

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING—March 4, 2009
Dedham Middle School Auditorium**

PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

Convened: 7:00 PM

Adjourned: 9:35 PM

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Doe introduced Ms. Kathleen Kiewlicz, the newly appointed Greenlodge Elementary School Principal.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

None

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

REPORTS

Ms. Driscoll stated a presentation will be made on the comparative study of the Bay State Conference and the Tri-Valley League. Mr. Santamaria and Mr. Arria will be making the presentation and afterwards they will take questions and answers. Next week will be the public hearing where anyone will have an opportunity to make comments. We also have two guests from the Tri-Valley League, John Kirby president of the league and AD Eric Hunt from Mansfield. The towns included in the Tri-Valley League are:

Ashland	Holliston
Bellingham	Medfield
Westwood	Medfield
Hopkinton	Millis
Norton	Dover-Sherborn

Dedham and Milford were given invitations to join the Tri-Valley League.

Factual presentation will be available on the school's website. Mr. Kirby and Mr. Hunt spoke about their experiences in the Tri-Valley League. More successful schools have more kids playing. There is a direct correlation between success rates and participation rates.

Ms. Flatley asked how the Tri-Valley League intends on addressing the sports that currently aren't supported. Ice Hockey is the only issue right now. Medfield and some other towns are developing swim programs. Wrestling currently has five teams. They **anticipate girls ice**

hockey expanding in the next few years, the economy right now is probably holding that back a little.

Questions from SC members:

Ms. Flatley: How difficult is it to schedule independent games. Only concern would be girls hockey. We are expanding by two, not one. Southeast Massachusetts Girls Hockey League is an independent league. Doesn't feel it would be a concern other than not playing the traditional towns.

Mr. Roberts: What facilities are used for ice hockey. Franklin, Framingham, Natick, Marlboro, and Canton all have rinks.

Mr. Ryan: Travel expenditures – The Tri-Valley League schedules traveling varsity games back to back, combining girls and boys games, could you talk a little about that? We are proud of the concept. Residual benefits – socially, the upperclassmen watch each other play. They travel together. Have double headers with freshman teams to help save in transportation. Makes an event out of the evening and save on transportation costs. There are a lot of creative things that can be done to save on transportation costs.

Ms. Connolly: Where does Dedham fit in the size of the schools - Hopkinton, Holliston, Medfield, Westwood, Medway expand – Milford, Dedham, (largest school of small section) Bellingham, Norton, Ashland, Dover-Sherborn, Millis.

Ms. Connolly: She has received many comments that if we switch leagues students won't have the same opportunities to play in college. There are not many athletic scholarships. Students are more apt to get an academic scholarship.

Will take questions from the audience.

Swim Coach asked how many swim teams in the Tri-Valley? Five swim teams in the winter. Currently it is a dual-county league.

Boys and girls indoor track teams – where do they meet? Hopkinton and Holliston both have indoor tracks.

Where are the swim facilities located? Keith Tech, Wheaton College, and Milford has an on campus pool.

Will there be an increase in user fees? Mr. Ryan replied that we still need to look at the transportation numbers. The administration needs to rework the numbers tonight and come back with more realistic figures.

What percentage of user fees has been waived for students who cannot afford to pay? Mr. Arria did not have the figures immediately available but did say the percentage has increased from last year to this year.

What were the results of survey? We are still tabulating the figures – the information will be available next week.

What incentives do we have for students participate in sports? Would you consider free admission to students who play sports so they could support the other teams? We do rely heavily on our gate receipts to help balance our revolving account. Ideally we would like to have everyone come and watch for free, realistically it is not possible. The cost to hosts games is expensive. \$2000.00 for a hockey game.

Mr. Santamaria stated the need to question Mr. Kirby on his statement that the Middle School transportation numbers were included in what he gave Mr. LaFrancesca in preparing the transportation figures. Mr. Santamaria will be seeking a clarification from Mr. Kirby. Feel strongly at this point the transportation numbers presented are accurate. We will have a clarification at the next meeting.

What percentage of girls swim in the fall who might have to choose in the winter. Highly competitive in the fall. Issue of Title 9 is a tricky issue with many things to consider. All

students should have an opportunity to compete. We must be certain we are doing something to benefit the entire student body. We do not have official word on where Dedham will be placed in the Tri-Valley division. We would be the largest school in the small school division. What is the plan to get more participation in Dedham? In the survey, we asked questions of student non-athletes. Encourage coaches to include youth programs, basketball clinics. Reaching to middle school level and expanding those programs, namely volleyball and lacrosse.

Where are the representatives of the Bay State League? Ms. Driscoll stated we did not invite them, representatives have stated all along that they would gladly be a part of the process. The Tri-Valley representatives were specifically invited to share their information with us. We were providing fact finding forum for questions and answers.

Ms. Matthews: I've done a quick calculation of percentages of girls vs boys wins and it is staggering. What are we doing wrong with the boys or right with the girls? Mr. Arria addressed – in his two years he's been here – he sees the girls doing the work on their own, and we have some talented female athletes. Mr. Santamaria – does not like to see boys focus on one sport, he would like to see them compete in at least 3 sports.

What can we do as adults in the community?

MINUTES

none

DONATIONS

none

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

VOTED: to adjourn.