

Dedham Public Schools

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 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
 Kathy Gaudreau, Director of Special Education

6:30 p.m. NEW TEACHER RECEPTION

A Reception was held for all the new teachers prior to the School Committee Meeting

6:58 p.m. SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Recognition and Awards

NEW TEACHERS: Dr. Cynthia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent, recognized the new teachers this year:

New Teachers				
FirstName	LastName	School Name	Position	Department
Chiara	Amendola	District	BCBA	Special Education
Jennifer	Bean	ECEC	Teacher	.5 Preschool Special Education
Kaitlin	Blehm	Greenlodge High School	Speech	Education
Tess	Carroll	High School	Teacher	Science Foreign Language
Leslie	Castillo	School Middle	Teacher	
Julia	Christopher	School	Teacher	Science
Erika	Cornetta	ECEC	Teacher	Pre-K
Jessica	Crowley	Greenlodge	Teacher	Grade 3
Katharine	Darche	Avery	Teacher	Grade 2
Katie	DePorter/DeWit	Oakdale	Librarian	Library/Media
Amanda	Dietzel	Greenlodge High School	Teacher	Grade 2
Amy	Dolan	School Middle	Art Teacher	Fine Arts Special Education
Christie	Herbst	School Middle	Psychologist	Foreign Language Special Education
Daniel	Hosmer	School High	Teacher	Language Special Education
Jennifer	Hunt	School	Speech	Education

Erin	Kelley	ECEC High School	Teacher	Pre-K Foreign Language
Katherine	Kiewlicz	Riverdale Middle School	Teacher	Grade 1
Kerri	Kirby	High School	Librarian	Library Media
Arianna	Lechan	High School	Technology/Engineering	Technology
James	Leighton	High School	Teacher	Social Studies
Stephen	MacDonald	Riverdale	Teacher	Grade 1 Special Education
Melissa	Maggio	Avery High School	Teacher	Special Education
Erin	Martino	Riverdale	Teacher	Grade 5
Emily	Marvel	Oakdale Middle School	Grade 5	Teacher
Jessica	Moise	High School	Teacher	ELL Foreign Language Special Education
Kelly	O'Neill	Riverdale High School	Teacher	Foreign Language Special Education
Brooke	Petersen	Riverdale High School	Speech	Foreign Language Physical Education
Nancy	Prieto	School	Teacher	Grade 4
Maria	Rougeau	Avery High School	Teacher	Math
Sabrina	Roy	High School	Teacher	English
Jillian	Schiavo	School	Teacher	
Jacqueline	Stipo	Avery High School	Teacher	
Jillian	Sullivan	High School	Teacher	
Melissa	Zambito	High School	Teacher	

SUMMER READING PROGRAM:

Mrs. Beth Sawyer, English Department Chair, provided information on the revised Dedham High School Summer Reading Program. The new program is to foster student literacy, increase community involvement, and align with the 21st century learning expectations. Last Tuesday, Mrs. Sawyer hosted 66 book discussion groups through-out the high school. Group leader, Foreign Language Teacher, Sabrina Roy, and Dedham High School student, Aiden Flaherty provided comments.

Reports

Local Aide Update: State Representative Paul McMurtry and Massachusetts Senator Michael Rush updated the School Committee on the status of schools in the Commonwealth.

- 5.7% Increase over FY14 levels
- 18% increase from FY12 levels
- Increased funding for school transportation
- \$5 million for the Special Education Circuit Breaker
- \$5 million in grants for substance abuse counseling
- \$500,000 extended learning time grants
- \$7 million in additional monies for the MSBA to help districts remodel schools

STUDENT REPORTS – Allison Sullivan (Middle School) and Heather Schmidt (High School)

High School

- Spirit Week started on Monday, September 15 with a Pep Rally on Friday
- Oct 15th, the College fair and block party will be held in Dedham Square
- Dedham Shine is offering the “Give it a shot” scholarship for students to apply to reach schools
- Senior College planning night session last night for seniors regarding financial aide was held last night in the cafeteria

Middle School

- Tuesday and Wednesday homework clubs and the library club held at the Middle School
- The Middle School notice day is Thursday
- After school activities are ceramics and guitar
- Fall sports are cross country, field hockey and soccer. More details in the Middle School Mega Phone
- Thursday night – Open House 6:30-8:30 on Thursday – parents can learn more about the Middle School Day

SUPERINTENDENT’S UPDATE

Superintendent Welch updated the School Committee with his schedule of spending time in the schools, primarily looking at the 2nd grade classrooms, and he has already spent time at the Riverdale School in Grade 1 classrooms. The Leadership team met yesterday, working on current initiatives, district strategic goals and ongoing initiatives. Interviews for the selection of the town manager were held. Mr. Welch welcomed back Debbie Gately and publically thanked Assistant Principal Margo Fraczek. The Education Collaborative met last week regarding the TEC on-line courses. The new On-line platform – School Spring is up and running, with additional components to specify criteria to attract more qualified candidates. Mr. Welch is meeting with the safety committee next week with police and fire. He anticipates receiving the MCAS results, the last 2 weeks in September. Mr. Welch is keeping a close eye on enrollments. He is also looking at support staff and making any adjustments needed. Mr. Welch enjoyed participating in the Ice Bucket Challenge this week and thanked the Board of Selectmen too.

Chair’s Update

Mrs. Barsamian thanked everyone for the ice bucket challenge in memory of the Middle School Teacher, Mr. Donald Heald.

Mrs. Barsamian announced that Mr. Tom Polito has been appointed as the Dedham representative for Blue Hills Regional School.

Old/New Business

Policy Sub Discussion and Vote – Abutter Policy

The Dedham School Committee has custody and control over the use of and access to a large number of Town-owned school buildings and adjacent parcels of land, much of which land abuts residential property. From time to time the owners of abutting residential property have asked the School Committee to support a request from these owners to access for personal use, and for a variety of reasons, a portion of said Town-owned land.

In order for the Committee to consider such a request, the following factors, at a minimum, must be present:

1. The abutter must present a thorough, written explanation and proposal to the Committee.
2. The proposed usage cannot in any way interfere with the School Department's present or anticipated use of the property.
3. Typically, the abutter will need to show an inability to access their property unless an easement is granted.
4. The requester must recognize that the granting of easements is a decision that ultimately lies with Town officials, which will entail a separate and additional process by the requester.
5. The requester must understand that the School Committee retains full discretion to support or not support any request.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve the new language of the abutter policy, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted 6-1 in favor of the new language.

FY16 BUDGET SUB CALENDAR

Mrs. McGregor stated they have a draft but have to go before the town to see if it aligns with the town budget. The FY16 Budget will be presented to the School Committee at a later date.

Mr. Welch informed the School Committee that he met with the town today regarding about the town review of the technology study with Mr. Rippin and Mr. Langenhorst regarding the \$125,000 technology study.

POLICY SUB

In collaboration between the American Legion, Dedham Police, Fire and Parks and Recreation, the Veteran's Committee would like to donate a flag to be placed at the end of center field at the end of the Dedham Middle School to be named after a veteran. Mr. Welch recommended and supports this policy.

Motion to approve the naming of the flag pole at Lowen field made by Mrs. Briggs and seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous.

Minutes

None

Donations

None

Mr. Ryan motioned the need to go into executive session under exemption 3,
seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko, roll call vote taken:

Mayanne Briggs - Yes

Joe Heisler - Yes

Kevin Coughlin - Yes

Susan Butler-Walko - Yes

Rachel McGregor - Yes

Tom Ryan, Vice Chair - Yes

Jen Barsamian, Chair - Yes

Meeting ended at 7:57 p.m.