



DRACUT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes

DATE: May 9, 2011

LOCATION: Dracut Senior High School

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Matthew Sheehan, 1st Chairman
Mr. Michael Miles, 2nd Vice Chairperson
Mr. Ronald Mercier
Dr. Michael McNamara

ABESNT

Mrs. Bonita Elie, Chairperson

SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Stacy Scott, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Thomas Rose, School Business Administrator
Attorney Edward Morris
Cynthia Curtis, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Session Meeting of the School Committee was called to order by 1st Vice Chairman Matthew Sheehan at Harmony Hall at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of entering into Executive Session.

Chairman Sheehan read into the record the purpose for entering into Executive Session was for an update on negotiations and arbitration that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect.

1. Motion by Mr. Miles seconded by Dr. McNamara to enter into Executive Session for the reasons stated.

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. McNamara	Yes
Mr. Mercier	Yes
Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Sheehan	Yes

The regular session meeting was recessed at 6:00 p.m.

The regular session meeting was reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Chairman Sheehan called for the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for Emile Martin, brother of Tony Martin in Maintenance and the father of Bonnie Elie.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Motion by Mr. Miles, seconded by Dr. McNamara to approve the minutes of April 12, 2011 school improvement planning meeting.

Dr. McNamara requested that an amendment be made to the April 12th minutes. Dr. McNamara asked that comments made by Dr. Diaz at that meeting be included as part of the minutes for April 12th. At the end of the April 12th meeting Dr. Diaz noted that all individual school improvement plans together would be used for strategic district-wide plans to give a comprehensive look at what district looks like.

Vote: Unanimously Approved

3. Motion by Dr. McNamara, seconded by Mr. Miles to approve the minutes of April 25, 2011.

Vote: Unanimously Approved

Mr. Sheehan asked that the minutes of the May 3, 2011 reorganization meeting be tabled until the next meeting so that Mrs. Elie could have the time to review.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND PAYROLLS:

Bills and Payrolls were signed by Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Miles, and Mr. Mercier

PRESENTATION OF SENIOR HIGH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Jasmine Abreau gave an update on the current and upcoming programs at Dracut High School including athletics, as well as upcoming MCAS testing, pops night, senior exams, pre prom and the prom at the Boston Marriott.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

No community input

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ratification of School Committee By-Laws

Due to the absence of Mrs. Elie, Mr. Sheehan asked that this be tabled until the next meeting.

Sub-Committee Appointments

Due to the absence of Mrs. Elie, Mr. Sheehan asked if this be tabled until the next meeting.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 10 Campbell school PTO meeting

May 11 Englesby and Parker PTO meeting

May 12 Dracut High School concert

May 13 Class of 2011 top 20 breakfast

May 13 Dracut High School progress reports issued for the senior class

May 17 Brookside PTO meeting

May 17 Dracut high pops night at the Pelham Inn

May 19 Elementary, Intermediate and junior high progress reports issued

May 19 Englesby art show and spring concert at Dracut High

May 23 Brookside art show and spring concert

May 23 Dracut School Committee meeting and executive session

SUPERINTENDENTS INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Dr. Scott noted the new hires for paraprofessionals that are in the agenda. Dr. McNamara inquired if these paraprofessionals were properly licensed and Dr. Scott replied they were.

Dr. Scott gave an update on the replacement for the junior high school principal position. The finalist was introduced to faculty and parents. We are in the final process of negotiating a contract and Dr. Scott will update the committee at the next school committee meeting.

Dr. Scott gave an update on various events at the Campbell School including the fire department holding fire safety classes at Campbell school.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business items to report

NEW BUSINESS:

Dracut High School Renovation Recap

On behalf of the Dracut School Committee Mr. Sheehan thanked the entire community for the support of the high school project. Mr. Sheehan sent a special thanks to Joe Wilkie, Mike Sancartier, Dan O'Connell and the entire group from Friends of Dracut High School for all their support and their efforts on promoting the high school project.

Dr. Scott noted that he was proud that the town came together for the project. This sent a strong message to the community as over 1,900 people came out to vote for the high school project. The architects and planners are currently moving forward with the project and meetings have been set to begin the process.

Mr. Miles congratulated everyone who contributed to the project and requested that a timeline of the project be available for the public to review as we move forward with the project. This timeline will be available on the Dracut school website. Mr. Miles also requested that Joe Wilkie, Mike Sancartier and Dan O'Connell be kept notified on the progress of the project.

Dr. McNamara noted that the next following months will be a lot of gathering background information for the project. The Permanent Building Committee will be meeting on a weekly basis. The groundbreaking will not occur until next year.

Mr. Sheehan asked that renovation progress be left under Old Business on the agenda.

Attorney Murphy entered the meeting at 7:20 pm

Attorney Morris left the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Mr. Mercier also congratulated everybody for their efforts on moving the project forward.

MASC Delegate Discussion

Mr. Sheehan asked that this item be tabled until the next meeting as Mrs. Elie has been the alternate delegate.

DATV School Committee Representative Discussion

Mr. Sheehan noted that at the April meeting he announced that Mr. Pete Wilde had stepped down as the DATV representative for the school committee. Mr. Sheehan received a letter on May 5th from Mr. Kevin Willet showing interest in serving on this committee as the school committee representative. Mr. Willet had shown interest when the position was last posted. Mr. Willet currently serves on the cable advisory committee.

Mr. Sheehan passed the gavel to Mr. Miles.

4. Motion by Mr. Sheehan seconded by Mr. Mercier to nominate Kevin Willett as the school committee representative on the Dracut Access Television Board of Directors.

Discussion was held on the duties of this representative. The school committee representative will update the committee has needed regarding any issues that would affect the Dracut Public Schools.

Dr. McNamara noted that Mr. Willett may have been excluded the last time this position was posted because he also served on the Cable Advisory Committee. Dr. McNamara wanted to ensure that there would be no conflict with serving on both the advisory committee and the board.

Mr. Sheehan noted that he spoke with Mr. Willett and if appointed as the school committee representative on the DATV Board of Directors that he would resign from the Cable Advisory Committee.

Mr. Sheehan asked attorney Murphy if there would be a conflict if Dr. McNamara voted on this issue since he currently serves on the Board of Directors for DATV. Attorney Murphy noted that there will be no conflict.

Dr. McNamara stated that he wanted to give everyone the opportunity to apply for the position if they were interested. Dr. McNamara wanted to post/advertise for this position to be fair to all.

Mr. Mercier noted Dr. McNamara's concern about posting the position but does not want to have to pay money since we have somebody who would be interested in serving as the school committee representative.

Mr. Miles passed the gavel back to Mr. Sheehan.

Roll Call Vote

Dr. McNamara	present
Mr. Mercier	yes
Mr. Miles	yes
Mr. Sheehan	yes

Dr. McNamara wanted it noted as to why he voted as present. He wanted to give everyone the opportunity to apply for the position.

Other

Mr. Mercier had inquired about information that was given to the school committee regarding a possible increase on the school lunch program for the next school year. Dr. Scott noted that this is a national law that was being passed not just at the state or district level. Mr. Mercier asked if we could have this on the agenda for the next meeting or before the end of the school year and if Mr. Maguire would be available to address and update the committee on this new law/proposal.

ADJOURNMENT:

5. Motion by Ms. Mercier, seconded by Mr. Miles to adjourn the regular session meeting of the Dracut School Committee.

Roll Call Vote:

Dr. McNamara	Yes
Mr. Mercier	Yes
Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Sheehan	Yes

The regular session meeting of the Dracut School Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Curtis
Recording Secretary

List of documents and exhibits:

1. School Committee agenda packet