

DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

July 20, 2022

(Approved 8/10/2022)

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Dr. Melissa Pearrow, Chair

Victor Hebert, Vice-Chair

Mayanne Briggs

Joshua Donati

Cailen McCormick

Christopher Polito

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ABSENT:

Tracey White

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

None

Meeting Location: Dedham High School

Meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m.

Reports/Updates

Discussion & Vote of Parks & Recreation Memorandum of Agreement - Capen School

The Committee reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Parks & Recreation Department covering the scope and use of the Capen School. They discussed the length of time the MOA has been in draft form allowing both parties significant time to review the details.

Motion

Mr. Donati motioned to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the School Committee and the Dedham Parks and Recreation Commission for use of the Capen School, Ms. Briggs second, no further discussion; motion passed 6-0.

Minutes

Ms. McCormick motioned to approve the minutes from June 1, 2022 as presented, Mr. Donati second, no discussion; motion passed 6-0

Mr. Donati motioned to approve the minutes from June 15, 2022 as presented, Ms. McCormick second, no discussion; motion passed 6-0

Old/New Business

Flag Policy

Mr. Polito inquired into whether there was a policy in place regarding the hanging of flags in the classroom. The Policy Subcommittee will review.

Superintendent Search Process

In attendance was Keven Bresnahan, Attorney for the Dedham Public Schools and Art Bettencourt, Executive Director of NESDEC. (Three other NESDEC Associate Staff members were also present - Carol Burke, Nancy Gustofsan, and Christopher Malone.) NESDEC has been hired to conduct the search for the next superintendent. Attorney Bresnahan will assist with the legal obligations involved in hiring a new superintendent.

Mr. Bettencourt and his staff reviewed the overview of the search process (120 days) and communication. They suggested selecting a spokesperson for clear and succinct communication between both parties. This person should be available on an ongoing basis. They then discussed having the new Superintendent in place by July 1, 2023.

The search process will include a community needs assessment, search committee (sub committee 2-3 people), screening committee and focus groups (up to 6 groups). NESDEC will provide a summary of focus group data back to the whole school committee. They will also use this information to compile a candidate profile.

The Screening committee will have the first look at the applications (work in executive session, interview candidates, deliberate, etc) and will move the names (of however many candidates desired) forward to the rest of the committee.

The group discussed

- Ways to reach out to constituents to help create focus groups, screening and search committees
- Having an Interim Superintendent between December 2022 and June 2023
- Internal vs. External candidates
- Timeline for the search (shortened vs. longer)
- Open meeting law (focus groups are not subject to OML, unless a quorum of School committee members is present)

Committee agreed to use Timeline 1 presented by NESDEC.

Dr. Perrow will be the liaison for NESDEC until a subcommittee is formed and a spokesperson has been selected.

Superintendent's Salary

The Committee agreed to a 4% pay increase to the Superintendent's salary.

Motion

Mr. Polito motioned to approve a 4% FY23 salary increase for Superintendent Welch, Ms Briggs second, no discussion; motion passed 6-0.

Acknowledgements & Announcements

The Committee will hold another summer meeting on August 10, 2022

Motion

Ms. McCormick motioned to adjourn the meeting of July 20, 2022., Ms Briggs second, no discussion; motion passed 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.