

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING December 10, 2008
Middle School Auditorium

PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

Convened: 7:00 PM

Adjourned: 8:35 PM

Ms. Driscoll recognized Mrs. Betty Cummings at her last school committee meeting. She will be retiring at the end of December. Mr. Ryan presented a gift on behalf of the School Committee to Ms. Cummings. Mr. Ryan spoke of her accomplishments during her tenure. On behalf of the School Committee thank you very much for your 14 ½ years of dedicated service and making Greenlodge the great place that it is today.

Ms. Driscoll along with Ms. Matthews presented the “Above and Beyond Award” and they are hoping to make it an annual event.

Mrs. Betty Ouelette – Librarian at Oakdale and Riverdale.

Dr. John Laflamme – English Department Chair

Entire Administrative Staff of DHS and teachers, coaches and students who participated in the Open House – Mr. Santamaria accepted award on behalf of the high school.

Student recognition of the award recipients for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship were recognized. Superintendent Doe, Principal Santamaria and Tracy Driscoll presented certificates to the students.

Update by Student Representative, Milo Carpenter

This past weekend, the Drama Club held their production of “Once Upon a Teen”. Mr. Carpenter said there wasn’t a whole lot to report on. Student life seems to be a better, improved environment from past years. It’s a good year.

The School Committee recognized all of the Parent organizations and invited each group to say a few words.

Avery – Mr. Leo Sweeney, Lisa Rivera, Lisa Moran

Principal Sullivan spoke on behalf of the PTO

Holiday Gift Shop, 5th grade raised money for Footsteps of American History field trip with yard sales and bottle drives. PTO is very active. New VP is Dawn Marshall.

Greenlodge PTO – Michelle Labadini

Preparing farewell to Principal Cummings

Annual Fall Tournament which is the biggest fundraiser of the year.

Hope to paint the exterior of the school and repaint the map and 4-square on the hardtop

Greenlodge will be implementing “Safe Routes to School Program” in the spring.

Oakdale PTO – Ann Mercer

The focus of our PTO is on the educational experiences of our children.

The Sponsorship Drive, which is run all year, helps to fund bus transportation for field trips, enrichment activities, books for library, portable white boards/easels. We were also able to purchase three Smart Boards and enhance the quiet play area. We have awarded two 500.00 scholarships to Dedham HS graduates. Support families with financial hardships.

Riverdale PTO – Principal Claypool

Spoke on behalf of the wonderful PTO. Recently, they have collected a lot of donations to help families in need. Holiday Shop, which is a 5th grade fundraiser – will be open all day Thursday and Friday. Holiday fest will be held next Monday, serving pizza and pasta with entertainment by the 5th grade chorus. Spring Fair, highlight of the year is the day before Mothers Day.

MS Parents Group – Dimitria Sullivan

Introduced members who were present. Worked with Principal Ruggere this year and last year to increase school spirit. Some of the programs and events we support are: Hunt for Literacy; we were able to donate \$1000.00, Classic Edge made a donation of \$500.00, successful family trivia night with 17 teams. Opening Day events with the new athletic programs, basketball and baseball. Hope to have a scavenger hunt for students and involve the parents this year.

HS – Madelyn Marino

Mission is to offer services to membership keeping them informed and serves as an interest to keep communication flowing between the HS community and the community at large. They do not hold fundraisers, but have dues of \$25.00. Hosted Dr. Clements Geldin , Medical Director Mass General Hospital, Sports medicine Division. Spoke on adolescent sports injuries. Additional speakers throughout the year “How to apply for financial aid” and the February meeting – college admission process.

SEPAC – Lynn Canavan

Parents/guardians who represent the children in ages 3-22 on who are on IEP’s and 504 plans in and out of district. State mandated. The motto of the group is “Every child has the right to be different”. Meetings are held every month and they try to bring in speakers ADD & ADHD, bullying prevention. Everyone is welcome to come. Jan. 22 next meeting – author, Math strategies for learning disabled students. Feb 26 social skills

DEP – Dimitria Sullivan

Formed in 2005 by the DPS school administrators and endorsed by members of the School Committee. Partnership includes school representatives, administrators, a parent from each school. The DEP recently received status as a non-profit organization. Some of our accomplishments include:

Candidate night, MCAS interactive presentation, and school district surveys. The Pipeline – monthly newsletter, we went electronic about 2 years ago. Have been able to fund translations – 40 documents for school dept. Spanish, French and Arabic. The DOE has mandated this program which is unfunded. Successful fundraiser – Dancing with the Stars made about \$16K December 13th – Prime Honda and Toyota are hosting “Breakfast with Santa” a free event from 9am to noon.

