

**Dedham Public Schools
School Committee Meeting
March 1, 2023**

MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Dr. Melissa Pearrow
Victor Hebert (absent from regular meeting)
Mayanne Briggs (absent from regular meeting)
Joshua Donati
Christopher Polito
Cailen McCormick
Tracey White (absent from regular meeting)
Tara Duncan

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Dr. Ian Kelly, Interim Superintendent
Matthew Wells, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance
Dr. Sara Stetson, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services
Dr. Heather Smith, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum

Meeting Location:
Avery Elementary

School Committee Meeting commenced at 6:30 p.m.

Open Meeting
Dr. Melissa Pearrow called the meeting to order.

Executive Session – Exemption 3 – To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation.

Motion was made to move to Executive Session and return to public session. Motion was approved by roll call vote of 6-0. (Ms. Briggs was absent for vote).

[The School Committee returned from Executive Session at 7:03 PM.]

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Pearrow announced that there are three members absent but since a quorum exists (four out of seven members present), motions voted on tonight are binding.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

[NONE.]

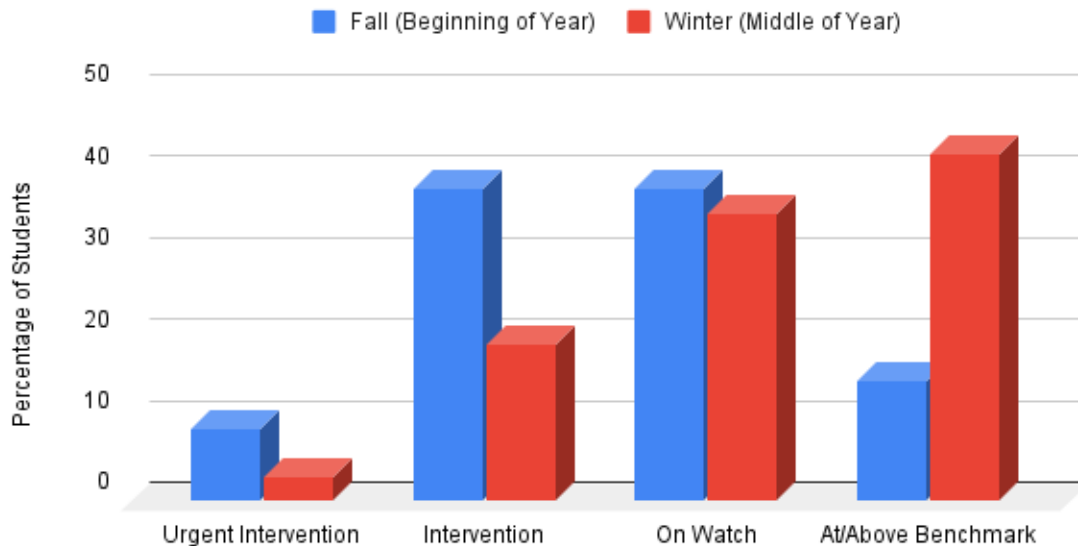
Interim Superintendent Update

March 1, 2023

Teaching and Learning

Elementary Math Intervention: With addition of a district-wide elementary math interventionist, support has expanded to include Grade 3 (all schools) and Grade 4 (Riverdale), in addition to the ongoing intervention at Avery (Grades 2-5) with [Bridges Intervention](#). The process of screening, providing intervention, and progress monitoring is outlined [here](#). The following graph summarizes progress in elementary math intervention as of the Winter (Middle of Year) Star Math assessment window.

Fall and Winter Star Math Assessment Outcomes with Bridges Math Intervention



We are focusing district-wide intervention in Grade 3 initially based on end of year mastery data from Star Math (Spring 2022) which indicated potential gaps in their ability to efficiently and accurately use basic math operations. Fall Star Math, teacher input, and EveryDay Math assessments lead to the inclusion of Grade 4 at Riverdale. It is our hope that we will be able to exit more Grade 3 students over the course of the year and use the same assessments to determine which grade levels to then focus on, school-by-school.

