

# DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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## MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 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.

### Swearing-In Ceremony

Mr. Welch introduced Town Clerk, Mr. Paul Munchbach to swear in new School Committee Member Lisa Laprade to the board, followed by introductions and pictures of Mrs. Laprade's husband, and children, Emma and Jacob. Mrs. Laprade thanked the School Committee members and Superintendent Welch.

### Chair's Award

Outgoing Chair, Mrs. Barsamian thanked the Superintendent, Mr. Ryan and the School Committee members for all the guidance over the years. Mrs. Barsamian also recognized Mrs. Briggs with a "Chair's Award" for all her contributions going above and beyond her efforts this year. Superintendent Welch thanked Mrs. Barsamian.

### School Committee Re-organization

Superintendent Welch called to order the School Committee meeting at 7:09 p.m. Mrs. Barsamian motioned to nominate Tom Ryan for School Committee Chair, seconded by Mrs. Briggs. No discussions, roll call vote: Mr. Coughlin-yes, Mrs. Briggs-yes, Mrs. Barsamian-yes, Mrs. Laprade-yes, Mrs. McGregor-yes, Mrs. Butler-Walko-yes, Mr. Ryan-yes. Voted unanimous.

Mrs. McGregor motioned to nominate Mrs. Butler-Walko as Vice Chair, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian. No discussions, roll call vote: Mr. Coughlin-yes, Mrs. Briggs-yes, Mrs. Barsamian-yes, Mrs. Laprade-yes, Mrs. McGregor-yes, Mrs. Butler-Walko-yes, Mr. Ryan-yes. Voted unanimous.

## **RECOGNITION AND AWARDS:**

Principal Gately recognized Grade 8 student, Elizabeth Carroll and her team of Middle School students who recently completed a clothing drive at Dedham Middle School as part of the state-wide Cradles to Crayons "Spring Greening" initiative. Elizabeth was chosen by the faculty at the Middle School to represent the school at the governor's annual Project 351 day of service held on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. Project 351 celebrates the power of young people as a force for positive change in their communities and our Commonwealth. Ms. Gately described the program. Through service, leadership development, enrichment, and friendship with a statewide community of peers, Ambassadors build skills and confidence, explore issues, embrace leadership, and motivate a lifetime of service. During the month of March, Elizabeth and her team comprised of her brother, Nicholas Carroll and Grade 8 peers, Anjelica Wilson, Chanelle Wilson, Maleka McBarnett and Bridgett Crowley, they coordinated clothing drives at Oakdale School and Dedham Middle School. Ms. Gately also acknowledged Mrs. Tracey, DMS Art Teacher and Mrs. Timmons, DMS secretary for their assistance in making this project so successful. Ms. Gately stated that the team effort will support more than 9000 children and is the largest organized recycled product collection the Middle School has had.

Principal McCarthy recognized High School student, Noah Littman - who is the winner in the prestigious national essay contest. This was offered by his AP History class. It was giving by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in conjunction with the Washington Workshops Foundation. Noah won a week-long trip to Washington D.C. to attend the Workshop's Congressional Seminar. Over 70 essays were submitted in Massachusetts and 10 were picked to be read in D.C. Noah tied for 1st place with 2 students from Lexington High School. Approximately 50 students from around the country were chosen as winners to attend the seminar, and they will be housed at American University. They are honoring Massachusetts winners at a luncheon reception at the Brookline Country Club on May 12, 2015. Noah thanked the administration for the recognition, his history teachers, Mrs. Lydon, Mrs. Meloski and his English teachers, and he also thanked his parents.

Superintendent Welch recognized Principal Gately - The MASSA Secondary School Association has chosen Debbie Gately as Principal of the Year out of 351 districts. Ms. Gately thanked Dr. Margo Fraczek for nominating her, Mike Dewar for his data, Jen Barsamian, Cindy Kelly, and Carol Barkowitz. Mr. Ryan appreciated Ms. Gately for all her hard work and leadership at the Middle School and stated this is a wonderful recognition.

### **State Representative Paul McMurtry**

Representative McMurtry thanked the School Committee and the town and recognized the students for going above and beyond. He acknowledged Jen Barsamian as outgoing chair and for implementing the awards and recognitions and welcomed Lisa LaPade. He congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair, and congratulated Mrs. Briggs for coordinating the new Superintendent search. He recognized Ms. Gately for her award, and thanked Superintendent Welch. He updated the School Committee on Chapter 70, aid was increased, special education and circuit breaker. Mr. McMurtry passed out information regarding Chapter 70 and FY16 Budget sheets.

Chapter 70 Funding: 2.5 % increase over FY15 and \$2.9 million increase over the Governor's proposal. Guarantees a minimum increase of \$25 per pupil for every district. Special Education Circuit Breaker: highest funding for this account. Regional School Transportation, Homeless Student Transportation, and Kindergarten Expansion Grants: The state may not continue with this program. The district will have to look at it. Mr. McMurtry noted the mathematical calculations with the Chapter 70 funding and local contribution amounts and thanked Principal McCarthy for the High School intern program.

