

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING—May 13, 2009
Town Hall, Lower Conference Room

PRESENT

Dave Roberts, Chair (absent)
Margaret Connolly, Vice Chair
Thomas Ryan (late)
Tracy Driscoll (left early)
John Healy
Kevin Coughlin
Joe Heisler (late)

ADMINISTRATION

June M. Doe, Superintendent
Cynthia Kelly, Asst. Superintendent
Michael La Francesca, Business Manager

Convened: 7:00 PM

Adjourned: 9:09 PM

Vice Chair Connolly opened the meeting and asked for a motion to enter into executive session under Exemption 3 for the purposes of collective bargaining. Motion made by Ms. Driscoll and seconded by Mr. Healy and roll call vote was taken: Ms. Driscoll – yes, Mr. Coughlin – yes, Mr. Healy – yes, Ms. Connolly – yes.

Returned to open session 7:10 p.m.

A motion was made by Ms. Driscoll and seconded by Mr. Ryan to accept the agreement between the School Committee and the Traffic Directors for a period of three years from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011. Approved: Unanimous

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

Mr. La Francesca updated the Committee on new information regarding Chapter 70 state aide further reduction for the fourth quarter. The Governor is allocating stimulus money (SFSF) and we will be required to apply for the reduction (\$413,907) as a grant. The grant application needs to be submitted by May 22. Motion made by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Coughlin to allow the Business office to apply for the SFSF grant. Approved: Unanimous

High School: Juniors Julia Burkett, Julie Berkey and Victoria Sliwa were recently recognized at the National Society of Colonial Dames of America’s luncheon announcing their winning essays. These students will join 60 other winners in Washington DC this summer to participate in a week-long congressional seminar. These three students were selected from a nation-wide pool. Congratulations. “Law Day 2009 – A Legacy of Liberty” will be held Friday, May 15th at the Norfolk County Juvenile Court. Monday, May 18th the high school is holding reception in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Superior Court. Attorney Helen Donahue of Norwood has organized the event. The Occupational Education Department is proud to announce Steve Dewar’s Architecture/CAD class won an engineering design contest sponsored by WS Development and National Amusements, the group building Legacy Place. Mr. Dewar used this contest to provide a real world engineering scenario, giving the group time to brain storm, research and present ideas. The design which was finalized by Dave Delendeck and Matt Fay was entered and they won the contest. The prize was \$1000.

Avery: Grades 1-4 are taking walking field trips to the Endicott Library, Fairbanks House, and the Dedham Historical Society. Brochures have been distributed for the Avery Summer

Institute held in July for all students entering grades 1-5. Thank you to the PTO for daily goodies and plants for Teacher Appreciation Week. Avery Family Fun Night will be held May 29th from 5-7pm.

ECEC: The teachers have been implementing the district's new math program "Everyday Mathematics". The teachers have worked together to develop a pacing guide and review the state standards that correspond to the lessons.

Riverdale: The Riverdale International Fair was held on May 9th. Thanks to all who participated. The results of our reading incentive programs: The MA Children's Book Award program had 95% participation. Get Fired Up for Reading program had 82% participation. Mr. Peter Reynolds visited on May 5th and addressed 1st and 2nd grade classes about writing. Thanks to the PTO for an outstanding Teacher Appreciation Week.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

Ms. Connolly spoke briefly about the Scully Awards held last night. She did not attend but heard great things about them. The Art Fair is tomorrow night at the Middle School. 6pm – 8pm. It is a very nice community event. Our Chair, Mr. Roberts is recovering from his surgery.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

Milo Carpenter spoke about the Scully Awards – he hosted the event. The Prom is on Friday. The Walk-a-thon is coming up. Fundraiser for the sports teams – a two hour walk on May 30th. Graduation is June 3rd. Last day of classes is May 21st. Superintendent Doe asked Milo to speak about his plans for next year. He is going to the College of Wooster.

