

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING—October 7, 2008**  
**Lower Conference Room, Town Hall**

**PRESENT**

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

**ADMINISTRATION**

**June M. Doe, Superintendent**  
**Cynthia Kelly, Asst. Superintendent**  
**Michael LaFrancesca**

Convened: 7:12 p.m.

Adjourned: 9:18 p.m.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Pleased to report that a team of HS teachers have been accepted to participate in TEC Grant and congratulate them on their willingness to participate.

Dedham HS Booster Club decal drive will be held Sunday Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> from 11-3 Dedham High School athletes will be going door to door seeking donations and selling the newly designed decal.

Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, under direction of Police Dept. conducted a drug sweep of Dedham High School and Middle School. A team of 7 canines and handlers conducted a sweep of schools and parking lot and are pleased to report nothing found.

Ready to launch 2<sup>nd</sup> training for Developmental Designs, MS Program of Responsive Classroom. 20 teachers participating in 5 day training. Credit to Mrs. Kelly, not easy to coordinate. October 20-24<sup>th</sup>. Introduce Maysa Santos, student at DHS – 1 of 2 School Committee reps. Milo Carpenter could not be with us tonight. Bio on Maysa: Moved from Watertown a year ago. Senior at Dedham High. I spend my time tutoring children with communication disorders. Goal to become a corporate lawyer. Special undertaking – 16yr old student in 4<sup>th</sup> grade from El Salvadore. Moved here about 2 months ago. She doesn't speak any English and is really behind. I offered to tutor her every day. Her math level is very good. Parents are having a hard time transferring her records, but she should be with us next week.

The mailing for Adult Education went out to all residents today. Hope to get a large response. Kathy Oravetz, teacher at the Middle School – working on for 3 years. Thank you, to her for her hard work.

**CHAIR'S UPDATE**

skip

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

none

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS**

none

**REPORTS**

**Dr. LaFlamme presents report on Vocabulary Development:**

The vocabulary program being presented tonight has actually been phased in. One part in it's third year and one in it's first year. Combines roots, prefixes, suffixes, word families and instruction in context.

Dr. LaFlamme introduced other English teachers who were present: Megan Unger, Cheryl Scarsciotti, Andrew Patterson, Sue Lyons, Liz Hegerty, Rebecca Weber.

Kelly Shultz MS, English – grade 6-12 presented:

Learning Vocabulary: Roots and Prefixes portion of program

Presented a handout to the School Committee. Ms. Shultz took the S.C. through how she uses the program in her classroom.

Carol Margolis HS, talked about the combination context roots and prefixes and introducing students to idea of getting multiple strategies for finding out definitions of unknown words. New program this year. Ms. Margolis took the S.C. through how she uses the program in her classroom.

### **Grade 10 MCAS Report, presented by: Mr. Santamaria, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Nelson**

Sophomores continue to demonstrate progress in ELA- 82% scored Proficient/Advanced

Proficient improved from 47% in 2007-55% in 2008

18% scored needs improvement in 2008 from 24% in 2007

Science results placed us tied for 7<sup>th</sup> in the entire State

Math: 85% scored Proficient/Advanced

Improved advanced scores from 50% in 2006 to 54% 2007. We are happy to be able to sustain and improve this category. The failure rate has decreased from 7% to 1%. 98% of students passed the Math MCAS test.

Science and Technology: 90% scored Proficient/Advanced in Biology, 97% passed the test.

Overall we are pleased. Thank all staff – truly a team effort. Every staff member is well versed in proctoring exams. Teachers practice MCAS type questions so students recognize the format.

Dr. LaFlamme and Mr. Hickey are also here.

Mr. Santamaria presented slides on overview of the last 4 years. The trends are significant.

Ms. Driscoll inquired about Chemistry and Technology tests – 4 students Chemistry, 5

Engineering/Technology 1 warning in Chemistry, 2 in Technology. Putting together remedial program

John Murray talked about Competency Determination.

Students must pass ELA AND MATH

2009 – score 220 to satisfy requirement

NCLB – 2014 all students will need to be proficient. Massachusetts is jumping ahead: Class 2010 and beyond – 240 or above on ELA and Math. If a student scores below 240 – EPP provide services to demonstrate proficiency. One way to identify is through the Plato Math program – identify weaknesses. Princeton Review for ELA – EPP provides services in after school programs. Students that have been identified will need to take these courses in order to graduate.

Science – score of 220 or above.

Mr. Roberts had a question on how to measure proficiency.

Ms. Doe commented they can use other diagnostics to document proficiency.

Ms. Matthews wanted to point out we've spent years getting where we are and she can't let this moment go by without lauding everyone – this is a day for celebration. Sustained achievement not a one year blip. Dedham is performing extremely well. We proved we can do it.

Thank you Mr. Santamaria and all the other administrators. It is great to create a generation of kids that are well rounded.