Mr. Welch thanked Mr. McMurtry for all his hard work for representing the town of Dedham. He discussed a Bill that was filed by Representative Alice Peisch from Wellesley today, which was heard by the Joint Education Committee regarding the number of unfunded mandates. Discussions followed. Mr. Ryan thanked Mr. McMurtry for advocating for Dedham and working with the MSBA.

### **STUDENT UPDATE** - Alison Sullivan

The all town band concert was held at the High School last evening with bands from the Elementary schools to the High School. This Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> is the annual Riverdale School Fair and Plant sale from 10a.m. to 3p.m. The all district art show will be held on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 6 – 8p.m. at the Middle School.

Math MCAS testing starts at the Middle School on Tuesday, May 12 and runs through May 21<sup>st</sup>. Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> is the Middle School Spring Recognition Night. This evening will recognize term 3 honor roll, perfect attendance and spring athletes.

The Dedham High School Advisory Council survey is available through this Friday on the High School home page. The Council will be developing the School Improvement Plan and parent/guardian input will assist during the development phase.

Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of Advanced Placement exams around the country. There are many High School students participating in the exam this year. Exams will end next Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>. Also, next Friday is the High School junior-senior prom to be held at Luciano's Lake Pearl in Wrentham. Tickets went on sale Monday and will be on sale until Friday for \$50. There's going to be a photo booth, appetizer style buffet and a chocolate fountain. Prom contracts are available online as well as in the office. May 13<sup>th</sup> is the annual Scully Awards being held in the High School Auditorium. The Scully Awards showcases the best of the best film productions from the freshman introduction to TV classes to the Honors video 1&2 classes.

Congratulations to Baseball, Track and Boy's tennis for beating the Norwood Ponies! And congratulations to Girl's Lacrosse and Softball for beating Brookline!

Seniors final "spirit week" begins, Monday, May 18th ending on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the last day of classes! The following week is reserved for senior finals and then senior week leading up to graduation on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Senior week will be filled with lots of fun senior activities. Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> will be class day at Endicott Estate. Seniors are treated to a cook-out, DJ and yearbooks

are distributed. Dedham High School will honor the Class of 2015 and many individual graduates with an awards presentation that begins at 6PM. All graduates are required to attend. Guests are also invited to a buffet dinner and refreshments served in the cafeteria. Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> is the senior class trip to 6 flags. The tickets are only \$25, half of the original price thanks to a donation from the Dedham Educational Partnership. Thursday and Friday are graduation rehearsal and Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm on the turf, is the class of 2015 graduation.

## **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

### **High School Summer Reading Program**

English Department Chair, Beth Sawyer

is very excited to offer a similar summer reading program as last year, providing a positive experience for the students. Last year was a pilot program earning a "pass/fail". After researching, this year the recommendation is the summer book discussion grade count as a 0.5 credit toward the graduation requirement. Proposing that freshmen earn the 0.5 graduation credit on their transcripts by meeting the summer book discussion assignment requirements; if they do not meet the requirements, they could earn NC on their transcript. (No Credit)

Because the other students participated in the pilot program, Mrs. Sawyer proposes they have the opportunity to earn a 0.5 credit towards graduation credit penalty, and not to have negative information on their transcript, should they not meet the assignment requirements. The freshmen are new to the program, they could be offered the possibility of recovering their credit if they completed the book discussion requirements within a designated time period. There will be 52 book titles. Group Discussion Leaders - Any teacher who wants to, can sign up for a discussion group. Mrs. McGregor thanked Mrs. Sawyer for putting this program together. All info will be on the website for parents and students. Discussions followed.

### **Middle School Field Trip to Washington DC Request**

Dr. Fraczek presented information on taking a group of 52 DMS eighth grade students on a trip to Washington DC for 3 days on June 2, 3, and 4. The trip will take place over 3 days and the students will experience many educational and cultural aspects of Washington D.C. through a program developed by *Close Up*. Chaperones will be Dr. Fraczek, Teachers: Dan Megan, Dan King, Alice Machinist, Juliette Gutierrez, and Adrianna Varano. Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the Middle School Field Trip to Washington DC, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko voted unanimous. The trip has been approved.

### **High School Physics Trip Request**

Principal McCarthy presented information for High School Physics Teacher, Amanda Bragan to take 90 physics students on an out of state field trip to Fun-town/Splash-town USA in Saco, Maine for the University of Maine's Physics Day held on Thursday, May 14th. They plan on departing at 6:00 am, and returning to the High School by 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Barsamian motioned to approve the High School Physics Trip to Maine, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous. The trip has been approved.

