

Dedham Public Schools

School Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 10, 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

The Meeting began at 7:02 p.m.

Recognition and Awards

Dr. Cynthia Kelly, Assistant Superintendent, recognized two teacher award recipients who were recognized on September 2, 2014 at the Middle School:

- **The Joseph “Shad” Araby Award** recipient is Nurse Jane Moy from the Early Childhood Education Center. This award is for dedicated effort and support to the students in the Dedham Public Schools, presented by the Dedham Public Schools Administrators.
- **Ed Kelley Award** recipient is Stephanie Hoyt, Teacher at the Avery School. This award is presented annually to the School Department employee who demonstrates those qualities most characteristic of Ed Kelley, compassion, insight, integrity.

Reports

Principal McCarthy presented a PowerPoint Presentation on the High School NEASC Follow-up Report, and introduced the follow-up committee: Elizabeth Hellman, Michelle Singer, Jennifer Currivan, Susan Fontecchio – Interim Assistant High School Principal, Keith Comeau, Dan Rouse, Co-chair and Jim Forrest.

At a meeting held April 6-7, 2014, The Committee on Public Secondary Schools reviewed the decennial evaluation report from the recent visit to Dedham High School and voted to award the school continued accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges with 31 commendations and 9 recommendations. The 9 recommendations from the report are due in two years, on October 1, 2015, the team will classify the work that needs to be completed. The SC followed with discussions and questions Mr. McCarthy thanked Linda Kobierski and Katie Whitcomb (Spies) for serving as co-chairs of the NEASC Steering Committee during this entire process.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Welch updated the School Committee members with the current new staff totals: 60 new staff members that include 13 Unit A Elementary School Teachers - 5 from the Middle School, 14 from the High School, 17 new Paraprofessionals, a new carpenter, a new Assistant Superintendent, a new Interim Elementary Principal, a new Interim Secondary Assistant Principal, and a new Superintendent.

Superintendent Welch updated the School Committee members about the opening day; he said the day was fantastic. Mr. Welch made a presentation of "Who I am" on opening day for all staff members, Gerry Goldberg provided professional development for the staff, and Mr. Welch visited schools. A Leadership team meeting was held last, with instructional rounds at the Avery School, with 5 groups of 3 Administrators visiting all the classrooms. All schools will be visited by Christmas. Mr. Welch thanked Mrs. Sullivan for hosting the first Leadership meeting at Avery. Athletic is up and running.

Additional updates: MSBA update – an architect has been chosen for the renovation of the Dexter School, Knight, Bagge & Anderson Inc. Mr. Welch thanked Facilities Director, Denise Moroney and maintenance staff for all their hard work: the Greenlodge School was re-painted, the driveway sealing is done at Middle School, The Riverdale School had a wonderful transformation. Mr. Welch thanked DPW Director, Joe Flanagan for the wonderful sidewalk in front of the Riverdale School. Denise Moroney is touching up all school signs. The flooring at the High School is complete, the Facilities Dept. is working with an HVAC Contractor. The High School had the iPad rollout, teachers are really utilizing the smart boards and technology. Mr. Welch, School Committee members, and other administrators attended an event at the MIT house – the public was invited to donate back packs and supplies the Dedham students,

Mr. Welch has begun his Comprehensive Entry Plan – moving into the group conversations/focus groups/introductions, which will take place through December, 2014 with school and classroom visits. Mr. Welch said he was very eager to get work done with the focus being on student learning.

Chair's Update

Mrs. Barsamian stated that four members of the School Committee attended the Board of Selectmen Meeting this week voting Mr. Tom Polito to the Blue Hills Regional School Committee Member Thanked Mr. Joe Pascarella for his prior commitment.

The Goal setting meeting will be scheduled for September 25th at the MIT Endicott House.

Reports

Dr. Cynthia Kelly provided information to the School Committee on the summer Professional Development workshops overview.

Enrollment Report

Dr. Cynthia Kelly updated the School Committee Members with the current enrollments. Mr. Welch will be following the numbers and situation very closely.

PARCC Assessment VS MCASS State Testing Vote

Superintendent Welch stated that the deadline for making the decision to decide to use the PARCC Assessment or the MCAS state testing is due October 1st, he recommended staying with the MCAS to improve student learning. He stated that twenty-two states had adopted the PARCC Assessment Testing and now down that is down to twelve states.

Mr. Ryan motioned to remain with the MCAS testing, Mrs. Briggs seconded, voted unanimous.

Book Surplus

2007 *Everyday Mathematics* that have been updated in grades 1 and 2, vote to surplus with respect to these books.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to accept the surplus 22 grade one *Everyday Mathematics* books and 21 grade two books, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko, voted unanimous.

Minutes

Mr. Ryan motioned to accept the minutes of the August 20, 2014 meeting, Mrs. McGregor seconded, voted unanimous. Mr. Heisler abstained.

Donations

Mr. Heisler motioned to accept with grateful appreciation a significant grant from the Blue Hills Charitable Foundation Grant for \$9,909 to the Middle School to be used for graphing calculators for grade 8 students, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous. The grant was co-authored by Principal Gately and Kristine Holloran, Dept. Chair of Mathematics.

Reminders

Dedham Education Association's Bernie's Run will take place Oct 25th from 11:00 – 1:00 with anticipation of 500 runners. The proceeds goes back to the classroom.

College Fair will be held on October 25th 1:00-3:00

Mrs. Butler-Walko motioned to adjourn, Mrs. McGregor seconded, voted unanimous. Meeting ended at 8:39 p.m.