Professional Development

Early release day. Tomorrow will be an early release day for students. Faculty and staff throughout the district will engage in focused professional learning at this time. Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Heather Smith has been hard at work coordinating a wide range of

learning opportunities designed to meet the needs of Dedham's faculty and staff. Details about tomorrow's professional development [can be found here](#).

Community Engagement

Oakdale Building Project. As I mentioned in my last update, the Oakdale visioning team continues its work and held its final meeting on February 16th. Facilitated by David Stephen from New Vista Design, this group of approximately 35 leaders, educators, parents, and community members worked collaboratively to establish educational, architectural, and community priorities for Dedham's next elementary school building projects. A full report on this work is available via the link [here](#). This report provides detailed information about the process itself and all of the information that was gathered through it. The District is now working to incorporate all of this information into the Educational Program that will be submitted at the end of this month to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) as part of the Preliminary Design Program (PDP).

[Extended School Day and Year Programming.](#) The Director of ESD/ESY Programming and The Office of Student Services continue to work closely towards establishing a fully integrated summer program for children in kindergarten through grade five. Beyond the amazing internal collaboration, the District is also working to enhance existing and establish new partnerships with other town departments and local businesses. Most recently Ms. Freda has secured partnerships with the Dedham Public Library and Mo's Martial Arts as summer partners. They will make their debut at LEAP Rec Fridays providing engaging learning opportunities for our youngsters! LEAP Summer online registration opened today at 12:00 pm and families can access registrations under their "Forms" section in their PowerSchool accounts.

Ms. Alyssa Freda will be on site at Avery next Tuesday, March 7th, and Greenlodge next Wednesday, March 8th, to discuss the LEAP Before and Afterschool Program as parents pick up their children from the after school program. Families interested in learning more about the LEAP Before and Afterschool Program are welcome to attend the zoom [Q&A Session on Thursday](#), March 9th, at 7:00 pm.

Dr. Kelly announced the summer program online system went live today at 2:30 and 260 students are already enrolled in Avery Institute Sessions and 29 students are enrolled in TREK. Enrollment is being done through PowerSchool. It is a customized system that allows one stop shopping with online payment.

Ms. Pearrow said she is appreciative that the after school program is open for registration earlier this school year.

Mr. Donati questioned why Professional Development Days are held on Thursday when other Districts do them on Friday. Dr. Kelly said that Professional Development Days were scheduled on Fridays; they learned that the end of the week was not the optimal time for teachers to learn.

Reports/Updates/Requests

Discussion & Vote on Out of State Field Trip Request to Roger Williams Zoo by Elementary Principals

Principal Kimberly Hermesch from Oakdale Elementary School joined the meeting to talk about the annual field trip for all the Dedham Elementary Schools. She said that the trip complements the elementary curriculum. Principal Hermesch said because it is an out of state trip permission is required from the School Committee.

Ms. McCormick asked why the elementary school trip had to be held out of state? Principal Hermesch replied that they have a longstanding relationship with the Roger Williams Zoo.

Motion was made to approve the trip to Roger Williams Zoo. Motion was approved by a vote of 4-0 (White, Briggs, Hebert were absent).

Dr. Pearrow asked Tara Duncan to tell them about the High School trip to Costa Rica.

Tara Duncan reported on the High School trip to Costa Rica. She said 25 students participated in 12-mile rafting, zip lining, trip to a pineapple farm, hot springs and volcano. The community projects they participated in involved planting trees and cleaning up sidewalks.

- Update from Vertex - Oakdale School Project Owner's Project Manager

[Mr. Polito excused himself from the meeting due to conflict.]

Steve Theran, Vertex Project Manager said they will first hear about the revised Educational Plan from Dr. Kelly, then Philip Gray, architect from Jonathan Levi, will update about the space summary plan. The space summary will incorporate the Educational Plan into the three enrollment scenarios outlined by MSBA.

Dr. Kelly updated the group about the Educational Plan. The Educational Plan informs the MSBA and designers to help with logistics of the design. The Educational Plan is currently 80 pages and is a broad methodology of how education will be delivered. Dr. Kelly said the current plan is a draft plan that reflects a collaboration of all school leaders. He has parsed out sections of the document to each relevant leader. The report is a summary of what we hope to achieve with enhancements to our educational system.

