

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING—September 10, 2008**  
**Lower Conference Room, Town Hall**

**PRESENT**

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

**ADMINISTRATION**

**June M. Doe, Superintendent**  
**Cynthia Kelly, Asst. Superintendent**  
**Michael La Francesca, Asst. to the Superintendent**

Convened: 7:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 9:35 p.m.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Introduction of new staff:

Mr. Santamaria – High School  
Laura Britt  
Megan Ball- alt. Program  
Patrick Devlin – Science  
Mark Norman – Science  
Katie O'Regan – Foreign Language  
Kristen Penta – English  
Jason Mastrogiacommo – Math  
Marlene Paul – Alternative Program  
Nelson Rivera – Vice Principal

Mr. Ruggere – Middle School  
Juliette Guierrez – Math  
Maureen Lothrop – Foreign Lang  
Kelly Metzger – Library Media  
Spec.  
Cheryl Rice – Social Studies  
Pamela Rutecki – Foreign Lang  
Sarah Tapply – Reading  
Christopher Nadeau – Foreign Lang  
Carolynn Downes – Math  
Heidi O'Donnell – Science  
Kara Birritieri – Science  
Bill Cusick – Science

Jeremy Blynn – Math  
  
Elementary:  
Hollie Armstrong – Oakdale School  
Melissa Rabbit – LT Sub 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Sarah Fraine – SPED  
Jayma Constantino –  
Kerin Carta – 1:1  
Judy Nickley – gr 5  
Melissa Quintal – LT Sub  
Clare Sullivan – Avery School  
Joan Sandry – Title 1  
Marie Hyler – Reading  
Julia Ridgway –  
Sara Hausman – looping class  
Caitlin Sinclair – Title 1  
Krista Bagkioni – TA  
Abbie Spencer - LT sub 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Ann Keady – 1:1 TA  
Karen Farey – 1:1 TA  
  
Betty Cummings – Greenlodge  
School  
Liz Loughran – resource room

Emilee Kelley – TA 5<sup>th</sup>  
Lisa Siletti – team based learning ctr  
Sara McMorris – aide  
Meg McGilvery – aide  
Ben Abrahams – aide  
Shauna Moloney – aide  
Crisley Wood – Science Ctr.

Doris Claypool – Riverdale School  
Virginia Wan – Elementary Special  
Ed. Coord  
Ashley Wilson – PE  
Jeremy MacKenzie  
Susan DeRosier  
Susan Graceffa – aide

Heidi Dineen – ECEC  
Emily Bookbinder  
Janice O'Connor  
Mary Desandro – title 1  
Susan O'Keefe

We spent a lot of time selecting candidates. Enjoy a successful year together. Thank you and welcome.  
Break while new teachers left.

Update: Thank secretaries, custodians, teachers and students for successful opening on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Smooth return. Principals and Asst Principals thank you.

HS – 789 students welcomed back. Little bit of an increase over last year. Homecoming semi-formal  
dance has been rescheduled to Sat. Nov.8. due to conflict with band competition on 10/18.

Thanks to Mrs. Margolis, Ms. Young – assuming role of NHS advisors.

## CHAIR'S UPDATE

Continue to update on negotiations. Held latest meeting on Sept. 8, and Oct. 1 next meeting. Continue meeting w/selectmen.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

T. Carpenter: As a parent, he's proud to see so many new teachers. Concerned with HS class size. Both his kids are in classes that the numbers exceed what is educationally appropriate. For example: Honors Chem 26 students – not enough desks in class and questionable whether labs can be conducted safely. AP Biology 25 students, AP History has 26, Journalism – 31. Extensive writing requirements that involves individual feedback from teacher. How can a teacher effectively conference with students? Equity issue w/students and teachers. Disproportionate and burden on staff. What are your plans to address?

TD: Haven't had an update on class size currently. Will look at those numbers.

JD: Science and social studies staff increased.

Will look into and get back.

Parent question: Where has the staff been allocated? Teacher expressing concern over class size is disappointing. AP Biology.

