

**DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

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**MEETING MINUTES  
May 27, 2015**

**MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:**

Tom Ryan, Chair	Susan Butler-Walko, Vice Chair	Jen Barsamian
Kevin Coughlin	Mayanne Briggs	Lisa Laprade
Rachel McGregor		

**MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Michael Welch, Superintendent  
Dr. Cynthia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent  
Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance

Meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

**RECOGNITION AND AWARDS**

**NEW ENGLAND MATH LEAGUE STUDENTS**

Nancy Clement and Principal Gately presented the Middle School New England Math League Student awards. High Achievers by Grade Level.

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
John Wilkinson	Allison Reilly	Isha Havale
Samer Berghol	Connor Laurino	Gina Pasciuto
Daniel Pascuito	Connor Mudge	Amelia Layne
Matthew Thissell	Carmelo Cedrone	Peter Chirokas
Eric Reilly	Ryan Vassalotti	Gary Kapllani
Calvin Peterson		

**STUDENT UPDATE - Alison Sullivan**

Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> was the Junior / Senior prom beginning with pictures at the Endicott estate with dancing at Lake Pearl. Congratulations go out to Sean Kineavey and Mary Kate Coughlin who won Prom King and Queen! Last week was the seniors last week of official classes at DHS.

Alison thanked Mr. McCarthy, the parent group and the cafeteria ladies for creating an ice-cream sundae bar for their last day of classes! This week is the senior finals week. If students maintain a B average through the year including term four, they are exempt from the finals. The Spring sports banquet was last night. The Boosters put on a great award night for all spring athletes. Female athlete of the year was awarded to Samantha Girard who will be attending Holy Cross to play hockey next year. She was a tri season 4 years varsity athlete. Male athlete of the year honors went to Ronnie Pucci. Ronnie was also a three season varsity athlete and the recipient of the Boston Bruin's sportsmanship award. Ronnie will be a proud member of the Marines after graduation. .

Monday June 1<sup>st</sup> is senior week, with class night rehearsals in the auditorium at 9:15 AM followed by the senior class outing at Endicott at 11 AM. Monday evening is also the Superintendent's dinner at MIT House honoring the top students of the class of 2015. Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup> is senior class night. This is where DHS will honor the class of 2015 and many individual graduates with an awards presentation that begins at 6PM. All graduates are required to attend and parents and guests are invited as well. After the awards presentations there will be a buffet dinner in the cafeteria for students and their guests to conclude the evening. Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup> is the senior class trip to Six Flags. The buses will leave at 7:30AM sharp and return around 6:30pm. Thursday and Friday there will be required graduation rehearsals in the gym at 9:30AM. Graduation will be at 1:00 next Saturday at the turf.

For the rest of the district, Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> is an early release professional development day. June 8<sup>th</sup> is the Biology MCAS. June 16<sup>th</sup> is the Junior Book Awards in the DHS Auditorium and Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup> is the final day of classes for the high school. Finals for the freshman, Sophomores and Juniors will begin on Friday June 19<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. The last official school day for the elementary schools and the Middle school is Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

This Saturday is Dancing with the Dedham Stars! The High School group has been practicing for twelve weeks now and we are ready to perform at Moseley's. The stars and other groups have also been practicing since February with double and triple sessions this week. Thank you to the members of the DEP for sponsoring this event and allowing the high school students to be part of such a fun night.

Alison thanked the members of the School Committee, Principal McCarthy and Superintendent Welch for allowing her the honor of representing Dedham High School at the School Committee meetings, and looks forward to returning someday.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

- Mr. Welch met with the Scholarships Trust Commission last Tuesday.
- Instructional Rounds meeting was last Tuesday - very productive.
- This week the district has experience Verizon phone service issue and thanked the Facility folks.
- Mr. Welch attend the Scully Awards Night at the High School.

- The Town Meeting was held last week - the school budget was passed.
- The Middle School is expanding Special Education. Mr. Welch thanked Kathy Gaudreau.
- Discussions regarding the hiring season. HR Manager, Asha Marshall is working hard. 1400 applicants over the month and a half have applied on-line. There are 31 open positions in the district. and large hiring committees and administrative searches. 14 Unit A teachers have announced they are retiring. They will be recognized at the June 17th meeting.
- The Town will be presenting an IT study at the Board of Selectmen meeting tomorrow night.
- PARCC forum - replacing the MCAS exam. Mr. Welch stated he is very pleased we that the district stayed with the MCAS exam.
- Last Tuesday the last Aspiring Leaders academy final meeting. The presenter was Teachers21 - John D'Auria.
- Mr. Welch attended the MASS Superintendent meeting in Marlboro - Superintendents were urged to start school before labor day and to consider one week instead of two vacation weeks.
- May 19 visit from visitors from Singapore.
- Senior activities - it has been a very busy week
- 21 days of school remaining and students working very hard