## **School Choice Vote**

Mr. Ryan called to order the need to go into a Public Hearing on the Inter-District School Choice Law. Mrs. Briggs motioned to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian, Roll call vote taken:

In the Public Hearing, Superintendent Welch stated all School Committee are required to take an annual vote to opt into the Inter-District School Choice Program. This program allows students from any district to opt into any other district pending space availability. Superintendent Welch's recommendation is to not opt into the School Choice Program. This presents number of difficulties and he recommends continuing the current way.

Public Comment - none

Mrs. Briggs motioned to close the Public Hearing, Mrs. Barsamian seconded. 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.

Motion made by Mrs. Briggs to take Mr. Welch's recommendation not to opt into the Inter-District School Choice Program, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko. 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. Mr. Ryan stated that Dedham will not have School Choice in the district.

## **SUPERINTENDENTS UPDATE**

- Superintendent Welch reiterated the previous vote - A yes vote was to NOT have school choice in Dedham.
- Mr. Welch met with KBA for an hour before this evening's meeting. KBA met with MSBA yesterday, working through that this afternoon. Open discussion with the faculty at Greenlodge and ECEC for a meeting for over 2 1/2 hours. The next meeting will take place at Greenlodge on Wednesday, May 13th to get input from faculty. There will be a meeting with SBRC on Monday night. Residents will have a community meeting on May 20th open to anyone. Town meeting will take place May 18. Upcoming schedule of dates: The SBRC vote is May 26th. The School Committee vote is June 3rd. The submission date is June 11th.
- MCAS exams are in process with active AP testing at the High School, Mr. Welch reports everything is going well.
- Ongoing collective bargaining with 4 different units - Unit A, Custodian, Secretary and Unit B.
- Hiring - The district has in excess of 20 positions vacated from resignations, retirements, leave of absences and are aggressively being filled. Timeline for candidates are being recommended by the Principals by May 15th.
- 2 large scale interview committees are being coordinated for Director of Special Education and Assistant High School Principal, Mr. Welch is looking for a representative from the School Committee on both.

- Town wide IT technology study of the town and school will be presented to the Board of Selectmen on May 28th by the vendor.
- Instructional rounds are finishing up at the Oakdale School - very productive.
- 4 I's Process Workshop with 45 staff members took place on April 28th.
- Dr. Kelly held the 4th CAPD meeting this past week (Curriculum, Assessment, Professional Development) - Dr. Kelly updated the School Committee members, and one more meeting scheduled for June 16.
- Superintendent Welch attended the Norfolk County Drug Coalition meeting on April 15th. Hoping to continue with Mr. Michael Butler and Chief D'Entremont.
- 9 teachers attended the Teachers 21 workshop last week, "Best Practice Workshops".
- Mr. Welch spent most of today at the New Superintendent's Induction Program meeting with 2 mentors regarding the Strategic Plan. He will present objectives to the School Committee soon.
- Mr. Rippin updated the School Committee regarding structural IT changes on the town side, with New World. Determined as part of FY14 closeout, the difficulties. Working with the new finance director, town accountant and New World, the town has successfully cleaned it up. Mr. Rippin fully expects by the end of the week to have reports run and begin to close the year end. Mr. Rippin thanked and showed his appreciation to the town finance department, stating it has been a very collaborative working relationship.
- May 20 is an existing School Committee meeting date, which will now be held at the Greenlodge School with SBRC as a Community meeting regarding the ECEC updates. Mrs. Barsamian proposed adding a meeting on May 27, change the 2 agenda items from May 20 to May 27, Mrs. Briggs suggests the same and states the SBRC vote is May 26.

### **MINUTES**

Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept the April 8, 2015 School Committee Minutes, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian, voted unanimous.

### **DONATIONS**

Mrs. Butler-Walko motioned to accept with grateful appreciation the Dedham Jr. Woman's Club donations to the Middle School - \$100 DMS Chorus Program, and \$500 to support the Middle School Library, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian seconded with grateful appreciation, voted unanimous.

Mrs. McGregor motioned to accept with grateful appreciation the DEP donation of \$1500 to support the class of 2015 Six Flags Trip, Mrs. Butler-Walko seconded, voted unanimous.

Mrs. Butler-Walko motioned to accept with grateful appreciation the donation of 220 iPad sleeves from Dedham Savings Bank worth approx. \$2000 for the incoming freshman class Mrs. McGregor seconded with grateful appreciation, voted unanimous.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. McGregor thanked Sam Rippin, Kathy Gaudreau and Jim Forrest for helping to coordinate the recent visit from a group of 16 teachers, principals and District Administrators from the Philippines. They toured the High School, ECEC, Avery, Oakdale and Greenlodge. They were very grateful.

Mrs. Barsamian thanked the staff and Principal Paul Sullivan at ECEC for the recent Musical Showcase. She also thank Dr. Kelly, Mr. Rippin and Mrs. Jacobs

Mr. Ryan stated the need to go into Executive session under exemption 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining bargaining.

Mrs. Butler Walko motioned to go into Executive session under exemption 3, seconded by Mrs. Barsamian. 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