

# DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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## MEETING MINUTES

April 1, 2015

### MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Jen Barsamian, Chair	Tom Ryan, Vice Chair-Absent	Joe Heisler- late
Kevin Coughlin	Mayanne Briggs	Susan Butler-Walko
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 7:01 p.m

### Student Update - Alison Sullivan

- MCAS Testing has started in all schools starting with English Language Arts.
- 5th grade at Avery will be doing the can and bottle drive on Sat. April 4th 10-12.
- Oakdale will hold a spaghetti supper on April 16.
- Assembly on Tuesday April 7th Ryan's Story for students and the parent assembly at DHS auditorium at 7:00 p.m. will be held regarding bullying prevention.
- April 9 is the Drop in Night
- April 11 Middle School re-cycling fundraiser 9-12
- Beauty and the Beast
- Tonight - 3rd Annual Night of Jazz at the Dedham Middle School Jazz Band for the Donald Heald night
- High School - delayed opening due to MCAS
- High School - CPR certified class this week
- April 17 Report cards
- No School on Friday April 3
- April Vacation starts Friday April 17

### REPORTS

#### ECEC PROJECT UPDATE:

Present:

- Dan Bradford from KBA Architects
- Derrick Moulton, Chair of the SBRC Meeting
- Paul Griffin, OPM
- John Malnati, KBA

Dan Bradford updated the School Committee on the ECEC Project.

Meeting with the Superintendent to come up with solutions about each of the options  
Had a consolidated meeting with the developing planning group with the Police Dept, Fire Dept., DPW, Town Engineer, Conservation Commission, KBA, and Jim Kern. Modifications were made to all the plans. On track with the building sizes. Option 3 - Dexter existing site: ECEC, surfaces will need to be changed to allow fire trucks behind the school. Mr. Bradford showed a PowerPoint presentation. The layout was tweaked to comply with the MSBA. Potential for community presentations.

Option 10- Dexter New ECEC - same new build zone, had a slight change . Vehicle drop off the same. Option 12-Greenlodge existing site for new building - the overlay scheme the same. Entrance buffer zone, car pick up and drop off same, fields will be moved to opposite side. Separate entrance for the ECEC use. Discovery media center at a higher level. Removable wall if needed. Separate entrance for element school, admin and nurse area. Two story space for elementary, one story for ECEC. Requirement for SBRC, look at other options, intent is the best they can do for the Dexter sites. Input from conservation commission that there is a wet area, sending out a wetland specialist to determine if it is a wet land to see if drainage or not. Went from 14 options early on, then reduced to 6 then reduced to 3. April 16 is the date that the district will provide MSBA the preferred submission. Discussions followed regarding wetlands, the multi-purpose room, cafeteria, acoustic sound, and kitchen areas. Mr. Bradford spoke about energy codes. Conversations regarding conservation, site costs and development and building costs and reimbursement info from MSBA.

Mr. Welch stated the significant advantages to crossover benefits. Mrs. Barsamian asked Mr. Griffin if the parent letters will be going to MSBA, Mr. Griffin stated no. Mr. Griffin stated that MSBA will require certified copies of the minutes. Mrs. Barsamian asked Mr. Griffin if next week will be to vote the decision of the Bldg. Committee, Mr. Griffin stated yes, and the School Committee will need to accept or reject the recommendation from the SBRC as this needs to get into the town meeting before the fall.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Geri Kelly - Dale Street – asked if these new schematic drawing were on line yet?

Mr. Moulton stated that these are brand new as of today. SBRC usually see them first but they knew that was a need to have them at this meeting tonight.

Geri Kelly asked if another baseball field was added? Little league field?

Mr. Moulton – there was community discussion regarding having 2 back stops.

Geri Kelly asked about the vote - if the School Committee doesn't support the vote of your committee, does it go back to square one,?

Paul Griffin - Building Committee ultimately has to come back with a preferred schematic. If there was a sizable delay, MSBA would take back the invitation. As long as we keep them informed of making headway, no problem.

Geri Kelly- You do your preferred option then the other 2 options, can the board look at that and override you?

Paul Griffin - They would call in the team and Superintendent; to have a dialog and back ground info.

Mrs. Butler-Walko asked if the vote had to be 7-0. Answer, it's a roll call vote, it doesn't have to be unanimous.

Mrs. Briggs asked if MSBA thought it needed more study? Mr. Giffin asked as long as we are working together and not a stall. Dan Bradford - If a town doesn't approve it at the town meeting, a town could come back if they had good cause, MSBA would entertain it, they would pull the grand offer off the table. An open invite cannot be forever.

