

Dedham Public Schools  
School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 16, 2011

The Chairman of the School Committee, Tom Ryan, reconvened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

**Members of the School Committee present were:**

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

**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 introduced the newly appointed Principal for Dedham High School, Mr. Ron McCarthy. The Chair spoke on behalf of the Committee to acknowledge the impressive reception at Bourne High School by parents, students, and teachers. It was a very positive site visit and he welcomed Mr. McCarthy to Dedham. The Superintendent updated the Committee on events in the schools in the next two weeks. MCAS test administration will take place in all schools in the next few weeks. Bob's Furniture made a \$1000.00 donation to DHS for the award of the Top 50 High Schools in the State. Principal Santamaria recommends the donation be targeted for new athletic equipment for the Athletic Complex. The Middle School raised \$2100.00 for "Pennies for Patients". DEF Annual Spelling Bee will be held on March 25, 2011.

The PTO at Greenlodge has donated another Smart Board to the school.

**Chair's Update:**

Mr. Ryan followed up on the elementary homework issue raised at a previous meeting in that he spoke with the parent and would be providing a response in the next few weeks. The Chair called for a moment of silence to keep the people of Japan in our thoughts.

**Student Representative's Update:** None

**Reports: Overview of the Special Education Department, presented by Kathy Gaudreau, Director of Special Education**

Handouts were provided to the Committee and Power Point presentation was made by Mrs. Gaudreau. An overview of the laws governing special education was provided (NCLB, Section 504, ADA, IDEA). Student Assistance Team (SAT) ,referral process, evaluation process, parent involvement, eligibility determination, and IEPs were explained in detail. An overview of District –Wide Programs was presented – Inclusion, Pull-out Services, Integrated Pre-School and Kindergarten, Specialized Kindergarten, Co-Taught, Looping, Orton-Gillingham, Primary Learning Center, Adaptive Learning Center, Language-Based Learning Center, Team-Based Learning Center, Vocational Team and Alternative Team. 65 out-of-district students and 620 in-district students receive educational services. The Out of District Coordinator assesses and evaluates the programs available to make sure it's the best model that fits the student needs.

**Old/New Business:**

The last beam will be delivered to the Avery School for students to sign their names to the beam before being put in place on the new site.

Mrs. Driscoll introduced a new initiative to honor/recognize a staff member every month. A form has been developed and given to Committee members for review. The plan is to have the first staff member recognized at the April meeting. A letter will be sent to the person from the Superintendent and School Committee. The forms will be available in all the schools, and on-line.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion was made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Mr. Heisler to approve the minutes of the March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 meeting. Approved: Majority 6:0 with 1 abstention

**Donations: None****Public Comment:**

Ms. Margaret Matthews, Co-President of the DHS Music Association. Ms. Matthews represented several parents in the audience. Ms. Matthews provided an overview of the Marching Band, Winter Percussion and Color Guard and outlined the unique needs of the program. A handout was provided to Committee members as a reference document. Students practice 3 times a week. Part of the requirement is to practice in the environment in which they compete. Large, canvas floor mats are placed on the gym floors for competitions. Timing of setup and breakdown is part of the competition requirements and therefore needs to be practiced. The request before the Committee is to allow the group to maintain the one practice day (Saturday) in the gym they have scheduled and adhere to the School Committee Policy established for this exact purpose in future seasons.

Recommendation: Determine if there are any conflicts for the remainder of their season. Invite the Music Program in to discuss the needs and requirements and also to publicize their accomplishments.

Mr. Andrew Hill asked whether any arrangements are being made to find a practice track for the HS Spring track and field teams. Mr. Santamaria addressed the question. Northeastern has been approached, and he will speak with the Director of Athletics in the morning. Mr. Heisler also spoke to the Director of Community Affairs at Northeastern.

Recommendation: follow up with Director of Athletics, Mr. Plansky

**Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Briggs, Ms. Sullivan Approved: Unanimous 9:11 p.m.**