

Dedham Public Schools  
School Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 1, 2010

The Chairman of the School Committee, Tom Ryan, called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

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

Tom Ryan, Chair	Joe Heisler
Kevin Coughlin, Vice Chair - Absent	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:**

Mr. Robert Crisp, DHS Alumni Association was introduced to provide an update on the efforts of raising funds for the athletic field lights. Donations are being accepted until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Information is available on the District website.

DHS teacher, Carol Margolis received the 2011 National Education Association Foundation Award for teaching excellence. DHS received a check for \$650.00 on behalf of Ms. Margolis' participation. The Superintendent provided the Committee with an update on events happening in all the schools throughout the district.

Recommendation by Superintendent: to provide a monthly calendar of events for the Committee members.

**Chair's Update:**

Mr. Ryan recognized the football team, band, and cheerleaders for their participation in the Thanksgiving Day game. The Thanksgiving Eve Pep Rally was very well attended and Selectman Dellolacono was thanked for resurrecting this annual event. The DEF recently held a very successful "Dedham Squares" evening. The DEP will be hosting "Dancing with the Dedham Stars" this weekend. Chorus from Middle School and High School will attend the next meeting to delight us with some holiday favorites. (January meeting)

**Student Representative's Update:** None

**Reports:**

Ms. Bonnie O'Neill, math coach at the Avery School was introduced by the Superintendent. Ms. O'Neill provided the Committee with an over view of the programs and processes that have been implemented to improve AYP and MCAS scores. Fast Math is being used in grades 2-5 and is also available for use at home. Acuity and Aha Math are two other programs being used. After school enrichment program for math is offered and students from Noble and Greenough have partnered with the Avery for this program. Nancy Clements was also present to report on other programs in the other schools. Ms. Clements reviewed feedback from the teachers(elementary level) regarding the ongoing training on analyzing what questions the students get wrong and the reasons for that, and how do we teach it better for higher student achievement. This same analysis will be done at the Middle School.

Recommendation: To have a demonstration of Everyday Math for the Committee. The next math night held will be taped and made available on the Ed channel.

### **Old/New Business:**

#### Avery Project Update

Construction meetings are held on Tuesdays during the day. The upper parking lot has been paved. The bridge was removed, intact and has been moved offsite. A web-camera will be installed on the high school roof to record the construction as it progresses (viewing assessable from website). Due to vandalism to some of the equipment on site, the Superintendent reminded everyone that there is no trespassing on the construction site and is off limits to the public.

#### Bullying Policy

Report from Mr. Roberts, Chair of Policy Sub-Committee. The sub-committee met earlier and voted 3:0 to recommend adoption of policy to the full Committee. Superintendent supports the policy for recommendation as a complete and comprehensive plan as required by the DESE.

The Chair read a proposed amendment to the Bully Policy presented by Mr. Heisler:

To add section "N": Annually, no later than October 1, the Superintendent shall compile and submit a report to the School Committee that quantifies the numbers and types of incidents investigated in the preceding school year and the actions, if any, taken by the school administration. Motion seconded by Ms. Briggs for purposes of discussion.

Discussion held: The language read was not presented to sub-committee for review. There is a concern that the information being requested in the amendment is provided by the School Department to the Department of Education annually as public information. School Counsel recommends not deviating from the standard policy of which many surrounding school districts are adopting. Counsel also recommends this should not be a formal part of the policy but could be requested as a report during the course of the school year. Concern with the importance of this topic to reassure the public it will not get lost in the process and putting it in the policy will guarantee it gets addressed. Language was submitted to sub-committee prior to this meeting but the language was not approved. New motion has not been viewed by the sub-committee.

The Chair recommends moving for a vote on the Policy and bring the amendment language back to the sub-committee.

Motion for the amendment language withdrawn by Mr. Heisler.

Motion made by M. Driscoll, and seconded by Mr. Roberts to accept the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan as drafted and as recommended by the Policy Sub-committee. Approved: Unanimous 6:0

Mr. Heisler proposes an amendment to the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan by adding section N: Annually, no later than October 1, the Superintendent shall compile and submit a report to the School Committee that quantifies the numbers and types of incidents investigated in the preceding school year and the actions, if any, taken by the school administration. Motion seconded by Ms. Briggs for purposes of discussion. Motion seconded by Ms. Briggs. In favor: 3 Opposed: 3 tie vote no action taken.

Motion made by Ms. Briggs, and seconded by Ms. Sullivan to send proposed amendment back to Policy Sub-committee. In Favor: 5 Opposed: 1 Approved: majority

#### Life-Threatening Allergy Policy

Mr. Roberts reviewed the process of additional clarification on the policy language. Mrs. Kelly met with the sub-committee for that purpose. The sub-committee voted 2:1 to recommend to the Committee the adoption of the Life-Threatening Allergy Policy.

Discussion held: Concerns expressed in regards to the responsibility put on parents by having a bake sale in the schools. Items #6 and #7 specifically discussed. Mrs. Doe will speak with Mrs. Kelly and clarify the language.

Recommendation: Policy to be referred back to the sub-committee for further consideration.

### School Committee Goals

Ms. Sullivan presented goals to the Committee members. Language was taken from what Mr. Heisler recommended for the Bullying Policy and put as a new Committee goal to create a process to report cases of bullying and outcomes. Slight language change to bullet item 3 under public relations.

Discussion: remove goal related to the Bullying Policy.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion made by Ms. Driscoll, and seconded by Mr. Roberts to accept the minutes from the November 17, 2010 as printed. Approved: Unanimous 6:0

### **Donations:**

A \$650.00 donation to Dedham High School from the National Education Association was presented.

Motion made by Ms. Sullivan to accept the donation with grateful appreciation, and seconded by Mr. Heisler with grateful appreciation. Approved: Unanimous 6:0

### **Public Comment: None**

The Chair announced the need to enter into Executive Session, under exemption 3, for the purpose of contract negotiations. Roll Call vote: Ms. Driscoll-yes, Mr. Roberts-yes, Ms. Briggs-yes, Mr. Heisler-yes, Ms. Sullivan-yes, Mr. Ryan-yes.

Business meeting adjourned: 8:44 p.m.