

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2015

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Jen Barsamian, Chair-Absent

Tom Ryan, Vice Chair

Joe Heisler -Absent

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

Kathy Gaudreau, Director of Special Education

Meeting began at 7:03 p.m.

RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

Mr. Michael Warren honored the two runner up students for the Geography Bee from the Middle School, Aidan Gordan(in 2nd) and Timothy Vaughan (1st). The much anticipated 2015 National Geography Bee lived up to all of its expectation. A really top notch eleven finalists battled it out this afternoon. These finalists were: Dean Boecher, Albi Cekrezi, Aidan Gordan, William Hyde, Brandon McNichols, Jacinda Sterlin, William Shuley, Matt Sollis, Tai Thurber, Tim Vaughan and Ally Flagg.

STUDENT UPDATE - Alison Sullivan

It's midterm week at DHS. The high school has delayed openings all week, the first test starting at 8 going until 9:30 and the second test starting at 10- 11:30. The schedule for exams was Period 1 & 2 on Tuesday. Period 3&4 today, Wednesday. Period 5&6 tomorrow and period 7 and makeup's on Friday. Term 2 officially ends Friday January 23rd and 3rd term officially starts on Monday January 26th

Link crew, led by Dr. Dudley and Mr.Carney, held their first annual " COCOA COOKIES AND CRAM" study session for the freshman. Freshman could receive extra help on Thursday in the library while enjoying hot cocoa and cookies. There were over 70 freshmen in attendance and there were teachers as well as link members to help the freshman in their desired subjects and organization. Twenty women, formerly without a bed, are now sleeping warmly and soundly in Salem, MA as a result of project this fall completed by Dedham High School students. Students designed, created and assembled the beds for people in need, changing the lives of twenty perfect strangers. This project was made possible by the efforts of Dedham High School's Wood and Technology classes, the assembly team made up of: : Ted Ansty, Aidan Dwyer, Ryan Mudge, Gerard Mulvey, Keith Neill, Henrique Olivera, Noah Thakur, and Manny Villard. Instructors Jim Leighton, Steve Dewar, Dave Haluska, and Custodian Rich McCann who cultivated and coordinated the efforts between DHS and Lifebridge.

Special thank you to East Dedham Builders Supply for their generous donation of materials and to Dedham Rec for use of their van for transportation.

Trivia night will be held on Friday, February 27th to support the class of 2015 all night graduation party. if anyone would like to attend, or donate a basket please contact. Kim Rutherford at k-rutherford@pi.com Tickets are \$10 each.

Monday, January 26 at 6:30 is the National Honor Society induction ceremony in the Auditorium.

Thursday, January 29th is a early release day and report cards will be distributed Tuesday February 3rd.

The senior snow ball is this week on Friday, January 23rd, from 7:00-10:00 at the Italian American club, free for seniors. On behalf of the senior class, they would like to thank the Italian America club for donating the hall for the evening and Shiretown Catering, Deli After Dark, and Rob Blaney's DJ-ing services for their support of the dance. They thank the class advisors and parent liaisons, Dimitria Sullivan and Korrin Slavin, for organizing the event.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE:

Superintendent Welch presented to the Committee a first draft of the Entry Report Findings. Mr. Welch presented a PowerPoint presentation that included:

- **PHASE 1** - Entry Process for District Strategic Plan – anticipated to have the Strategic 3-Year Plan by the end of June 2015.
 - Individual Entry Interviews (70)
 - Academic/Operational/Financial Documents Review (July – December 2014)
 - Group Conversations/Focus Groups/Introductions (August – December 2014)
 - School/Classroom Visits (September – December 2014)
 - Review of Findings with Leadership Team
 - Exit Surveys for students who left Dedham Public Schools to attend Private Schools
 - **PHASE 2** – Analysis and Sharing of Entry Findings
 - Theme I - Student Achievement – Strengths and Challenges/Needs
 - Theme II – Strategic Planning and Leadership – Strengths and Challenges
 - Theme III – District and Community Support for Education – Strengths and Challenges
 - Theme IV – Faculty / Staff Recruitment, Training, and Professional Development – Strengths and Challenges/Needs
 - Theme V – District Curriculum, Assessment, and Access to Technology and Data – Strengths and Challenges/Needs
 - **NEXT STEPS** – 3-Year District Strategic Plan Development
- Questions and discussions followed.

REPORTS

FY16 Operating Budget Public Hearing

The meeting was opened to the general public for comment.

Superintendent Welch stated a few brief comments. The Operating Budget is available on the Dedham Public School website. A 3% increase would enable level funding. Additional requests:

- Implement Full Day Free Kindergarten
- Increase the number of full day Professional Development to 3 days
- Need for additional substitute teachers
- Upgrade rigorous curriculum for all students
- Finish Everyday Math adoption
- Other supplies/expenses
- Additional proposed personnel requests

Dr. Kelly stated that the ELL population is growing in the Dedham Public Schools and the time and money needed for curriculum and professional development.

Meg Duncan – parent of a Middle and High School student, read the reviews of the budget and came to show her support of the FY16 budget.

Russ Poole – Town Meeting Member of Precinct 2 – complimented Superintendent Welch’s compassion and asked how he is planning on funding the Full Day Kindergarten. Mr. Poole suggested financial criteria, to take it under consideration. Mentioned the debt that is still being carried.

Lisa Laprada, Greenlodge parent, asked - long term what the cost savings will be in the future with the full free full day Kindergarten. Superintendent Welch stated there is significant reduction in long term need of special education - the need is to align 100% of students to be in the full day Kindergarten.

Mr. Ryan stated that the Open Public Hearing is closed and the vote on the FY16 Operating Budget will take place at the February 4th School Committee Meeting.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Riverdale School Principal - Superintendent Welch updated the Committee with the process of the Riverdale Principal search. The position is posted in the Boston Globe, Talent Ed/School Spring, there are currently 9 applicants to date. The timeline – finalist will be selected first week in March.

Recycling Policy – 2nd Reading – Mrs. Briggs read the Recycling proposed policy.

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 and Virginia LeClair will be present at the February 4th School Committee Meeting for the 3rd reading.

MINUTES:

- Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept the January 7, 2015 minutes, seconded by Mr. Coughlin, Mrs. McGregor abstained, voted unanimous.
- Mrs. Walko-Butler motioned to accept the Jan. 7 2015 executive session minutes, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. McGregor abstained, voted unanimous.
- Mrs. Walko-Butler motioned to accept the January 14, 2015 minutes, seconded by Mrs. Briggs, voted unanimous.

DONATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Walko followed up on the High School Guidance Dept website – students are being offered Kaplan SAT Instruction for \$350 – how can we advertise this information. Also suggested that the class of 2015 need more updates on the website and to also see accomplishments of the High School would be really helpful. Mr. McCarthy states letters go home, connect ed calls are made, it's on the website, the directions are on the letter, and parents have been emailed 3 times. Under the High School section of the DPS website under Unigold. There are night time sessions for student athletes that start at 3:00. Mrs. Walko suggested the link be put on the front page of the DHS website.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to adjourn – Mrs. McGregor seconded, voted unanimous.
Meeting ended at 8:25.