

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 2015

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Jen Barsamian, Chair	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

Meeting began at 7:03 p.m.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS:

Mr. Jeffrey Daniels, DMS Music Teacher introduced the DMS Jazz band, and entertained the School Committee with a few tunes. Jeff Bolduc, Director of the Fine Arts Dept recognized all the Art and Music Teachers: Maureen O'Sullivan, Amy Dolan, Jeff Daniels, Jeff Taylor, Arlene Tracey, Sarah Dundulis, Bryan Bigelow, Maria Price, Heather Kirby, Bridget Castonguay, Sarah Altone, and Kristin Prata, and William Nicholson. The School Committee thanked each of the teachers with a small gift.

ATHLETIC UPDATE:

Mr. Stephen Traister, Director of Athletics provided the 2014-15 winter sports update, and provided the participation numbers from last year and for this year. Mr. Traister also provided information about the strengths and challenges for the athletic department along with additional information regarding the athletic coaches meeting. He stated that 45% of the High School student body participated in fall sports. There will be an athletic fundraiser on March 28th, a Trivia night to refurbish the weight room. He provided the School Committee with the MIAA rules for coaches at all levels. Discussions followed.

GUIDANCE OVERVIEW:

Dr. Joanne McCormick, Director of Guidance presented a PowerPoint presentation on information from the High School Guidance office.

- Caseloads of the counselors
- 177 students per counselor
- Data on college acceptances – 41% of the Class of 2015 has applied for early admission with 60% of the class applying for college.
- Dedham High School Profile
- Class of 2015 college acceptances
- SAT ACT and subject test data
- Kaplan Test Prep Classes
- AP test data trends
- AP Scholars
- Guidance office Group Sessions 2014-15
- Career Fair March 3, 2015
- Junior College Planning Night March 10, 2015
- Reality Fair May 21, 2015

- Additional services
- Recognition of students
- M.A.R.C. Jr. award

Discussions followed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Superintendent Welch informed the committee that he sent out a message to all parents tonight in preparation of the cold weather, school will be in session tomorrow and the bus drivers have been asked to arrive earlier.
- Riverdale Principal search - an ad will appear in the Sunday Globe this Sunday with a deadline listed as Feb. 5th. Twelve members will be on the committee to interview the candidates along with site visits and brochures will be mailed to local schools. A finalist will be selected the week of March 15th.
- Mr. Welch will be presenting the Superintendent's entry plan findings at the next School Committee meeting on January 21.
- Mr. Welch has completed the Focus Group Meetings at each of the schools and the information has been compiled and sent back to each of the schools.
- An exit survey will be mailed to students who have left the Dedham Public School system to attend a private school.
- The public hearing will be held on January 21st for the FY16 School Operating Budget.
- Leadership Team meetings will be focusing on available data regarding inform instruction. The next meeting will be held at the Greenlodge School on Tuesday, January 20th.
- Dedham Public Schools hosted Needham High School to look at the 1:1 initiatives with Ipads.
- SBRC held a meeting on Monday night this week – there are 14 options to consider.
- The ECEC Lab session #2 will be held next all day long meetings on Monday and Tuesday next week with KBA Architects.
- Parent seminars will be held at the Dedham Middle School starting Tuesday, January 27th. Information will be sent out to local daycares for parent information.
- Directors and Principals are submitting information for the upcoming promotional flyer which will be send to all residents three times a year.
- Mr. Welch, Dr. Kelly and a group of elementary teachers will be visiting West Tatnuck Elementary School next week to visit grades 2-5 writing initiatives.
- Aspiring Leaders Academy will hold their 2nd meeting on January 20 with guest speaker, Erwin Blummer at the MIT Endicott House.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

Mrs. Barsamian wished Mr. Heisler well tonight.

FY16 BUDGET SUB COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mrs. McGregor reported that the Budget Sub-Committee met last night regarding the operational budget which will be presented to the School Committee next week and a vote will be taken on February 4th. On February 4th, Mr. Welch will discuss his entry plan findings to the School Committee.

Mr. Rippin stated that a formal budget calendar will be coming out in the next few days.

RECYCLING POLICY – MASS DEPT GRANT

Mrs. Briggs stated that the Policy Sub-Committee met this evening with Virginia LeClair – Environmental Coordinator and Jeanne Johnson, Director of Food Service, to adopt a recycling policy. Ms. LeClair is in the process of applying for a grant to assist in a recycling program with the town. At this point the Sub-Committee is not ready to present a policy. Virginia LeClair will attend the next School Committee Meeting to discuss the grant.

MINUTES

None

DONATIONS:

Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve a \$4,200 grant from the Dedham Library Innovation Team to the Dedham School Library Media Centers in support of STEM programs; the Makerspace movement in particular seconded by Mrs. Butler Walko seconded, voted unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Mrs. Walko motioned to go into executive session under exemption 3 – to discuss collective bargaining agreements, Mrs. Briggs seconded.

Roll call vote taken: Mrs. Butler-Walko – yes, Mr. Coughlin – yes, Mrs. Briggs – yes, Mrs. McGregor – yes, Mr. Ryan – yes, Mrs. Barsamian – yes.