

# DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

---

## MEETING MINUTES February 4, 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 J. Welch, Superintendent  
Dr. Cynthia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent  
Sam Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance

Meeting began at 7:04 p.m.

### RECOGNITION AND AWARDS:

Principal Gately recognized Grade 6 student, Eric Reilly who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Mass Municipal Association essay contest, on the topic of leadership. Superintendent Welch congratulated Eric on his participation with Meals on Wheels. Eric will receive a \$200 check.

### STUDENT UPDATE - Alison Sullivan

This week DHS is having a shortened winter spirit week due to the snow days this week. Monday would have been class color day with each grade wearing a different color. Tuesday would have been Project purple day in honor of Chris Herren's national event project purple. Chris Herren came to DHS three years ago and his story has had a lasting impact on the High School students, as he spoke about how his drug dependency and how it ruined his life. He started project purple, a national awareness day, to empower the youth to stand up to substance abuse, promoting positive decision making and encourage teens to make a difference in their community.

Friday, is Go Red Day for heart disease. Students will wear lots red to support a cure for heart disease. Ms .Currivan, room D-109, also has pins that students can purchase for a \$5 donation and students can donate \$1 and enter to win the vase full of mints. All proceeds from both events will be donated to the American Heart Association. Friday also kicks off our commitment to American Heart Month. For the next two weeks at each lunch there will be activities taking place. Some examples of the activities are: Jelly Bean Guess, Nails for Knowledge, Blood Pressure Check, Free Guess Friday, Photo Friday, Thoughtful Lunch, Books From the Heart

Congratulations to Mary Kate Coughlin for breaking the Dedham High School record in the 1000 Meter race! The senior class is collecting pictures for their senior video. Students should contact Andrea Bradbury or any class officer for more information.

- Spirit week this week at DHS
- Project purple,
- America day today

- Theme day tomorrow
- Friday is Red heart day for heart disease
- Vase of mints
- American health month
- Jelly bean guests
- Congratulated Mary Kate Coughlin – 1000 meter record today
- Senior class play March 12 and 13 Legally Blonde

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE:**

- Mr. Welch thanked Facilities Director Denise Moroney for all the remarkable hard work with the Maintenance and Facilities Dept. for clearing all the snow with the historic snowfall in the past week. The town had purchased a Terex machine.. As of now, the last day of school will be Tues. June 23 with the 4 snow days this winter.
- Mr. Welch met with the Dedham Realtors and the Dedham Rotary for a Luncheon.
- Mr. Welch met with 15 people for the Riverdale Principal search. Application closes tomorrow, we currently have 20 applications.
- The professional development day went well, staff left motivated. The district had parking issues, Mr. Rippin was able to get buses to shuttle staff to and from the schools for training.
- Mr. Welch met with Peter and Paul Reynolds with great interactive presentation to the Riverdale School.
- Mr. Welch will have a legislative breakfast with the TEC program this Friday

Mrs. McGregor stated that the way the snow day communication went well. Mr. Welch stated that he was in close contact with DPW Director Joe Flanagan with safety as the number one priority. The schools had very good attendance today. Mrs. McGregor thank everyone for cleaning up the town and roads so quickly. Mrs. Briggs sent kudos to Mr. Flanagan also.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **BUDGET SUB COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

Mrs. McGregor stated that the Budget Sub Committee met this evening. Mr. Welch and Mr. Rippin have created a breakdown of the budget in .5% increments. A reduction chart was presented to the School Committee with four tiers of priorities. Recommendations will be made on February 11th and the Committee will meet once again before the next School Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. Discussions followed.

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Briggs read the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the Recycling Policy MASS DEP Grant.

*Dedham Public Schools*

*Recycling Policy*

*The Dedham School Committee recognizes the importance of recycling materials whenever possible to conserve the world’s limited resources and conserve energy while exercising sound financial practices. To this end, the Dedham Public Schools will support the recycling of materials that would otherwise become waste, including paper, cardboard, bottles and cans, in compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental*

*Protection's waste ban (310 CMR 19.017), which prohibits the disposal of recyclable paper, cardboard and paperboard, glass and metal containers, and single-resin, narrow-necked plastics. Success in reducing waste through recycling is based on the cooperation of all the individuals in the school community, including the School Committee, administration, faculty, staff, and students.*

Jeanne Johnson, Food Service Director spoke about the policy and grant. She recognized Virginia LeClair and Denise Moroney also. This policy is being proposed to the School Committee to approve the policy tonight. Mrs. Johnson explained that this would expand recycling in the cafeterias at the High School and Avery School by going from using foam trays to re-usable trays. Jeanne Johnson stated it is the best thing for the environment and was surprised to find out how many districts are using re-usable trays. The size of the Middle School cafeteria isn't big enough but in the future, it may be considered.

To implement the entire plan, it would be a cost of approx. \$15,000 cost to the dept. to revamp the dishwashing area. Savings on 1000 foam trays per day. Composting food waste, with a company that will come and pick up the waste and be a great learning experience for the students as fertilizer for the gardens will be coming back to the district. Mrs. Johnson is looking to learn more about the program and to involve the students.

- Phase 1 – Implementation plan
- Phase 2 – Roll-out
- Phase 3 – Monitoring

The DEP was giving the draft scope. The Policy needs to be signed and approved by Feb. 13th and the final agreement will be forwarded to the district. It's a 3-year grant program.

Discussions from the committee followed.

The Policy was reviewed by the Policy Sub-Committee.

**Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept Dedham Public Schools Recycling Policy , seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko, voted unanimous.**

### **2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

The committee has a draft of next year's calendar – with a start date prior to Labor Day. Mr. Welch is proposing to start on Wednesday Sept. 2 as a start day, and the last day would be June 14. Mr. Welch asked the Committee to look at the timing of prof. half days and would like to space those days early on, and also to have them on staggered days of the week. There are 5 contracted days, tagging them onto long weekends or holidays. Mr. Welch asked the Committee to consider these proposals. Mr. Welch passed this recommendation by the Leadership Team. Typically the calendar is voted in March.

### **MINUTES**

NONE

### **DONATIONS**

NONE

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

NONE

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The DEF Grant recipient dinner at the Legion catered by Deli after Dark from 4:00 – 6:00 tomorrow night.

The drug and alcohol coalition meeting on substance abuse, a support group will take place in March/April.

The next School Committee meeting will take place next Wednesday Feb. 11 with KBA Architects attending.

The Sophomore class breakfast coming up this Monday at the cafeteria from 7:00-7:30am. Information is on the parent group face book page.

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

Meeting ended at 8:14 p.m.