JD – significant increase in number of classes. Glad to see increase in interest in AP courses. Not budget wise in a position in current fiscal year to divide classes - fiscally responsible to split 26 into two classes. 1.3 addition in Science and 1 new position in Social Studies. Goal is to see increases of numbers of students participating (successfully) with qualifying scores. We will look at staffing as we see those changes. Add/Drop has not concluded.

TD: Journalism w/31 students. Is there a cut off or is that number allowed?

Dr. LaFlamme – 3 different levels of Journalism classes. Class has grown. Looking at numbers.

JF: look at physical limits of chemistry lab w/class size.

Mr. Carpenter: are some classes getting smaller? Honors Calculus class w/32.

Mary Alice Misuta: Some classes capped at 17. Academy team – pilot program in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

MM: Management and balance issue from year to year.

JD: After add drop period you'll have your class size reports – accurate information

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

Report from Gail Kelley, Nurse Supervisor: Effects of non-funded grant on nursing staff

History of grant – Since 2001 – funded by DPH

We were approved last year, but unfunded.

Background of Nursing staff: 1997 1.5 nurses at HS. In 2001 voted to have – 1 nurse in each building

Applied for grant - \$103K/year – later reduced to \$70K/year

Utilized grant to improve equipment and space, improved nurses offices.

State approved a group of schools and Dedham was in the second run – hopeful that money would come through.

Effects of Staffing Reduction:

Will need to apply for a waiver for vision and hearing screening because all grades will not be screened, as in previous years. Important aspect in ability to learn – not all pediatricians perform these screenings.

Will need to pick an option to offer.

Statistics:

2007-08 school year: HS managed 3600 office visits, MS - managed 1836 office visits,

HS-1400 administered standing orders Tylenol, MS – 300 standing orders. These standing orders keeps kids in school. Nurses office 1<sup>st</sup> contact for at risk students – safe place to go. Channel kids to counselors.

Individual health care plans for a large amount of students. Reluctant to eliminate standing orders.

Maintain and try to manage – Professional development and sick days

Since 2001 – never had a school w/o nurse – stretched beyond abilities

Substitute nursing coverage – issues w/ pay - \$90/day. Availability is difficult

Request – to reinstate position, Budget Sub Committee

Discussion:

Geri Kelly – documentation isn't what it should be –there is no time. Big safety issue cutting that position.

MB Stone –Originally hired as a float. Substance abuse assessments have escalated. Alternative program – spend a lot of time with them. Medication, EPI-pens, increased health care needs. Was very impressed with Dedham - team that works together. Student Assistance team. Emphasize good things happen in health program.

Cheryl Driscoll – Teacher for over 30 years - speaking as parent. Tops nursing staff.

MM: We are getting bombarded with needs – we are listening, but we need to prioritize. How will you manage? Will look to you for input on prioritizing.

Maria Antinuccio- HS Nurse, concerned with quality of care, including staff. Increase TEC, Administration, Youth Commission in addition to mandated work.

TD: document how many times TEC kids are seen?

GK: If more funding comes in – applied to next on list.

DR: How much time is taken up by recordkeeping?

TD: Shift paperwork to secretarial staff?

Geri K: MS sports starts 2<sup>nd</sup> week of school when nurse is busiest.

Budget sub: Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

TD: Thank you all for your input.

MM: Move SC meeting to Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> due to Yom Kippur – will get back on decision.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

Power Point presentation presented by C. Kelly

Copies given to all SC members.

Questions:

MC: New program – MS guidance – Positive Mentoring, Seminar? JD: Curriculum change in MS. Special Needs – Alternative HS Study pg. 18-19. JD: Goal to initiate study.

DR: Pg. 8 – extended day - instrumental music program at elementary level. Pilot program – after school, fee based grant funded.

JF: page 17. Accreditation process

JD: Major part not just about academics – support services, that's why it's in both places. Academic and Support services.

MM: Clarifying expectations for summer work – where is that?

JD: Individual school improvement plans will address.

