

Dedham Public Schools  
School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 5, 2011

The Chairman of the School Committee, Tom Ryan, called the meeting to order at 7:06 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

Prior to the business meeting, a reception was held for the 2010 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Award winners. Ms. Doe and Principal Santamaria introduced the students who were present to the members of the School Committee. Forty-five students were recipients of the scholarship this year. Following the introductions, the Chair congratulated all the students on behalf of the entire Committee.

Chairman Ryan resumed the regular business meeting and noted the meeting is being audio and video recorded.

HS Field Trip Approval: Mrs. Nancy Bradley and Ms. Kelly Beck presented information for the foreign language field trip to the Committee. A trip to Quebec is scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen students are signed up for the trip. The Tour Group has allowed small school groups to combine with other school districts to enable better pricing.

Motion made by Mr. Roberts to approve the trip to Quebec as presented, and seconded by Mr. Heisler. Approved: Unanimous

**Superintendent's Update:**

Ms. Doe provided an update of events taking place in all the schools in the upcoming weeks with the following reminders: High School Open House for incoming grade 9 students and their parents. Mid-year exams will take place January 18-21. Progress reports in all elementary schools will be sent out January 12. A new Reading teacher was selected and hired for the Riverdale School. Kindergarten Information Night will be held January 25<sup>th</sup> at the ECEC.

**Chair's Update:** None

**Student Representative's Update:** None

**Reports:**

Middle School Curriculum Update: Presented by Principal Gately, Assistant Principal Fraczek, Math Department Chair, Mr. Hickey, Director of Guidance, Ms. McCormick, and Math Seminar teacher Ms. Hilary Carlson. Brief introductions of Ms. Carlson were made.

Year 3 of the Seminar Program has continued to evolve. A power point presentation was made to the Committee and materials were given to the Committee prior to the meeting. Program overviews of math, guidance, library-media curriculum were presented. The Guidance curriculum has been added to. "How to prepare students best for high school and life beyond" has been implemented as a companion to the existing curriculum. Library-Media has taken on a different focus and a curriculum has been developed aligned with Standards for Technology in Education, the MSLA Standards, and the American Association of School Librarians.

Discussion: Concern that Seminar is still not taken seriously by parents whether it is based on the need to communicate the program objectives more effectively, or if there is confusion on the part of the students. It was suggested to communicate a "look ahead" what the plan is for the next four weeks of instruction as something that could be improved on to both the students and the parents.

#### High School Class Rank:

Mr. Roberts informed the Committee that the Policy Sub-Committee met on January 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss class rank changes affecting the Class of 2012 and beyond. The Policy Sub-Committee, as stated by Mr. Roberts, recommends a motion that the class rank numeric reporting system be changed to a decile reporting system of class rank for the Class of 2012 and beyond as recommended by the Superintendent and the High School Administration. Mr. Roberts noted the School Council has unanimously endorsed the change as well. Motion seconded by Ms. Driscoll. Approved: Unanimous

#### Life Threatening Allergy Policy:

Mr. Roberts informed the Committee that the Policy Sub-Committee discussed the allergy policy at the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting as well. There was additional language added to the draft of the LTA Policy.

- 7) The Building Principal and the School Nurse will meet with PTO representatives to review and plan for any event with food.
- 8) The Principal will provide written communication about events with food to the parents of students identified with LTAs.
- 9) A follow-up Connect-Ed message from the Principal to parents of students identified with LTAs will be sent prior to the event.

The Policy Sub-Committee unanimously recommends the approval of the LTA policy as amended. The Superintendent and Supervisor of Nurses recommend adoption of this policy. Motion made by Mr. Roberts to adopt the LTA Policy, and seconded by Ms. Briggs. Approved: Unanimous

#### Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Mr. Roberts to accept the minutes from the December 13, 2010 meeting, and seconded by Ms. Sullivan. Approved: Unanimous

#### Donations:

The Dedham High School Boosters Club donated \$300.00 to send two students to the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Conference – HOBY in May. The recipients are Caitlin Brennan and Brianna Sheppard.

Motion made by Ms. Sullivan with grateful appreciation, and seconded by Mr. Heisler with grateful appreciation to accept this donation. Approved: Unanimous

Mr. Michael McHugh, Director of Buildings and Grounds at Nobles and Greenough School extended an invitation to the Avery School for an afternoon of skating on March 5, 2011 at the Flood Omni Skating Rink.

Motion made by Mr. Roberts with grateful appreciation, and seconded by Ms. Briggs with grateful appreciation to accept this donation. Approved: Unanimous

Oakdale Elementary School received an anonymous donation for \$500.00. It was decided the money would be used to purchase winter coats and gear for families at Oakdale who are having financial difficulty.

SEPAC received approval of a grant from Dedham Institute for Savings Foundation in the amount of \$1500.00.

SEPAC (Joan Connors) donated \$534.90 to Special Education Department. This money will be used to support the Afterschool Social Skills Program at Riverdale.

Dedham Institution for Savings Foundation approved a grant for \$10,000.00 to the Dedham Middle School and High School libraries..

“Take a Chance Award” has been established by generous donations to the Guidance Department spearheaded by Jen Barsamian and Monika Wilkinson and a matching donation was made by Representative Paul McMurtry. This effort will sponsor a high school senior applying to a reach college-one the student may not have opted to apply to for financial reasons.

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

### **Avery School Project:**

Over the next three week period, concrete and steel should be arriving. The foundation will be dug. Consigli is right on their timeline. Video cam is in the process of being connected to be able to view the construction as it is developing. The field project drawings are coming to the final stage and they are finalizing documents to go out to bid.

The Chair has requested a report on discipline be added as a permanent item on the calendar of agenda items for the School Committee. It will be presented at the second meeting in September.

### **Public Comment: None**

**Motion to Adjourn:** made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Mr. Coughlin. Approved: Unanimous

Adjourned at 9:04 p.m.