

Dedham Public Schools

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Jen Barsamian, Chair	Tom Ryan, Vice Chair	Mayanne Briggs
Joe Heisler	Kevin Coughlin	Susan Butler-Walko
Rachel McGregor		

MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Michael J. Welch, Superintendent
Cynthia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent
Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance

School Committee Meeting reconvened in open session @ 7:02.

STUDENT UPDATE: Alison Sullivan and Heather Schmidt

The Dedham High School Drama Club fall production "All I Really Need to Know I Learned by Being in a Bad Play." The play will take place at 7:30 pm Friday and Saturday evening, November 14 and 15, 2014 in the DHS Auditorium. This comedy pokes fun at rehearsing and presenting a dramatic production. The author creates characters who exaggerate our image of an actor, director or stage manager - so much so, as to make the characters either ridiculous or laughable. More than 30 students are participating in this zany production. Please share this evening of laughter with the DHS drama club. Recommended donation: Adults: \$8.00
Students: \$5.00

The class of 2015 is selling "senior t-shirts" - long sleeve t-shirts for \$10 and short sleeve t-shirts for \$7. All proceeds will go to the class of 2015 activity fund. Order forms will be distributed this week and if students would like to order or have any questions, they should see a class officer or Mrs. Rahill in room A104.

The National Honor Society is hosting a drive to benefit students affected by the war in Ukraine. They are asking the community to donate your new and gently used school supplies and clothing. Items can be brought to DHS. Materials needed include pens, pencils, binders, notebooks, T-shirts, jackets, etc.

The Parent Connection is selling Hats & Bumper Stickers to raise funds for Student Scholarships, Spirit Activities and to bring speakers to DHS for students and parents. Last year Kevin Brooks came to DHS to talk with students and parents regarding the consequences of drinking and driving. Winter Hats are \$20 and Bumper Stickers are \$3. The order form is on the high school website and was sent out in the Parent Connection email.

Senior Nights for sports are coming up.

Girls Soccer: Monday, October 27th at 7P, under the lights, vs. Milton
Boys Soccer: Thursday, October 23rd at 7P, under the lights, vs. Walpole
Football and Cheerleading: Their schedule isn't ready yet for the second half of the season.
Swimming: Friday, October 24th at 3:45P vs. Framingham
Field Hockey: Thursday, October 23rd at 5:30P vs. Milton
Volleyball: This year Volleyball is having a Purple night for Heart disease awareness at our senior night. Monday, October 27th at 5:00PM
Volleyball beat Cambridge Ridge and Latin in 5 for our first win.

REPORTS

Greenlodge School Improvement Plan

Principal Banios presented the Greenlodge School Improvement Plan which was created by the Greenlodge School Advisory Council which included Jennifer Balfour, Julie Killgoar, Kerri Bryant and parents Lori Purdy and Sandy Sicard. The Plan emphasizes communication, respect, a positive learning environment, and integration of technology. The PowerPoint presentation will be located on the Dedham Public School website.

Athletic Update - Grade 8 Sports:

Athletic Director Steve Traister presented information to the School Committee regarding the 8th grade participation. The High School has a high participation rate, between 701-718 students - there are 322 athletes this fall which is 45% of our student body. Mr. Traister states that Dedham has 26 varsity sports and 17 sub varsity sports - all year. Some of these sports do not have a freshman level.

Today Dedham was granted a waiver thru the MIAA to have a promote a grade 8 Girls Freshman Basketball team. What can we do to get them the best possible experience going forward.

Girls basketball - last year we had 17 girls in the program, the year prior we had 25. When we have 17 we cannot field a freshman team – some girls got injured, some girls played both varsity and sub varsity. We were down to 12 healthy girls so we had to stop playing JV games.

Going forward, this year, we graduated 2 seniors, so we have 15-17 girls this year. Last year was the first year we didn't have a freshman team.

To have some freshman games, we approached Principal Gately regarding a waiver. Any girls that wanted to play basketball would play the freshman level with the waiver.

We had a meeting to see how many would come out for basketball, went down to the 8th grade lunch. You can't make cuts if you got the waiver. 14 girls came to the meeting and were interested. Mr. Traister went to the Bay State Conference, we were approved, then it goes to the district with the MIAA. Electronic signatures of administrators were required.