MM: Protocol – how will you measure results and report back.

JD: Living document – for parts of it every 6-8 weeks update for some parts that are moving forward. Also, an Annual report. As things are completed then we can add new things. School Improvements Plans will line up with this. Every teacher and administrator has to write goals aligned with District Improvement plan.

TR: Talked a lot last year about bullying, where is that located?

JD: addressed in #2. and #3. Building positive relationships.

JH: Thank the administration for creating the document.

JD: Good blueprint – ambitious. Clearly laid out for what we're working on.

Elementary level – enrichment programs page 25. Have level reading at all elementary.

Pushing and challenging to students abilities. Page 6.

Motion made J.Flatley to approve Strategic Plan 2008-2013, Second, John Healy. Approved: Unanimous

## SUMMER READING/MATH

J. Laflamme: 80% students completed requirements for Honors

15% are under review, did not pass the test, but have opportunity to take test, some students very close to passing. 4 students asked to be reinstated. Deadline this Friday and all 4 are on track. 9<sup>th</sup> grade – 17 students under review. Reason: two books were particular problems. 97% of students will have met requirements. Little bit higher than last year.

Current practice of moving students who do not meet the requirements to Level 1. Looking to change policy for next year, to prevent jockeying students at beginning of school year. Have students sign a contract in June about summer reading – to prevent trying to squeeze students into class schedules. Attendance at summer reading testing on 7/9 - 59 students showed up. 148 showed up on the last two days of testing. Trying to push to involve parents more – read the books with their kids, engage in discussions with their kids.

Elementary:

Avery Sept. 26 assembly – celebrating. 51% returned summer reading, 71% returned summer math packets

Oakdale = 69% participation in summer reading. 78% participation in summer math packets.

Greenlodge: Assembly 1<sup>st</sup> day and we collect all the work that day – displayed at open house. 89% participated in math packet, 80% participated in reading. Grade 1 69% brought back reading packet.

Riverdale: 218 students – 186 brought back reading or math. 137 did both. 81% participation 60% both math & reading. October 17<sup>th</sup> will hold assembly to celebrate.

Math: Grade 5-6 197 - 86% attempted to complete, 14% did not do anything

Grade 6-7 92% passing in credible attempt of Math, 8%, did not do anything

Parents sign contract

Grade 7-8, 217 87% completion 13% did not do anything

AP Stats class – 18/21 completed

Calc Honors – 26/28 completed, 2 incomplete

AP Calc – all completed

## ACTION ITEMS:

### MINUTES

Acceptance of August 6, 2008 minutes

Motion to accept made by D Roberts, second M. Connolly. Approved: Unanimous

### DONATIONS

Two teachers along with their husbands:

Janice and David O'Connor – painted her classroom. Did a great job.

Julianne and Jim Lally – ECEC – painted her classroom and ceiling with clouds and butterflies.

Donation from Greenlodge parents: Jeff Turell

Printer valued at \$3200.00 HP LJ 0940D printer

Motion to accept with grateful appreciation, M. Connolly, second, J. Healy. Approved: Unanimous

### OLD/NEW BUSINESS

J. Healy: presented Citation from Norfolk County DA to Christopher Campbell, in recognition of 12 years of service to the Dedham School Department. June Doe accepted on his behalf.

Reminder to Warrant Committee to be more diligent with signing the warrants.

#### ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Mrs. Reisner – positive peer relationships  
Page missing (Second science page)  
Mediation program at MS  
Introduction ?  
Next meeting 9/24.  
Mrs. McCormick – more detailed AP report  
Presentation – officers from PTO's to give presentations – what their initiatives are for the year  
9/24 MCAS scores AYP data\  
List – school improvement plan when they're due. Revise and add  
Prep for special town meeting?  
Budget sub update on facility work – Brian Lynch update to summer work.

#### OTHER, IF ANY

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, Ms. Connolly – yes, Mr. Roberts – yes, Ms. Driscoll – yes, Mr. Ryan – yes, Mr. Healy – yes. Approved. 9:35 p.m.