

Dedham Public Schools
School Committee
Meeting Minutes June 8, 2011

The Chairman of the School Committee, Kevin Coughlin, convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Members of the School Committee present were:

Kevin Coughlin, Chair	Joe Heisler
Mayanne Briggs, Vice Chair	Dimitria Sullivan
Dave Roberts	Susan Butler Walko
Tom Ryan	

Members of the Central Administration present were:

June Doe, Superintendent
Cindy Kelly, Assistant Superintendent
Michael La Francesca, Assistant to the Superintendent for Business

The Superintendent announced the recognition of the Middle School New England Math League Contest winners. Principal Gately and Nancy Clements presented the students (additional students will be recognized at the June 22nd meeting due to previous commitments). The Grade 6 team as a whole scored 123 points which ranked them 29th in New England and 5th in Norfolk and Suffolk Counties.

Also recognized were Meghan Simone and Ronnie Pucci, eighth grade students, who each received the Scholar Leader Award.

Superintendent's Update:

The Superintendent made a public apology to the community members at large concerning the High School graduation at the Endicott Estate. A graduation ceremony and reception was held on Monday, June 6, 2011 in order to provide a special ceremony and celebration for the Class of 2011. An update was provided on the many end of year activities at all the schools across the district. Grade 8 promotion ceremony will be held on June 24th. The Middle School summer school program will begin on June 27th and end on July 22nd. The elementary band students joined together for the first ever elementary band concert at Dedham High School. Enrollment in the Avery Summer Institute is still open. Information is available on the Avery School webpage. Oakdale 5th grade students viewed the Tall Ships in Boston. They also received a tour of Representative Paul McMurtry and were given permission to enter the Representative's Chambers, Governor Patrick's and Lt Governor Murray's offices. Thanks to State Trooper Jim Coughlin who arranged the visit. Greenlodge held their field day on June 10th.

Chair's Update:

The Chair read a brief statement regarding the events of the past week. As a Committee, thanks to Superintendent Doe for her sincere and heartfelt words to the Class of 2011, their parents, and residents of Dedham. Congratulations to the Class of 2011 and wish much happiness in the future endeavors. At the first School Committee meeting in September, the Superintendent and High School Administration will report to the Committee the graduation plan. At minimum it will include a graduation date and time or times, location, and backup location if needed. The Committee is open for many ideas. The High School Administrative team and the Facilities Manager will create a cost estimate to renovate the high school auditorium. The estimate and appropriate backup material will be presented to the Budget Sub-Committee in the fall to be added to the Capital Project priority list.

Student Representative's Update: none

Reports:

School Lunch Program Price Increase – Chair of the Budget Sub- Mr. Heisler spoke regarding this increase. Due to Federal Government guidelines we are required to increase the price of school lunches. Notification will be sent through mailings during the summer and also on the menus for September.

Motion to approve the lunch price increases as presented made by Mr. Heisler, and seconded by Mr. Roberts.

Approved: Unanimous 7:0

Guidance Survey Report: Ms. Doe introduced Dr. Joanne McCormick to present results of surveys on Guidance services and to obtain feedback to improve services. One survey was directed to students and the other to parents. Communication is an area in need of improvement. Announcements will be posted on Naviance and a letter to parents will be sent before the end of the year to encourage parents to log into Naviance for information. Every senior was surveyed before they left and the remaining students are in the process of being surveyed. Counselor of the Day was implemented this year. A Guidance Resource table is located in the cafeteria so students can approach the counselors during the lunch period. Evening hours are available in the Guidance department for parents. Dr. McCormick made a plea to parents to log on and complete the survey. The scheduling process at the high school is complete, the master schedule has been run and 82% of the students got what they requested. Out of the remaining students 90% of those were missing one class. The final schedule is being tweaked to work with the students to get the classes they requested. Dr. McCormick also reported on the 9th grade teaming.

Old/New Business:

Avery and Athletic Field update

Latest discussion centered on the fields with the discussion and vote centered on the recommended bathroom facility that was presented by the architects and project manager. Recreation Road should be paved on June 16th, and fencing should be in place for the summer programs. Avery Project – the roofs are enclosed and the brick work continues on the exterior walls. The footings for the lights have been poured and the light poles have arrived on site. Mrs. Butler Walko stated the past few years Civic Pride and the DPW have moved in the direction of all fences being black vinyl versus chain link. Discussion held on the structure for the bathroom facilities and possible shrub plantings around the finished project. It was also requested to receive more substantial updates on the athletic field project including minutes (draft form) and more information on the project.

Financial Policy – Debt Management Policy Discussion and Vote:

Policy Sub Committee met and discussed this policy. Recommendation from the sub-committee is to approve the Debt Management Policy as presented. Motion made by Ms. Briggs, and seconded by Mr. Roberts. Approved: Unanimous 7:0

Technology Fee Account Setup. Mr. La Francesca stated a revolving account is required to be set up to receive the fees associated with the notebook initiative for incoming freshmen.

Motion made by Mr. Roberts, and seconded by Ms. Briggs to approve the setup of a revolving account for the purpose stated. Approved: Unanimous 7:0

MOA for Title I Teachers. An agreement was reached in negotiating a one year extension to the Title I Collective Bargaining Agreement with a 2%/1% split increase in salaries for the year. Additionally language will be included to allow Title I employees to participate in the Unit A sick bank. The current language in Article 7.6 will remain intact.

Motion made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Ms. Butler Walko to approve the MOA for Title I Teachers from September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012. Vote taken by roll call: Ms. Butler Walko-yes, Mr. Roberts-yes, Mr. Ryan-yes, Mr. Heisler-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes, Ms. Briggs-yes, Mr. Coughlin-yes. Approved: Unanimous 7:0

Coloring books were created for the Dedham 375 Celebration Committee and will be distributed to all the elementary schools. The Committee will invite the artists of the coloring book to the next meeting to be recognized.

Approval of Minutes:

May 4, 2011 Minutes: Motion made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Mr. Heisler to accept as printed. Approved: Unanimous 7:0

May 18, 2011 Minutes: Motion made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Ms. Butler Walko to accept as printed. Approved: Unanimous 7:0

Executive Session Minutes of March 30, 2011: Motion made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Ms. Briggs to accept as printed. Approved: Unanimous 7:0

Donations:

The Music Association of Dedham High School Inc., presented the Committee with a donation of \$796.50 to be targeted toward bus rental overage expenses for the music extracurricular programs incurred during the 2011 season.

Motion made by Ms. Butler Walko to accept the donation with grateful appreciation, and seconded by Ms. Sullivan with grateful appreciation. Approved: Unanimous 7:0

Public Comment: none

Motion to Adjourn: made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Ms. Briggs Approved: Unanimous 7:0