Questions came up regarding other sports. 60 days prior to the sport is needed to apply. Down to 10 student athletes in the swimming program.

We didn't anticipate them being that low. In the future we may be able to apply for that waiver.

Looking to improve our sports and what could benefit the students overall. Discussions followed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE:

DHS hosted a meeting with Dutch Superintendents this past week.

Superintendent Welch and Assistant Superintendent Kelly hosted a comprehensive discussion of the best writing experts in the district this week to brainstorm "writing across the district". They will meet again for a second meeting. Paraprofessionals will be meeting with the reading teachers at upcoming Professional Development meetings.

Mr. Welch attended a SEPAC meeting last night hosted by our local group.

Dr. Kelly, Principal Sullivan, Principal Armstrong and Mr. Welch attended discussions today regarding the evaluation supervision today, which is making progress.

Centric Consulting - IT Review Consultants, will be looking at town-wide and school wide technology in Dedham.

The TalentEd On-line teacher recruitment system is up and running.

Mr. Welch will hold a Leadership meeting at the Greenlodge School next week.

Capital Budget meeting was held last Monday - developed the Budget Timeline - there will be a vote tonight.

Dedham High School held an open house for students in grades 4-8 at 6:30 p.m.

Dedham Middle School will hold an open house next Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Next Professional Development Meeting will be Oct. 23.

Mr. Welch will be going on a walking tour with the Dedham Greenway and having continued conversations. The environmental coordinator made a presentation to the Capital Budget Committee last week.

Mr. Welch thanked Facilities Director, Denise Moroney for work done at Greenlodge recently – new ceilings, exterior, landscaping and upcoming projects - replacing hallway ceilings during the holidays.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

Mrs. Barsamian stated the 2nd portion of Goal Setting Workshop will be held on November 5th to include discussions on Strategic planning and update to the Master Plan.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ratification Vote – The Custodial Contract was voted in Executive Session earlier this evening to cover for the 3 year period - July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2015.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to vote the custodial contract, Mrs. McGregor seconded, Roll call vote taken:

Mr. Heisler - yes, Mr. Coughlin - yes, Mrs. Butler-Walko - yes, Mrs. McGregor - yes, Mrs. Briggs - Yes, Mr. Ryan - yes, Mrs. Barsamian - yes. voted unanimous

Mr. Heisler motioned to vote to accept the **FY16 Budget Calendar**, Mrs. Butler Walko seconded, voted unanimous.

Discussions took place regarding the **Little Sprouts Lease Extension at Dexter**.

Mr. Heisler motioned to accept the extension of the Little Sprouts Lease to December 31, 2014 with the possibility of extending it further if necessary, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko, voted unanimous.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept the Greenlodge School Improvement Plan, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous.

The Chair extended an invitation to Denise Moroney, Facilities Director, to attend an upcoming meeting on November 19th.

Mr. Heisler extended an invite to the Chair of the SBRC, Mr. Moulton, and Owner's Project Manager to the next meeting at our next meeting.

MINUTES

Motion made by Mrs. Briggs to accept the October 1, 2014 School Committee Meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Heisler, voted unanimous.

DONATIONS

1. Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve, with grateful appreciation , (2) \$500 donations from the Avery PTO to support the Avery School Library to purchase books, seconded by Mr. Heisler, voted unanimous.
2. Mr. Ryan motioned to approve, with grateful appreciation a donation of \$1000 from the Avery Fifth Grade Class of 2012-2013, seconded by Mrs. McGregor. These funds will be used to purchase white boards in several smaller learning spaces, voted unanimous.
3. Mr. Heisler motioned to approve, with grateful appreciation a donation of \$2000 from the Avery Fifth Grade Class of 2013-2014, seconded by Mrs. Briggs. This donation will help purchase covers for the iPads in the library, voted unanimous.

GRANT INFORMATION: School Library Incentive Grant for \$5000 – sent to Wendy Garland, and Ingrid Mayassi - Elementary Library put forward a grant request at the elementary level with respect to the libraries.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Abby O'Connell , a Pre-practicum student at DHS commented on the spirit of the DHS students.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Ryan, voted unanimous.
Meeting ended at 9:26p.m.