DEF – Gemma Martin

The DEF was founded in 1991 to support and enrich the schools. Over the years we have given over \$200K grants. Ms. Martin introduced Susan Fay who chaired the Grants meetings this year and will speak on the grants given out. 29 grants funded – up in dollar amount but a little down in numbers this year. In addition, the annual spelling bee will be held March 27th. The Flocks of

Flamingos will appear in May. Also considering a road race. The Teacher Appreciation Dinner was not held this year and the board is hoping to bring it back in the future.

Ms. Moran is on the Board of Directors at the Community House and she was asked to inquire about the policy on sending flyers home in the backpacks. They were denied and a few days later other flyers came home on the Rotary Christmas Tree lighting and the Prime Honda Santa event. Why did those go through and they were denied. Mr. Roberts responded by saying there is a Policy sub-committee meeting scheduled, Tuesday at 5:00p.m. We will be discussing that particular issue. January 14 will be the next School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

HS congratulations to the Drama club – Once Upon a Teen. Ms. Marjory Bohan is organizing two school wide assemblies, which have been funded by the DEF. On December 23rd, the students will see “Hear This” which is sponsored by the Norfolk District Attorney William Keating Community Outreach Unit. James Cooper is the featured speaker. On January 7th, the students will be treated to “I am Dirt”. This is a one-man show written and produced by John Morrell on substance abuse and choices. On December 9th the DHS administration delivered the official application package to the Tri-Valley League.

Elementary:

Riverdale recently held a very successful book fair. The students also shared the win with Greenlodge on the DEA Volleyball tournament on December 8th at the Middle School. Holiday fest will be held Monday December 15th.

Greenlodge students celebrated family literacy month during November. A total of 463 forms were turned in. Acting Principal, Ron Dziergowski has begun the transition from 4th grade teacher to our interim principal. We welcome Ms. Jenny Hopkins as the classroom teacher who will be filling in for Mr. Dziergowski for the remainder of the school year.

Oakdale Grade 5 student council will be “caroling for coins” and all proceeds will be donated to the Jimmy Fund. The fall enrichment program is wrapping up. 13 classes ran with 197 students participating.

Avery student council will be visiting O’Neil Drive, visiting with the Senior citizens, singing Christmas carols, and sharing homemade snacks. Avery students are preparing for the “All School reading incentive program” beginning in January. Also, they are participating in “Coats for Kids” campaign through December 23rd.

And finally, Construction Monitoring Services, CMS – has been selected as the Owner’s Construction Management Company for the Avery School project. They were the unanimous choice by the interview committee.

Progress reports were distributed to parents on Friday, December 5th. Conferences will be held during the month of December. All schools will hold the annual Holiday Concerts. The 5th grade chorus will also be performing at Dedham Institute for Savings

CHAIR’S UPDATE

None

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

None

MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved, seconded by Ms. Matthews, and it was VOTED: to accept the December 3, 2008 minutes – Mr. Healy abstained from vote.

DONATIONS

Mr. Arria – \$50.00 donation from Mr. & Mrs. Monaghan to Dedham athletics with a matching gift from Reebok.

Dedham Boosters - \$1000.00 – used to defray the cost of renting the portable lights for the night game on Friday, Oct. 3rd.

Leuders Environmental - \$50.00

Occupational Education Dept. – letter requesting acceptance of donation of numerous cars

Dedham Institution of Savings - \$20K toward library books, \$10,000 for HS and \$10,000 for MS. We are delighted at this award.

Ms. Connolly made a motion to accept all donations with grateful appreciation, seconded by Ms. Matthews, and it was VOTED: to accept the donations.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

None

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

January 14 – Based on budget calendar Mr. LaFrancesca will be presenting budget

Status of Freshman Academy

District Lines and recommendation and forming committee

Discussion held on vote of District Calendar for next year. Mr. Roberts suggested voting tentatively to approve, but give people a chance to digest it. Mr. Roberts made a motion to tentatively approve at this time the DPS 2009-2010 calendar and consider a formal vote at the next meeting in January, seconded by Ms. Connolly. Approved: Unanimous.

Need for Executive Session. Mr. Roberts so moved under exemption three and it was voted by roll call: Mr. Roberts, yes, Mr. Healy, yes, Ms. Connolly yes, Ms. Matthews yes, Mr. Ryan yes, Ms. Driscoll yes.

Mr. Ryan moved, seconded by Ms. Connolly, and it was VOTED: to adjourn.