Mrs. Barsamian - A lot of the questions people are asking about swing space, we can't look at until that until the next phase, would it be after town meeting vote? Mr. Bradford stated that there would be a need for modulars at Dexter, we would have to comply with the bldg dept, with the renovation of Dexter for instance with modulars.

Mrs. Butler-Walko - 300 other towns going through the MSBA. What if this fails at town meeting? Mr. Griffin responded, the board would need to vote within 120 days. This is called the study phase, to pick the preferred option, then design development. Traffic studies will happen etc. and a 1000 of hours will take place in the next phase.

Mrs. McGregor asked when the ballpark timeframe of when would the shovel will hit the ground. Mr. Griffin responded, 9-12 months after town meeting.

Julie Perillo - Heritage Hill - loved the Google earth overlay, very helpful, concerns about the minutes not being taken at the SBRC meeting. Mr. Moulton responded, that's not a public meeting, we are not required to take minutes, notes were taken. It was a working meeting, he was the only member from SBRC. Julie Perillo-a lot of us feel this is come out of left field. Greenlodge is the unofficial favorite. Your cancelled meetings due to snow were never rescheduled. Your meeting with police, fire, etc. we feel this was a backdoor meeting. Monday, there will be a pivotal decision based on limited data. Confused about the numbers. Mr. Griffin stated - The meeting is a standard meeting to get together with the Dept. Heads to flush out what they may know about the site, a fact finding meeting. A modular trailer will be put at the site.

Discussions continued about the swing space being adequate and long term and students being bused for 18 months.

Julie Murphy - 18 Mayfair Road - Still has concerns about the field space with the double number of kids and adequate recess time and gym time in a combo school. Mr. Welch responded, stating the size of that gym is enormous

Julie Murphy - will the before and aftercare would be separate? Mr. Welch - Yes

Julie Perillo - asked questions about ECEC students moving to the swing space. Mr. Moulton - if we go down the current path, all other schools will need a swing space as their construction project come up.

Heather Powell - Ledgewood Road - inquired about the high retaining wall, appreciates the more space, not ideal and wetlands - we don't know if it's wet behind the current baseball field, and showed a picture of what it looks like today. Something will have to be distributed to the water table, there is a sewer there that looks like you could go white water rafting in the summer time. Mrs. Powell asked the School Committee members if they all voted on the master plan and read from the master plan and stated that as elected officials, and stated, you have already supported this policy in that document, why are you not supporting that model now. Mrs. Briggs stated, - we are still fact finding right now, still open to all options.

Heather Power - with 24 votes taken at the straw vote, hope the School Committee doesn't feel pressured from the SBRC and to start over. The community would like to see the School Committee put the pressure on the SBRC to stick to the master plan that was voted in August 2013. She then read an article. Mrs. Powell spoke on behalf of Mr. Sullivan, stating she firmly believes Mr. Sullivan knows what's best for the students only and believes we should stick to the master plan. His opinion should be taken into consideration. Mrs. Powell stated that we are not lacking classroom space.

Christina Pendelton - Fox Meadow Lane - has a 6 and 9 year old at ECEC and Greenlodge. Concerned about the drop off and pick up situation. Wants to support the combo project. Greenlodge is enormously space deficient. over 18,000 sq short in space. Tutoring, ELL, YMCA program space is enormous problem. Over half of the year is inclement. The need for indoor space to get movement time and stated no matter what the plan is, students have to go to a swing space. It will be difficult, no matter when it happens. If we wait it will be 10-15 years. Overall, not an ideal situation, but 600 students will get a new building. Regardless, Greenlodge needs to be replaced.

Geri Kelly - stated that the School Committee didn't purposely try to deceive anyone back in 2013 when they signed the master plan.

Mr. Heisler stated when we initially were approached, there was an option open to move quickly to the Dexter site. Other town officials urged the School Committee to be open to other possibilities, and we continue to be open. We appreciate hearing from everyone. SBRC needs to hear from you also. Please share those concerns with the SBRC members.

Mrs. Butler-Walko - speaking for herself, I am not being pressured by SBRC. We did vote on that model, we met sometime last summer with SBRC and agreed to go forward to consider other options, are required by the state.

Erin Blume - Altoona Road - Discussions regarding information on project funding/meals and hotel taxes for another project that would take place in 2028 and green space. Mr. Moulton stated nothing specific was stated.

Stephanie Radner - Oakdale parent concerned about a few issues, the building of a new Oakdale would be the year 2028. Life expectancy is 75 years...Dedham didn't do anything from the 1960's, what does this mean for other schools? State money - is the 40% a guarantee? The opened fields, and trees were also discussed. Mr. Griffin responded, before this goes to town

meeting, there will be a guarantee - getting paid every month, no issue. The town would get the money every month as we go along.

