

Dedham Public Schools
School Committee
Meeting Minutes – May 18, 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 - Absent
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

Winners of the New England Math League Contest were invited to attend the School Committee meeting to be recognized for the achievement as the top scorers. Forty seven elementary (grade 4 and 5) students were present with their parents. Mrs. Clements announced the names of the students by school and grade.

Superintendent's Update:

Mrs. Doe provided an update of activities and events taking place throughout the district. Students of the month at DHS were Kimberley Bregart and William Weeks. They will receive a \$50 Savings Bond from Dedham Savings Bank. Art work from high school students is on display at Dedham Institute for Savings. The bank will judge the pieces and award savings bonds in two categories: art and photography. The Middle School sports teams have had a very successful season. The All Town Chorus Concert will be held on May 25th. Elementary Principals attended their annual conference in Hyannis. Five students from ECEC were selected in the EPA's 39th annual Paul G. Keough Earth Artists Program.

Chair's Update:

Mr. Coughlin reported the FY12 Budget passed at the recent Town Meeting and all Capital Budget items requested were approved. The High School Spring Concert was tremendous and requested everyone support the Arts in Dedham schools. The 44th annual Flag Day Parade will be held on June 14th. Mr. Coughlin acknowledged Mr. Heisler's absence due to a death in his family.

Student Representative's Update: none

Reports:

Mr. Don Langenhorst, Director of Technology provided an in depth presentation supporting the continuation of the Computer requirement for graduation. Materials were provided to the Committee prior to the meeting which included: The Intellectual and Policy Foundations of the 21st Century Skills Framework, Massachusetts Technology Literacy Standards and Expectations (April 2008), and NEAS&C Teaching and Learning Standard ~Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations. A Power Point presentation was given. Dr. Dan Rouse, Cathy Oravetz, Ann Grant, and Judy Foley were also present to provide further details of the programs ongoing in the District. Mr. Langenhorst reported on the positive feedback received regarding student preparedness at the college level. Ms. Jean Tennihan, Human Resource Director at Dedham Savings Bank spoke on the Bank's role as supplemental support for the Computer requirement in helping prepare students manage debt, investments, use of credit cards and the importance of a good credit score. Alumni Jackie Chen also spoke on the benefits of the Computer requirement and how it has helped her in her current college studies at Boston University.

Proposed changes to the High School Student Handbooks were presented by Assistant Principals Murray and Forrest. The proposed changes were given to the Committee members prior to the meeting. The changes address tardiness issues and will strengthen the policy. Attendance policy changes will align the high school policy more with the State policy.

Motion made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Ms. Butler Walko to adopt the proposed changes to student handbook for the 2011-2012 school year as presented with additional correction to insert "unexcused" in the Attendance Policy where noted. Approved 6:0

Superintendent Doe reported on scheduling at the High School. Mr. Dewar has worked on the 9th grade schedule with semester courses. The High School staff has created new 9th grade courses to enrich their 9th grade experience. These courses include: Wellness, Exploring Woodworking Technology, Broadcasting, Engineering-The Future, Computer Technologies, Art I, Band, and Chorus. Goal is to provide semester courses for the upper classmen next year. Mrs. McCormick and the Guidance Department created a student survey for senior and the response was good. She will present the data at the next meeting. Additionally, a parent survey has been posted on line for parents of juniors and seniors. This data will also be compiled and reported on.

Old/New Business:

Public Hearing on School Choice:

Motion made by Mr. Roberts, and seconded by Ms. Sullivan to open a Public Hearing on School Choice.

Motion passed by roll call vote: Ms. Butler Walko-yes, Mr. Roberts-yes, Mr. Ryan-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes, Ms. Briggs – yes, Mr. Coughlin-yes.

Ms. Doe reported that this is an annual discussion and vote on the School Choice Law. Recommendation of Superintendent is to continue the policy of the Dedham School District not to admit non-resident students under the terms and conditions of this inter-district School Choice Law.

The Chair asked for comments from the public – none

Motion made by Mr. Roberts, and seconded by Ms. Sullivan to close the Public Hearing on School Choice. Motion passed by roll call vote: Ms. Butler Walko-yes, Mr. Roberts-yes, Mr. Ryan-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes, Ms. Briggs –yes, Mr. Coughlin-yes.

Motion made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Ms. Butler Walko to adopt the Superintendent's recommendation not to participate in School Choice. Approved: Unanimous 6:0

Secretaries/Clerks Memorandum of Agreement July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

A request to extend the collective bargaining agreement for 1 year was negotiated and agreed upon at a recent executive session. MOA was ratified by the Union. Motion was made to adopt the 1 year extension of the Secretaries and Clerks Agreement by Ms. Briggs, and seconded by Ms. Sullivan. Approved: Unanimous 6:0

Included as part of the process for the new Avery School, discussions were held on the intentions of the school district to release the old Avery School back to the Town of Dedham. The Superintendent read the following: "It is my recommendation to the Committee to release the 1921 Avery School building to the Town of Dedham upon vacating the building. The construction timeline for the new Avery School remains on schedule and at this time we can anticipate occupancy in April 2012. I recommend returning the old building to the care and custody of the Board of Selectmen upon our vacating the building, which in all likelihood will be prior to or at the end of the 2011-2012 school year". Motion made by Mr. Roberts, and seconded by Ms. Butler Walko to support the recommendation of the Superintendent to support the release of the Avery School. Approved: Unanimous 6:0

All-American City Award Approval

A contingent from the Town will be traveling to Kansas City, MO on June 14th and it was requested by Mr. Keegan to include members of the HS Band (9 students) to be included. Mr. Abrahamson, Superintendent Doe, and Assistant Superintendent Kelly will be chaperoning the students.

Motion made by Ms. Briggs, and seconded by Ms. Butler Walko to approve the trip.

Approved: Unanimous 6:0

Avery and Athletic Field Projects Update:

Exterior blocking is being done on the first floor. The south side all three floors are being blocked. Floors have been poured. The interior walls will begin to go up. Jim Byrne extends an invitation to tour the building at 5:00 p.m. prior to the SBRC meeting on Monday night. Final grading of crushed stone is put down on field as part of the laser leveling.

Update on new literacy programs at ECEC given by Mrs. Kelly. The English Language Arts Committee has been meeting and is currently visiting schools that have the reading programs being looked at. Hope to make a decision on the program within the next few weeks and a recommendation will be made. Mrs. Kelly handed out to the Committee documents from the Department of Education – Crosswalk documents to show the way between Curriculum Frameworks and the Common Core Standards that will be coming out.

The Chair announced the need for an additional School Committee meeting June 22, 2011. Tentatively set for July 13 and August 3rd will also be set.

Budget Sub Committee was meeting held regarding increasing school lunches. It was unanimously voted by the sub-committee to support the requested increase. Brief presentation to be made at the next Committee meeting.

Approval of Minutes: none

Donations: none

Public Comment: none

The Chair announced a need for executive session under exemption 3 – contract negotiations. Motion made by Mr. Roberts, and seconded by Ms. Butler Walko. Motion carried by roll call vote: Ms. Butler Walko-yes, Mr. Roberts-yes, Mr. Ryan-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes, Ms. Briggs-yes, Mr. Coughlin-yes.

Open meeting Adjourned: 9:05 p.m.