Mrs. Richburg had a question about EPP. Concerned about after school. Mr. Murray responded to her concerns. Meet with counselor – plan together to achieve proficiency. After school is not the only avenue. Multitude of inputs tailored to student needs.

Mrs. Richburg: Are assessments going to be at the end of the year or monthly. Mr. Santamaria responded that it would be an ongoing assessment recorded on EPP.

### **Grade 6-8 MCAS Report presented by Mr. Ruggere, Mr. Boles.**

Pleased in direction we're headed. Thanks for the support of software last year. Plato and My Access.

Identified students that will need help. Process of developing ISSP's.

Slides presented:

AYP data –

This year we exceeded target 74.9 – 79.9 - CPI index score was actually 82.1.

Special Ed sub group in Math – grew 11.1 points on index – we exceeded AYP.  
Did make AYP in all sub groups and overall as a school.  
Grade 6: ELA 87% scored Advanced/Proficient\Open response questions are an area of concern.  
Look on scale – moving in right direction  
Discussed improvement plans – continue to use software.  
Grade 6 Math – numbers remain same - relatively. We will be looking at closely.  
Grade 7 ELA – moving in right direction\concerns in quality of open response questions.  
Math – moving up  
Grade 8 ELA 88% Advanced/Proficient – really pleased – great effort.\weakness in open response questions.  
Math – huge leap – 52% Advanced/Proficient.\concerns, data analysis and open response.  
Science – very proud of, moved from 22% to 40% Proficient. The ship has turned and we are sailing in the right direction.  
Discussion held by Committee -  
Open response as a weakness? Hard to capture – how are we attacking? Mr. Boles responded: more writing across the classrooms. Routine – dissecting the questions. More practice the better they get at it. Assessment drives the instruction. Ms. Matthews comment – 75% of middle schools in the State did not make AYP – we should feel proud. Concern expressed for number of kids in warning. What is the program specifically for them? Mr. Boles responded: Guidance, Teachers and Administration – developing an individual plan per student through ISSP.  
Mrs. Richburg: ISSP are they state driven? Ms. Doe commented that they are mandated for failed students, Dedham does it for needs improvement. Mrs. Doe – all grades or just for 10<sup>th</sup> grade. High stakes – diploma driven. Goal is to have students pass MCAS in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. So we don't have to play catch up. ?ISSP is that information carried to HS? Does anyone look at it? Yes and yes.  
Ms. Doe commented that the open response training on how students read and respond to open responses starts at elementary level.  
Ms. Doe would like to acknowledge the SC and their support of Plato. Prior year 8<sup>th</sup> grade text in math. We are seeing the benefits of both of those financial commitments. Thank you.

### **Middle School French – Grade 8 trip to Quebec**

Mrs. Bradley – annual request to take a trip out of the country

Quebec Chaperones:

Elizabeth Bird

Chris Naddeau

Christine Farrell

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are very enthusiastic about the study of French. Planning started in late spring. The company is “Visit Canada” information in packets. Picked a March date because it doesn't interfere with MCAS and family plans. Students will be missing 2 days of school. Are required to make up time. At this time, they have 25 students interested in trip. Fundraising is in future. Hoping to be able to go forward with trip.

Mr. Roberts has a question regarding tour operators and travel agent – insurance policy. The Town has to be named on the certificate of insurance.

Supt. Doe recommends approval of this trip. **A motion made to recommend approval of trip made by J. Healy, second J. Flatley. Motion passed: Unanimous**

### **Asst. Superintendent Kelly reports on Professional Development**

Gave a report on a very successful ½ day last Thursday. Many programs were presented. Very good reports from staff, filled out evaluations. Teachers and teaching assistants participated.

Spoke with presenters – impressed with staff

All of these programs tie in with the District Improvement Plan that was approved.

Professional development will continue on November 4<sup>th</sup> for full day of professional development. All programs tie into district improvement plan. Benjamin Zander – Art of Possibility – speaker

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**MINUTES**

No minutes available

**DONATIONS**

none

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Draft of potential agendas and dates

Athletic team update

School and Community Groups come in PTO's , DEF,DEP

Ms. Doe: the DEP is scheduled to come regarding a donation 10/22.

Ms. Flatley: SC right to take position on Ballot Question 1 – eliminating income tax. If passed, impact is well beyond what we can imagine. Put something together for next meeting. Letter to the Editor? Vote next time.

**ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

Athletic league meeting 10/15 – update

Elementary MCAS presentation

Position on Ballot Question 1

**OTHER, IF ANY**

Executive Session, If Necessary

The open session concluded. The committee made a motion to go into Executive Session under exemption 3 for the purposes discussions relative to contract negotiations.

**VOTED:** by roll call to go into executive session. Ms. Flatley – yes, , Mr. Roberts – yes, Ms. Driscoll – yes, Mr. Ryan – yes, Mr. Healy – yes. Ms. Matthews – yes. Ms. Connolly - absent Moved. 9:18 p.m.