

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES March 18, 2015

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Jen Barsamian, Chair	Tom Ryan, Vice Chair	Joe Heisler
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 7:04 p.m.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Principal Gately recognized the Middle School students and chaperones who recently returned from a school trip to Spain during February vacation. Chaperones were: Alison Burke, Chris Nadeau, Arielle Sutton, Sarah Tapply, Michael Lantvet, and Debbie Gately. Middle School student Gina Pasciuto spoke on behalf of the group about their learning experiences. The students who attended tonight are: Isabelle Bruneau, Anexis Diamond, Helen Emerson, Brian Foulds, Victoria Gonzalez, Isha Havale, Destiny Jean-Louis, Abigail Jiminian, Evan Jurdan, Amelia Layne, Jack Linari, Delaney MacDougall, Kyle Marten, Maleka McBarnett, Jeffrey Moran, Gina Pasciuto, Maeve Quilty, Katherine Scace, Connor Stamm, Wyatt Staton-Todaro, Foster Staton-Todaro, Kyra Tolley, Courney Warjas, and Samuel Whitney

STUDENT UPDATE - Alison Sullivan

Dedham Middle School News: This Thursday evening from 5:00pm – 6:00pm is the Drop in Night with the principal. Parents and guardians are invited to drop in and chat with Principal Gately. Thursday, March 19th at 6:30pm, there will be an incoming 6th grade Special Education information meeting, all are invited. Wednesday, March 25th there is a mandatory meeting for students and parents regarding the Washington DC trip. The meeting will be from 6:30pm-7:30pm in the distance learning lab at DMS.

High School News: FOOD, FUN, BOWLING! DHS seniors are going to King's at Legacy Place on Sunday from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. This is the 2nd year for this fun event. For \$10 seniors will be treated to great music, bowling and food. Seniors need to sign up with Mr. McCarthy or at the main office by end of the school day tomorrow. This Friday is the Freshman Class Breakfast. The freshman class officers would like to invite all freshmen who have paid their dues to join them for breakfast between 7:00am and 7:35am. Next Monday, March 23rd is

the Booster's Club Winter Athletic Dinner in the cafeteria. Dinner starts promptly at 6:00pm. We thank the Boosters for their continuous support. Wednesday, March 25th is the Spring College Fair at Westwood High. There are over 100 colleges and universities in attendance. College representatives can answer questions about their schools, the application process and how to make the right choice. The fair goes from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. Friday, March 27th is the sophomore semi-formal at the Italian American Club. Tickets are \$15 and on sale now in D112 or E208. Alison thanked all those who attended the showings of the senior class musical, Legally Blonde. The show was a huge success.

REPORTS:

ECEC PROJECT UPDATE:

Present:

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

Dan Bradford updated the School Committee on the ECEC Project.

- There are 3 options. Diagrams were presented to the School Committee. Architects have been working on the options, resolved at the current SBRC meeting Monday night.
- Meeting tomorrow to go through the options.
- Mr. Welch stated that this is a very important next step and that he is listening closely
- Mr. Welch stated that this is a very important next step and closely listening to feedback as it comes in. Due to the bad winter, meetings had been cancelled and now we are gathering considerable input. Mr. Welch stated that parents are welcome to ask the committee along the way if there are any questions.
- Dan Bradford stated that last week, the final 3 options were evaluated. Plans are to speak to the Police Dept., Fire Dept, Conservation Commission, etc. The ultimate goal is to solve the issues at ECEC. SBRC has been a working session.
- The 3 sites are:
 1. Dexter site - addition / renovation – stand-alone ECEC - 40,000 sq ft new addition one drive in one drive out.
 2. Dexter site - new construction- stand-alone raising existing facility, one story same exits as #1. Meeting with the Conservation Commission agent as it pertains to the time line
 3. Greenlodge School - new construction - Pre-K-5 Facility, tearing down the existing building. One story ECEC and 2 story elementary building.
- Meeting with the Superintendent is scheduled for tomorrow, and SBRC on Monday next week. April 16th is the next deadline. Then the committee will have a preferred scheme with 2 alternates.
- Questions from the School Committee followed.
- Mr. Griffin stated that the town won't be able to submit to MSBA if the School Committee doesn't vote. If there are any comments let the Bldg. Committee know before the vote.
- Mr. Welch stated that the number 1 priority is to have a safe site, students and buses and cars about the site making sure the cars are off the street. Concerned about the flow of the students and vehicles. Access thru the corridors

