

Dedham Public Schools
School Committee
Meeting Minutes March 31, 2011

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

Members of the School Committee present were:

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| Tom Ryan, Chair | Joe Heisler |
| Kevin Coughlin, Vice Chair | Dimitria Sullivan |
| Dave Roberts - absent | Mayanne Briggs |
| Tracy Driscoll - absent | |

Members of the Central Administration present were:

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

Superintendent's Update:

Mrs. Doe reported on many events and programs occurring in the district in the next few weeks. The High School and Middle School jazz ensembles and the Choral group played at the newly renovated Holiday Inn. Congratulations to the entire cast and crew for a successful "Bye Bye Birdie" production. Distinguished Alumni event will be held April 11, at 9:00 a.m. Several alumni will speak about what life has been like for them after graduation. The deadline for purchasing memorial bricks is April 8. The DEF Spelling Bee winners at the Middle School level representing the Willard Team were Joseph Von Schoppe, Mathew Jameson, and Derek Jameson. There was a tie declared between the third grade teams from Avery and Oakdale schools. Greenlodge won the fifth grade round. The overall champions were Avery fourth grade students: Sarunya Springer, Gina Pasciuto, Rachael Shaer, and Anaxis Diamond. Building Bridges is a new afterschool program at Riverdale with students and seniors from Newbridge on the Charles. There is a ceremony scheduled for April 7, 2011 to commemorate the last piece of steel erected to the Avery building. SEPAC is hosting a workshop at the Endicott Estate on April 7th at 7:30 p.m.

Chair's Update:

Chairman Ryan bid farewell to Mrs. Driscoll, who was not able to be present. He thanked her for the six years of dedicated service as a committee member. She worked tirelessly to raise the bar and improve academic achievement and she will surely be missed.

Student Representative's Update:

Liz Merino presented an update of High School activities. Spring sports are beginning. Senior CPR sessions were held during delayed MCAS opening days. All seniors are certified. Prom will be held May 13th at the Quincy Marriott. A scholarship seminar was held to provide information on paperwork and deadlines.

Reports:

Science Department Chair Louise Young and Amanda Bragan presented to the Committee a field trip request "Physics Day at Fun Town USA in Saco, ME, run by the University of Maine. Recommendation from Superintendent is to approve trip.

Motion made by Mr. Heisler, and seconded by Mr. Coughlin to approve field trip. Approved 5:0

Foreign Language Department Chair Nancy Bradley, Kelly Beck (French teacher) Katie O'Regan (Spanish teacher) presented a proposal to the Committee for a field trip to France and Spain during April vacation 2012. Packet of informational material was given to Committee in advance. Recommendation from Superintendent is to approve trip.

Motion made by Mr. Heisler, and seconded by Ms. Sullivan to approve trip as presented. Approved 5:0

Curriculum Committees Update – presented by Assistant Superintendent Cindy Kelly.

ELA Curriculum Committee met twice in February and March. Samples from five publishers were received with materials in all the buildings for review. Each program will be analyzed by the committee members and the top two choices will be picked. Reading is different for Math due to the different components. Sixth grade teachers are looking at Every Day Math and McDougal Littell Program which is used in grades 7 & 8. A decision will be made to get the material in place for September.

The Town's Mitigation Grant Fund awarded funding for Achieve 3000 which is an internet-based, literacy program that differentiates instruction and is available in English and Spanish. This will target ELL students at Avery and special needs students. There are 146 ELL students in Dedham currently.

Homework Policy/Assignments presented by Elementary Principals – preliminary information has been gathered from the teachers by each grade level to get an overview on homework from the teacher's point of view. Consistent practices are in place throughout the district. An overview of homework by each grade was given to Committee members (4 out of the 5 grades have been analyzed to date).

Old/New Business:

Avery Project Update

Underground plumbing is being laid from Pottery Lane to the site, trenches for electrical wiring also dug and the utility pole installed. The gymnasium wall is anticipated to be erected next week. The site camera is anticipated to operational shortly. Anticipating bids on the field project to be received soon.

Superintendent's Evaluation:

Chairman Ryan presented the results of Superintendent Doe's annual evaluation, March 2010 through February 2011. The Chair discussed the Superintendent's performance with each committee member and provided a compilation of the review. The review covers five key areas: achievement of goals, relationship with school committee, communication and community relations, human resource management, and policy and governance.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Mr. Coughlin to accept the minutes from the March 16, 2011 meeting. Approved 5:0

Donations: none

Public Comment: none

The Chair announced the need for executive session under Exemption 3, collective bargaining. Motion made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Mr. Coughlin to enter into executive session. The Committee would not return to open session.

Roll Call vote: Ms. Briggs-yes, Mr. Heisler-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes, Mr. Coughlin-yes, Mr. Ryan-yes.