### **CHAIR'S UPDATE**

- Mr. Ryan clarified that the 31 staff positions are not new positions, staff are retiring.
- Mr. Ryan thanked Mrs. Butler-Walko for Alison's gift
- SBRC meeting last night - voted on a substitute motion to not to take any action at this time, the matter pending before the committee

### **REPORTS**

#### **Dedham Public School - Coordinated Program Review (CRR) - ELE Corrective Action Plan - Dr. Cynthia Kelly**

Dr. Kelly presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the ELE Corrective Action Plan that was submitted 2/6/15 and received by the DESE on 4/26/15 for Civil Rights and Special Education. This PowerPoint presentation has been downloaded to the Dedham Public School Website on the main district page under "Presentations".

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## OLD/NEW BUSINESS

### SBRC UPDATE:

- Discussions took place regarding the SBRC meeting.
- KBA couldn't make the meeting tonight.
- Mr. Coughlin and Mrs. Briggs stated their disappointment to see another study and hoping KBA will look at Dexter stand alone again.
- Mr. Ryan received a letter today, stating we are still in the process.
- Mrs. Barsamian asked if we are prepared to walk away from the process.
- Mr. Ryan stated that the board did not feel comfortable selecting the options last night and suggested talking to SBRC members to see where the process takes us from here.
- Mrs. Barsamian stated she would like to give Dexter a shot, the same shot that the combo was given.
- Mr. Welch shared the same disappointment. He suggested the School Committee can show some degree of initiative.
- Mrs. McGregor stated that the building is not a good place to be. Conversations between the combo and Dexter came with a huge price tag. Hoping to look at it again to accommodate the students.
- Conversations continued regarding staying on track, staying the course.
- Mrs. Briggs discussed the Robin Reyes fund.
- Mrs. Blume, from Altoona Road made a public statement. She stated she left confused and disappointed last night. Agrees with the board to stay on track.
- Mr. Ryan stated that this is under consideration.

### AUDIT FINDINGS - Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance

Mr. Rippin read the Scheduled 4 findings from the "Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures Over Compliance Applicable to Massachusetts School District End-Of-Year Pupil and Financial Report" for the Dedham Public Schools for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014 from certified public accountants Powers & Sullivan.

Mr. Welch thanked Mr. Rippin for his hard work with the finances with the number of changes at the town hall.

### CONTINUED SBRC UPDATE:

Mr. Coughlin stated he would like to see a motion for KBA to take a look at Dexter. Mrs. Laprade asked questions about Dedham being invited back. Mr. Welch stated that 106 applications grants were received by MSBA this year, 15 were asked to enter the pipeline for future building. Mrs. McGregor stated she wants to move forward, looking deeper at Dexter from KBA.

**Mrs. Briggs motioned that SBRC and KBA come up with a viable and affordable option at the Dexter School property for a new home for the ECEC, seconded by Mrs. Laprade, voted unanimous.**

## **TEC AGREEMENT DISCUSSION AND VOTE**

Mrs. Briggs read the new changes to The Education Cooperative Collaborative Agreement regarding membership dues and other language changes.

**Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept the TEC Agreement with the amended changes, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko, voted unanimous.**

Mr. Welch thanked Mrs. Briggs for attending and representing the district at the TEC meetings.

## **MINUTES**

**Motion made by Mr. Coughlin to accept the May 6, 2015 School Committee minutes, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko, voted unanimous.**

## **DONATIONS**

1. Mrs. Butler-Walko motioned to accept the donation from the District Attorney Safe Schools Operation grants to upgrade 2-way radios costing \$663.54, seconded by Mrs. McGregor with grateful appreciation. Voted unanimous.
2. Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept with grateful appreciation, the donation of the new weight room equipment at the High School from the DHS Alumni Association and Boosters Club costing \$18,500. Proceeds were from the Trivia Night, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, voted unanimous.

Mr. Ryan thanked the Boosters and Alumni Association for their support. H also thanked Nancy Clement. Mr. Welch thanked Nancy Clement and Bob Crisp for the hard questions at the Trivia Night which benefited a lot of kids.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Mrs. Barsamian's last School Committee meeting will be June 3, 2015 as she will be stepping down from the School Committee. Mrs. Barsamian stated this has been a difficult decision but the wonderful opportunity to move to her childhood home.

Mr. Ryan nominated Mrs. Laprade for the Finance Committee.

Mr. Ryan stated the need to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining and pending litigation. Roll call vote taken:

Mr. Coughlin - Yes, Mrs. Briggs - Yes, Mrs. Barsamian - Yes, Mrs. Laprade - Yes, Mrs. McGregor - Yes, Mrs. Butler-Walko - Yes, Mr. Ryan - Yes.