- Mr. Bradford stated the goal is to provide the best of three options- yes we will be talking about all 3 options to make the best scheme we can.
- Conversations regarding the concerns about the traffic, neighborhood, and safety followed.
- Mr. Griffin stated that the MSBA invitation is pretty clear. They know we are considering a stand-alone. There are no regs with a pre-school program. MSBA clearly states its K on up. Their direction to us they want to make sure we have looked at all the issues in the community. Looking at all the problems in the district. Can't say how they will do it.
- Mr. Bradford stated the district was invited based on the SOI. Beyond that they said find the best option. That's exactly what happened. Now it's time to submit to them the 3 options then wait it out.
- Mr. Coughlin stated he was looking at the education model that the school department has endorsed in the past. Looking at safety, and don't want to destroy a neighborhood, and the cost.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Julie Perillo - 8 Heritage Hill: Stated concerns about how the traffic will be funneled in the only two ways out. Neighbors - abutters with woods are now looking at a big building. Open space - recess - with 600 children, very important. Concern about activities - school wide events - performances, exhibits, etc. how would that work with shared space. Fire trucks visiting the school etc. Clear communication - shared communication, information sheet, cost, numbers, schematics, sharing with the community, what will that entail in the swing space. Greenlodge students being bused - where is that money coming from
- Amy Adams - 47 Winfield Street
Concerned about the Impact on children, and busing students on 128? Concerns about redistricting students to another school.
- Maryellen McDonough - Heritage Hill
No matter which model is picked, it will be great, will we outgrow it with more kids attending ECEC that don't attend now.
- Sandy Sicard - Intervale Rd.
- Not something that should be discounted - not that she wants more traffic. Many people that have concerns - people that may be supportive are not showing up. Current school is too small. All considerations should be taken into account

Mrs. Barsamian thanked everyone tonight. Tonight's minutes will need to be approved. SBRC is meeting next Monday, and then March 23. Plan on meeting prior to our meeting April 1

Tom Ryan - we have asked the architect and the superintendent to look at the playground, egress etc. Hope to get more info.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2015-2016

- Mr. Welch stated in previous meetings the district is trying to maximize student learning - trying to avoid putting professional development on the same days and putting professional development earlier in the year. This has been checked by the Leadership Team. Broad overview - proposing Sept. 2 for students, Sept. 1 for teachers. 1/2 day on Friday Sept. 4 - Labor Day weekend. -Front load the PD days:
- At this point, the last day of school is June 25 (with 6 snow days).
- Next year, the last day would be June 14th
- Mrs. Barsamian stated that this is the best calendar she has seen with the PD days keeping in mind working families.
- Mr. Ryan motioned to adopt the 2015-2016 school calendar, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, voted unanimous. The calendar will be on the DPS website tomorrow.

EXIT SURVEY RESULTS

Superintendent Welch presented a powerpoint with information about the results of a survey sent to students who exited to a private schools, the powerpoint presentation is on the DPS website. Questions from the committee followed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE:

- Mr. Welch will be attending an upcoming B.C. Recruiting Fair and the MA Educator Diversity Job Fair at Lesley University on Saturday.
- The Aspiring Leaders met yesterday with guest Barry Jentz at the MIT Endicott House, the topic was Leadership, which was very inspiring.
- The Riverdale Principal Search process is reaching the final stages, with site visits Mon-Thursday. There will be a committee meeting tomorrow at 3:15.
- Mr. Welch attended the M.A.S.S. Mid Year Superintendent's meeting, with Mitchell Chester, looking at DDM's - significant change and Jim Peyser - a proponent of Charter Schools. Discussions regarding the PARCC testing were discussed.
- Mr. Welch attended the St. Patrick's Day Roast at the American Legion last Friday.
- Mr, Welch is meeting with the Finance Committee regarding questions and answers on the Budget Presentation and thanked Dr. Kelly and Mr. Rippin for all their hard work.
- Dr. Kelley updated the committee regarding CAPD meeting went well last week. Next meeting will take place.
- All Principals attended a workshop last week entitled "Short Observations For Long Term Growth"
- Update on the Dexter roof issue last week, no crisis. Mr. Welch thanked the Dedham Fire Dept. and Denise Moroney, Director of Facilities.
- Mr. Welch attended the Greenlodge Faculty meeting on March 9th, updating the faculty on the ECEC project.
- The Spelling Bee took place on Friday, March 6th, Mr. Welch looks forward to attending again next year.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

Mrs. Barsamian stated everyone will be getting communication via email

MINUTES

- Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept the minutes of the March 4, 2015 School Committee meeting, Mrs. Butler-Walko seconded, voted unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- John Finn, Alpina Ave. Asked if there is a way to promote the High School acceptances better. How well is Dedham High completing 2 year and 4 year degrees?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Policy Sub will be meeting to discuss the Middle School renaming of the band room
- Conversations regarding contracting the state treasurer for any direction with the stand alone facility.
- Mrs. Butler-Walko stated the National Honor Society evening was lovely.
- Winter sports banquet coming up

Mrs. Barsamian motioned to adjourn, Mrs. Butler-Walko seconded, voted unanimous.
Meeting ended at 10:04p.m.