

Dedham Public Schools
School Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2010

The Chairman of the School Committee, Tom Ryan, called the meeting to order at 7:00 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

Superintendent's Update:

The Superintendent reported on the many events occurring in the schools over the past two weeks. National Education Week was celebrated in all the schools. The Middle School presented 2,844 food items to the Dedham Food Pantry.

Chair's Update:

The Chair congratulated the girls' field hockey and soccer teams for their MIAA tournament success. There will be a Pep Rally Wednesday night before the Thanksgiving Day football game. Congratulations to Bailey Mudge, 8th grade speaker at the recent Veterans Day Assembly at the Middle School. He was impressed with her profound comments.

Student Representative's Update:

Samantha Parr update the Committee on events in the High School. Spirit Week concluded. 450 students participated in Homecoming. The senior girls versus the junior girls will participate in Powder Puff this weekend.

Reports:

Mr. Terenzio Volpicelli from Roselli, Clark and Associates (Audit Report) was present to discuss any questions relative to an agreed upon procedures report (school portion) for FY2008.

A Request was made to address the HS Student Activity Account. Recommendations were made upon completion of the review to improve procedures in bank reconciliation procedures, timing of deposits, co-mingled funds, and also that all handlers of money be bonded.

Update on altering elementary recess, presented by Ms. Holli Armstrong, Principal.

The scheduled bells have been eliminated to allow the teachers to determine an appropriate break time. 720 minutes of additional instruction time has been added to the school year to date. Principals have monitored the classrooms to observe the transition. Feedback from teachers and students has been received. There has not been any feedback from parents since the implementation. Overall it has been a smooth transition with many benefits to time on learning and a more organized day.

Action Items:

Policy Sub-Committee Chair, Mr. Roberts addressed the Committee to discuss several policies before Committee:

- Special Education Program Plan Statement: as required by the DESE for the mid-cycle review (part of the Coordinated Program Review) was presented for signatures of the Chair and Superintendent. Special Education Director, Kathy Gaudreau provided information to the Committee. There are 20 areas under review. All the administrators have been informed and have copies of the plan statement.

Recommendation: Send finalized copies to other committee members for review.

Motion made by Ms. Driscoll, and seconded by Mr. Coughlin to allow the Chair to sign the document for submission to DESE. Approved: Unanimous

- Life Threatening Allergies Policy: Nurse Director, Gail Kelley reviewed changes to the policy for Committee members. There are 120 students with life-threatening food allergies in the District. The language provides for a stricter food management policy in the schools.

Discussion: There was some confusion how item 6 was worded although clarified in item 7. The Committee would like to see the clarifying language prior to voting the policy. Also, discussion held on flexibility of hours at the school to be able to pick up items so children are not handling food items.
Recommendation: Tweak language to clarify the policy and review.

- Bullying Policy: Mr. Roberts presented a reformatted document and it is the opinion of the Policy Sub-Committee to table a vote on the policy at this time. Their recommendation is the updated policy should be posted to allow interested parties to view the policy and present for a formal vote at the next meeting.

Recommendation: The Chair would caution the sub-committee to not create a policy exclusive to Dedham. Look at what the surrounding communities are crafting.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Mr. Roberts, and seconded by Ms. Sullivan to approve the minutes from November 3, 2010.
Approved: Unanimous

Donations: None

Public Comment:

Parent expressed appreciation for the recent math curriculum night held at Avery School. Found the evening to be very informative.

Items for Next Agenda:

Various Policies
HS Policy on Class Rank
8th Grade Seminar – future
New Math Coach – introduce Bonnie O’Neill
Update on Everyday Math roll out

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Ms. Sullivan, can seconded by Ms. Driscoll

Motion to Re-convene made by Mr. Roberts, and seconded by Ms. Driscoll for purpose of Public Comment

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Mr. Roberts, and seconded by Ms. Sullivan. Approved: Unanimous

Adjourned: 8:31 p.m.