REPORTS

The Superintendent presented a report on the Educational Model which is being presented for a revote to satisfy requirements of the MSBA process as described in the update to the Master Plan. The plan includes: 1 Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten school; 4 Elementary schools, grades 1-5; 1 Middle School, grade 6-8; and 1 High School, grade 9-12.

Ms. Driscoll questioned a recent article on Milton and Hingham schools that are being required to pay back money due to school closings. Discussion held and there were different issues in those towns. Avery is being funded due to the physical condition and age of the existing building. This vote is a formality in order to go forward with the scope of the project. We are currently looking at the size of the building and the number of students to be housed.

Motion made by Mr. Heisler and seconded by Mr. Healy to approve the Educational Model as presented in the update to the Master Plan. Approved: Unanimous

Update on District Athletics presented by Mr. Tom Arria
Presented a packet of information to Committee members. Refers to MIAA Rule Book which contains limitations as to what coaches can and cannot do. He also summarizes brainstorming with coaches on how to implement the Superintendent's plan. He encourages department-wide fundraisers. The recycling trailer located behind BJ's has been very successful. The coaches are encouraging participation in 2nd and 3rd sports – seeing an increase in participation from last year to this year. We have hired a new field hockey coach, Leigh Shea, graduate of Northeastern University.

Mr. Heisler asked what process is used for evaluating programs and progress. “Do you look at team records?” Mr. Arria responded with several different methods – there is a handbook on the website and there is a checklist.

Mr. Coughlin asked how the coaches are making out with attracting parent volunteers. Also, he asked Mr. Arria’s opinion of “Pride in the Athletics”. He has been talking to coaches a lot. Our kids need that confidence and attitude to compete but he feels they can compete.

Mr. Coughlin inquired about letter jackets? Mr. Arria acknowledged he is talking to the Boosters. This would be a help with the pride factor. He also spoke about the School Store at the HS and MS. This gets the students to wear Dedham gear.

Mr. Ryan would like the coaches to work with the youth programs and have them engage in the community. Encourage the kids to work at their skills year round. Pride has to be developed through hard work and success.

The recommendations made by the Superintendent were voted on and accepted by the School Committee as policy to be implemented.

Update on Bay State Conference, Mr. Santamaria

The Sub-Committee met this morning. Many of the schools are in the same situation with teams that have been struggling for 4 -6 years. Much discussion was held to move forward with the ADs to work toward re-aligning the current conference to break up the divisions by strength of program, changing the schedule to play all teams once in every sport. Work within the conference to make these changes. The Football proposal that has been discussed many times, there was a blurb in Herald about the Football Coaches Association proposal and it is gathering steam. Fear is, if it starts in football, there will be a lot of breakdown of leagues.

Mr. Santamaria gave a brief explanation of how once around and strength of program scheduling works. The boys hockey team will qualify as division 2 team next year.

Scheduling non league games will be beneficial. Mr. Healy asked what the rationale on non-expansion outside league. Mr. Santamaria said it will still be discussed. The football proposal (State football Association) will be the breakup of leagues. By expanding we’d be at a disadvantage if the breakup happens.

Advisory Update:

Mr. Murray and Mr. Rivera

Smooth transition

Reviewed positive and negatives

Every staff member has advisory except Guidance

Meet every 1st and 3rd Monday – haven’t missed one. Thanks for the work they’ve done.

Helps meet Mission Statement

Helps with NEASC accreditation process

Lots of feedback from students. More class specific for next year.

No quality set of days without disrupting end of year to test out new schedule.

Identified as a need – real academic purpose

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

none

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

none

MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Ryan and seconded by Mr. Coughlin to accept the minutes from April 27, 2009 with correction and the May 6, 2009 minutes. Approved: Unanimous

DONATIONS

Donations:

\$250 Norfolk DA – Prom season

Post graduation party

Motion: TR, KC: approved unanimous

Greenlodge PTO – significant fund raising event – golf wine and dine.

Connolly grateful grateful ryan

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

NONE

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Update – goals strategic plan

School Choice vote ? check

Review of Academy Team

VOTED: to adjourn.