He showed a slide that listed the Education Priorities and Learning Goals.

Some aspects of the design approach are:

- Ensuring new resources and instructional opportunities are enjoyed by a broad range of students.
- Student driven learning powered by technology integration and collaborative spaces.
- Larger classrooms to accommodate break out groups and co-teaching models.
- Full service kitchen.
- Enhanced safety and security.
- Dedicated gym and performance and art spaces that accommodate disability needs.
- Design that improves access and schedule improvements.

Dr. Stetson said the approach to student services included a focus on special services, increased collaboration in the general curriculum and analyzing key elements of visioning sessions. The overall goal was to enhance the hands-on approach that already exists. There were no major changes to their current educational approach, grading system, class sizes or support programs.

Dr. Kelly said that they will continue to draft the Educational Program. He hopes to have the School Committee vote on the Educational Program document by March 15, 2023. The plan will continue to be developed until submission to OPM on 3/31/23. Preliminary Design Plan needs to be submitted to MSBA by April 3, 2023.

Phillip Gray said they will need a list of rooms and sizes so they can start the design.

Design categories include Core Academic, SPED, Art and Music, Physical Education, Media Center, Dining and Food Service, Medical, Administration and Guidance. The size of the rooms are based on the three scenario enrollment plans outlined by MSBA. He talked about tailoring configurations to fit the Educational Plan and how spaces can be used for diverse activities.

COMMENTS

Ms. McCormick asked if Dedham could go beyond what MSBA requirements dictate? Gray said the MSBA has limits about the reimbursement percentages. If pieces are added, then the District has to pay for the items outside the base model. MSBA has discretion about what they will allow.

- Discussion and Potential Vote of Superintendent's Contract

Dr. Pearrow announced that the Superintendent's Contract for Nan Murphy was discussed and voted on favorably during Executive Session and now the School Committee will need to register a public vote.

Motion was made to approve the Superintendent's Contract as presented. Motion was approved by vote of 3-1. (White, Briggs, Hebert were absent; Polito opposed).

Subcommittee Updates

- Budget

Dr. Kelly informed the group that they need to vote on the substitute pay rate to a level commensurate with market comps.

Motion was made to approve the change in rate for substitute teachers from \$75 to \$120 as presented by Dr. Kelly. Rate is effective immediately. Motion was approved by vote of 4-0. (White, Briggs, Hebert were absent).

- Communication

[NONE.]

- Curriculum Advisory

Dr. Heather Smith said families have been invited to come in during the evening to participate in focus groups. They are still looking for volunteers for the advisory group. The commitment is for one meeting per month and the appointment is for two years. Ms. McCormick confirmed that there is minimal involvement outside the meeting times.

- Policy - Third Reading of Policies

Mr. Donati went over the changes in the language for the policies. Content issues were covered in depth at the first reading.

- o File: JRA-R - Student Records

Motion was made to approve the changes to policy JRA-A as presented. Motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. (White, Briggs, Hebert were absent).

- o File: IJNDG - Student Data Privacy Policy

Motion was made to approve the changes to policy IJNDG as presented. Motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. (White, Briggs, Hebert were absent).

- o File: IJM - Written Information Security Policy

Motion was made to approve the changes to policy IJM as presented. Motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. (White, Briggs, Hebert were absent).

- o File: ECAE - Security Camera System Policy & Guidelines

Motion was made to approve the changes to policy ECAE as presented. Motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

- SBRC

No further updates.

- Traffic Circulation

No updates.

- Negotiations

No updates.

- Parks & Recreation

No updates.

Donations

No donations.

Review and Approval Vote of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion was made to approve the February 15, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. (White, Briggs, Hebert were absent).

Old/New Business

Mr. Polito asked if the Executive Session minutes from the last 6 months could be reviewed in light of the pending change to the School Committee membership.

Acknowledgements and Announcements

Ms. McCormick mentioned the success of the Town Summit.

Mr. Donati said there is info on the Town website for every department, board, and committee that presented at the Summit.

Motion was made to adjourn and approved by a vote of 4-0. (White, Briggs, Hebert were absent).

Submitted by

Virginia Quinn

Recording Secretary