

Dedham Public Schools
School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2010

The Chairman of the School Committee, Tom Ryan, called the meeting to order at 7:09 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:

Superintendent Doe tabled the update in order to begin the MCAS presentation. Ground breaking ceremony for the Avery School was held last week. MSBA did approve (letter received) to allow Consigli to manage the field construction.

Chair's Update:

There is a planned policy sub-committee on October 25, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. Open meeting regarding the Bullying Policy will be discussed. Working with the Planning Board to get the parking plan approved for the new Avery School. The Finance Committee met tonight with the hopes to approve "Project Success" additional funding to implement the programs needed.

Student Representative's Update: not available

Reports: MCAS All Schools Report – Annual Presentation

Principals Armstrong, Claypool, Kiewlicz, and Sullivan presented 2010 MCAS results summarized for the district as well as individual school results. The entire MCAS Power Point presentation was provided to Committee members in advance. Disappointment was expressed in grade 4 ELA scores across the district. The presentation included a comprehensive action plan.

Questions and discussion: The principals provided an update on first progress reports sent home. There was a request to have a presentation on the "Growth Model" for parents.

Recommendation: MCAS Preps target needs improvement category; the Committee asked that proficient and advanced students at Riverdale be encouraged to participate in the program due to the school's AYP status this year. Based on Oakdale's science scores, whatever best practices and successes are happening at Oakdale should be implemented at the other elementary schools.

Principal Gately and Dr. Fraczek presented 2010 MCAS results for Dedham Middle School. Ms. Gately recognized Department Chairs John Laflamme, Ed Hickey, and Louise Young present. A breakdown of the data analysis was also included in the Committee packets. The presentation included a comprehensive action plan.

Discussion: 8th grade science and technology scores have historically been poor. Department Chair Louise Young spoke on the department's analysis as to why. The test is different and in incorporates all the sciences and technology. There is work to do to improve the scores. Discussion held to focus on pushing "proficient" scorers into "advanced" as well.

Principal Santamaria, Assistant Principals' Murray and Forrest presented 2010 MCAS results for Dedham High School. The presentation included a comprehensive action plan.

Highlight to note: eleven students received perfect scores in Science and Technology. In addition, fifty letters were sent home to the 2011 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship recipients.

No Discussion.

The Chair thanked the principals for a well prepared presentation. Summation: The Chair would like to stress to administration the committee takes the AYP issue at Avery and potential at Riverdale seriously with the school choice component.

Old/New Business:

Budget Sub Committee recommended the FY12 Budget Calendar to the full Committee for approval.

Mr. La Francesca provided a short overview of timeline. Motion made by Mr. Heisler, and seconded by Ms. Briggs to adopt the FY12 Budget calendar as presented. Approved: Unanimous 7:0

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan, and seconded by Mr. Coughlin to approve the minutes from the October 6, 2010 School Committee meeting. Approved: Unanimous 7:0

Donations: None

Public Comment: None

Items for next/future agendas:

Recess – evaluation (end of November)

Explanation of the Growth Model

Capital Budget

Other:

Alumni Committee is actively working to raise money for lights at the new athletic complex. On DPS website there is an order form to order "bricks" on the memorial walkway.

Motion to Adjourn: made by Mr. Heisler, and seconded by Ms. Driscoll. Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.