

Dedham Public Schools
School Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2011

The Chairman of the School Committee, Tom Ryan, reconvened the meeting at 7:20 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:

The Greenlodge School was closed today due to a failure of the boilers. They have since been repaired and school will be in session tomorrow. The district has used five (5) snow days. The last day of school is scheduled for June 24th. There is an issue with Greenlodge students making up the lost day today. A request has been made to the DESE regarding extending the school day to make up the lost time.

The Superintendent announced six (6) students who were recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. They were not included in the initial notification from the DESE. They are: Rachel Collins, Thomas Connolly, Michael Cullen, Elias Konstantinidis, Gordon Kwei, and Virginia Shiel. Congratulations to them, unfortunately they were not able to attend tonight's meeting.

The Superintendent announced various events and activities taking place throughout the district over the next several weeks.

Chair's Update: The Chair addressed a matter that has come to the attention of the School Committee, School Building Rehab Committee, and the Field Lights Fundraising Committee in the past week. A false allegation regarding the Athletic Field Project and Avery School Project came to light in an anonymous letter sent to members of these committees. The allegation is the SBRC improperly allocated funds from the Athletic Fields Project to construct a retaining wall that is part of the Avery Project. This allegation is completely false and the Chair suggested the person who authored the letter come forward, the various committees would discuss the matter with them.

Superintendent Doe affirmed Chairman Ryan's comments on the field project. Ms. Doe readily admitted she did not recognize (NIC) on the plans nor did anyone have any understanding that those initials meant "not in contract".

The Chair also addressed Mr. O'Connell's comments on local union tradesmen who are out of work and seeking employment at the Avery School Project work site. The School Committee does not have

statutory or express authority in this area, it is the Board of Selectmen who support and sponsor a residency preference on local projects. The BOS is drafting a warrant article regarding this issue.

Student Representative's Update:

The Senior Play ~ Bye Bye Birdie will be performed March 18-19th. Seniors are anticipating notifications of college acceptances. There is a list in Guidance of where students have been accepted. Boys and Girls Hockey and Basketball made tournament this season. The School Council is working on the School Improvement Plan. Students are very excited about the graduation exercises taking place at the Endicott Estate.

Action Items:

Assistant Superintendent Kelly presented proposal to the Committee to reschedule the next two professional development days (March 15 and May 3) in order to maximize instructional time prior to MCAS administration. Once the dates are confirmed a revised calendar will be published for distribution.

Motion made by Ms. Driscoll, and seconded by Ms. Sullivan to adopt the recommendation as presented.
Approved: Unanimous

Reports:

ECEC Pre-School Tuition Reconfiguration presented by Principal Jessica Hammond and Mr. La Francesca. The proposal was presented to the Budget Sub-Committee last week. A Power Point presentation was made to the Committee. The plan would remove the disparity in the tuition rate among the 4 programs offered. The new rate will be \$5.85/hour and will be used to set the yearly tuitions based on the program chosen (2 half day, 3 half day, 5 half day, and 5 full day). Budget Sub-Committee supports the reconfiguration of the rate.

Recommendation: Look at the traffic pattern surrounding the school because it is a highly congested area and the parking lot is difficult during drop off and pick up times.

Motion made by Mr. Heisler, and seconded by Mr. Roberts to adopt the proposal that the hourly investment of \$5.85 across all pre-school sessions be implemented. Approved: Unanimous

Kindergarten Program: Many families in Dedham are looking for full day kindergarten experience but having difficulty paying the \$3500.00 tuition cost. The proposal provides a sliding scale to assist with tuition and is based on the Massachusetts EEC (Early Education and Care) Income Eligibility Requirements.

Motion made by Ms. Briggs, and seconded by Mr. Heisler to accept the proposal to adopt the sliding scale under the MA EEC Income Eligibility Guidelines to facilitate the assessment of family income and the appropriate tuition rate at free, 50% or 100%. Approved: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes: none

Donations:

Dedham Education Partnership Donation – representing the DEP were: Ellen Bruder-Moore, Madeline Merino, and Maria Sharpe.

\$7500.00 awarded to the school district to finish paying for the new math program (4th and 5th grade curriculum) specifically, calculators for the Every Day Math curriculum.

Motion made by Ms. Sullivan to accept the donation with grateful appreciation, and seconded by Ms. Driscoll with grateful appreciation. Approved: Unanimous

Donation of \$750.00 was made by the Dedham Jr. Woman's Club to be used toward purchasing new books for the High School library "Pick Books You Like" program.

Motion made by Mr. Heisler with grateful appreciation, and seconded by Mr. Coughlin with grateful appreciation. Approved: Unanimous

Avery Project Update:

The budget for the Athletic Field project was moved forward - \$2,678,930.00 for General Construction costs, \$213,300.00 for the architect and soft cost fees, which leaves a contingency of \$133,970.00 based on the estimates. Consigli has been approved to start the bid process.

Public Comment:

Parent expressed her concern over the amount of homework issued to her child (2nd grader).

Mr. Ryan informed the parent the Superintendent and principals would discuss the concerns expressed and get back to the parent by the next meeting.

The Chair brought up the Superintendent's evaluation. Ms. Driscoll and Ms. Briggs are working on the evaluation instrument.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Ms. Briggs 8:30 p.m.