championship banners are new this year which were put up this year. At the MS and HS, we have applied for a number of grants (ie Patriots, Harvard Pilgrim). Mr. Coughlin asked if a date had been set for next year’s walk-a-thon. Maybe hold it in the fall. Need to work out logistics so we don’t interfere with other fundraisers going on.

Mr. Coughlin asked if we would reach out to corporations. Mr. Arria would like to broaden scope this summer of fundraisers. Maybe offer signage in the stadium and gymnasium for corporate sponsors. Wrestling did an ad

book. Football is doing one for the fall. Hope to have the walk as the main fundraiser. How are you doing with completing the bullet points from the recommendations from the Superintendent?
JV/Freshmen the spring coaches managed playing time very well. Varsity is a little more difficult to get everyone in. We did run a lessons group for the younger students for tennis. Parent/Coach relationships to get parents involved in the pre-season meeting September 1st. The fall coaches made contact with 8th graders last week. Letters are sent out with tryout dates and coaches will send additional information. Mr. Murray stated there are two more opportunities – tour of HS on 6/15 and a parent information session. The freshman football program looks promising. Summer facility use during the summer – coaches on hand with weight room and gyms, track and field from 7-9am and 5-7 p.m. football coaches will be using the facilities. We are also looking at the possibility of 9-12 as well. Ms. Driscoll would recommend a schedule of updates at the end of every season. Also, have you looked at reducing the athletic fees for this year? Currently it would be a huge hit. At \$125 we are one of the lowest fees in the area. Waivers are being received and reviewed. Looking at a proposal to reduce fees with more than one athlete playing multiple sports in one family. Mr. Ryan asked if there was a policy on when captains are selected for the following season. Mr. Arria answered no, there is no set policy. Giant Bay State League Banner, do we have one? Would like to get that put up in the gym. Mr. Heisler asked about the spring season record in comparison to the previous year. Mr. Arria recited the statistics. We met with youth Pop Warner and he will be getting into the schools to speak to the students at the lower levels. Soccer and Youth Hockey presidents will be meeting with us on June 23rd and they will be given the same opportunity. Ms. Connolly stated she has seen an improvement with reaching out this year to get enrollment up this year. They marketed it quite well and I appreciate the work that's been done. We need to come together and be positive; I need to hear positive talk coming out of this group. The vote on the league change has taken place and we need to be positive. Mr. Murray stated it is not just Mr. Arria's charge to increase participation. All the administration has taken this on and the major focus is to reach the students, not just athletics but extracurricular activities as well. Ms. Driscoll said we have to give the athletic department support it is a large responsibility. This just happened and we need to give a little more time. We need to get meaningful updates periodically. Mr. Roberts asked Mr. Arria how long he has been here. (2 years). There was a period of time where there was not a lot of forward movement. We went through a period of inertia where there wasn't an outreach. This is your charge, that's the burden you bear, it is a difficult task.

MINUTES

Ms. Driscoll moved, seconded by Ms. Connolly, to approve the May 27, 2009 minutes.
Approved: Unanimous

DONATIONS

None

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Dexter lease agreements – tabled

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Update on Academic Reporting – where we stand
HS talk about how students are registering for classes. Availability of courses. Data on AP courses and subscription rate.

Motion for Executive Session under exemption 3 made by Ms. Driscoll and seconded by Mr. Healy and it was voted by roll call, Ms. Driscoll-yes, Mr. Coughlin-yes, Mr. Heiser –yes, Mr. Healy-yes, Mr. Ryan-yes, Ms. Connolly-yes, Mr. Roberts-yes.

VOTED: to adjourn.