Heather Power and Mr. Moulton discussed what was shown at the last SBRC meeting regarding the year 2028. Mr. Moulton stated that a combined project now would enable the last school project would come sooner.

Mrs. Barsamian asked for clarification for Monday night. Mrs. Briggs stated that is was important to the tax payers - that there is no other potential income source. The question tonight - A piece of paper was presented at SBRC with projections, not only the Ames, and the ECEC but the next potential school building project as well as the new Fire Station. A simple question was asked. Can we have the same schedule for a 19 million dollar project and a 22 million dollar project instead of just compared using Greenlodge. Hoping this information is available to the public. Can we have the information for them to make decisions on. Mr. Moulton apologized for the misinterpreted information. Mrs. Barsamian stated we need this information.

Mr. Coughlin thanked everyone for all your input and all their emails. He was the Chair that submitted the original SOI. Original timeline, we would have had students sitting at the Dexter School already and is looking forward Monday night and Wednesday night and looking forward to moving forward.

Monica Wilkinson – 44 Reed Street, Library trustee. Stated that people want to know when we are going to have a new building. We have other schools and other town buildings that need to be looked at and need to be planned.

No further comments.

Mr. Coughlin requested from KBA an overlay of the existing Greenlodge School, for the proposed combined school.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

**2015-2016 CALENDAR** –Change to the last day of school for next year and the number of days in the month of November.

Jen Barsamian motioned to re-vote the 2015-2016 school calendar - seconded by Mr. Heisler, to change the 2015-2016 calendar change to the last day of school June 15, 2016 instead of June 14.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Asha Marshall, intensely recruiting - attending the 3rd recruiting fair at Bridgewater State coming up and onboarding new staff. 19 known staff members already known are leaving. 54 days left. Mr. Marshall was pleased to report Mr. Ed Paris is our selected candidate to be the new Riverdale School Principal. Kate Conway has agreed to mentor him.

4 I's Project - Information, Integration, Improvement, Initiative. Fascinating concept, met with a vendor last week. Dedham is ahead of technology, integrating all systems - will take a few years to implement, April 28th will be the next meeting.

Superintendent's update, link on the website - currently on the front page of our website, click on that and you will receive information – type in your name and email address to populate that for folks around the town that do not have students in the system.

Kathy Gaudreau will retire at the end of the year, this is a huge loss and will be a difficult position to fill.

Last week new Supt; induction program and mid-year Superintendent's meeting. Did a lot of great networking.

Don Heald Night of Jazz was this evening- received a request to rename the band room at the Middle School, which will be taken up in Policy meeting

Steve Traister - difficulty on the fields. Thanked Sam Rippin who found a company to clear the snow off of the turf field. Parks and Recreation Dept. are clearing their fields with the same equipment.

Kudos to Joe Lenane – grade 6 - finished in the top 10 - competing in the drive, chip and put before the masters, representing the town of Dedham - will be interviewed on the golf channel.

Trivia Night was a great success on behalf of the alumni assoc, to benefit the weight equipment at DHS - raising \$20,000.

**Superintendent's Mid Cycle Review** – School Committee received a guide to rubrics and model rubrics to familiarize with the structure of the Superintendent Rubric –there are 4 standards. Summative evaluation at the end of the year. Superintendent presented his smart goals in October, which he will be graded/judged on. 20 indicators - Look thru them. The elements are a step down, next week, get feedback, Jen will compile at next week's meeting. In the past we have filled out a form, Jen want the School Committee look at this. Next week, get some feedback. In the past we filled out a form, this will be used instead. Keep in mind this is a mid cycle, not in-depth comments. Mr. Welch stated this is great modeling tool. Rachel clarified on how to fill out, Mr. Welch stated It's ok to say not observed. Mr. Welch passed out his goals and other evidence he worked on in the district. DESE requires this needs to be discussed in open session. Bring comments and thoughts next week and we will discuss in opened session.

### **DONATIONS**

Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept the DEP donation of \$1200 to DHS for the mascot outfit, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko, voted unanimous.

Mrs. Butler-Walko motioned to accept the DEP donation of \$350 to be used to purchase books geared toward male students at the Greenlodge School, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous. Mr. Banios thanked Mrs. McGregor for all her help.

Mrs. McGregor motioned to accept the DEP donation of \$250 for back to school items and parent coffee the first day of school at Oakdale, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko, voted unanimous.

Mr. Heisler motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous.