

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 20, 2014

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Jen Barsamian, Chair	Tom Ryan, Vice Chair	Mayanne Briggs
Joe Heisler -Absent	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

Meeting began at 7:36

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent introduced Mr. Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance. Superintendent Welch was very pleased to report that he is in the Superintendent Induction Program, which is a system directly mentoring and supporting new Superintendents; his coach is Mr. Jim Marini. Mr. Welch presented his Entry Plan to the School Committee for the FY15 school year.

CHAIRS UPDATE

Mrs. Barsamian thanked the following staff members for moving the School Committee meeting from the town hall to the Avery School location:

- Jeanne Johnson
- Donna Grier
- Clare Sullivan
- Roger Lazdowsky
- Keith Begin

REPORTS

Dr. Cynthia Kelly presented the current enrollment Report to the School Committee members. Mrs. Barsamian suggested an update on the enrollment in September.

RAILS TO TRAILS PRESENTATION

Virginia LeClaire presented the Dedham Greenway report - The Dedham Greenway is a community led effort to transform a 1.5 mile stretch of abandoned railway into a new linear park and cultural greenway. The project will convert the abandoned railway into a pedestrian and bike path, which will incorporate public art and community gardens, as well as connect the adjacent neighborhoods to each other and to Boston. A report on the walking school bus to and from school and biking education was presented.

Rich McCarthy , Town planner also spoke about how economic a rail bed thru the town would be with potential for businesses to pop up next to the rail bed and said there is a lot of enthusiasm and energy for the start this process. Ms. LeClair stated that the project would look for art from the community.

Dedham and Westwood Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan was discussed. Discussions from the School Committee members followed. Mr. Fred Civian spoke about the master plan regarding safety for student walkers and bikers.

POLICY SUB COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Policy Sub Committee met on August 15th and viewed 2 policy proposals.

- The Abutter Policy
- The Fingerprinting policy

Fingerprinting policy – this is a first year policy – Anyone hired after July 2013 needs to be fingerprinted, the state has contracted a company called MorphoTrust. All employees need to be fingerprinted by 2016-17 school year.

Mr. Coughlin motioned to approve the Fingerprinting Policy, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko, voted unanimous.

The Abutter Policy

After discussions took place, Mrs. Briggs suggested that the Policy Sub Committee revisit the draft policy. Mrs. Barsamian stated there would not be a vote taken tonight.

MINUTES

Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve the June 4, 2014 minutes, seconded by Mrs. McGregor, voted unanimous.

Mrs. Briggs motioned to approve the June 18, 2014 minutes, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko, voted unanimous.

DONATIONS

Mrs. Butler-Walko motioned to approve \$1000 from Dedham Flag Committee to the Dedham High and the Dedham Middle School, seconded by Mr. Ryan, voted unanimous.

Motion to adjourn made by Mrs. Briggs, seconded by Mrs. Butler-Walko, voted unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.