

## DRACUT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Harmony Hall  
September 28, 2009

**PRESENT:** Mr. Matthew Sheehan, Chairperson, Mr. Michael Miles, Dr. Michael McNamara, Ms. Bonnie Elie, Mr. Ron Mercier, Dr. Spencer Mullin, Superintendent of Schools, Attorney Kevin Murphy, Ms. Lynne LaFerriere, Recording Secretary

### CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Session of the School Committee was called to order by Mr. Sheehan at Harmony Hall at 7:00 P.M.

### REGULAR SESSION:

#### I. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Sheehan called for the pledge of allegiance, and a special moment of silence for Douglas Ouellette.

#### II. Approval of Bills and Payrolls:

Mr. Sheehan stated that bills would be signed by Mr. Mercier and Mr. Miles.

#### III. Approval of Minutes:

1. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Ms. Elie to approve the Regular Session minutes of September 14, 2009.

Vote: Unanimously approved

2. Motion by Dr. McNamara, seconded by Mr. Mercier to approve the Finance Sub-Committee meeting of June 18, 2009.

Vote: Unanimously approved

#### IV. Presentation of Senior High Student Representative, Jennifer Cyr

Ms. Cyr reported updates for the high school.

#### V. Community Input:

None

#### VI. Committee Reports:

Dr. McNamara – Finance Sub-Committee met a few weeks ago, got copy of budget. Dr. Mullin and Mr. Rose were present and had a working document they were moving forward with.

Dr. Mullin – 9/25 – submit for grant money was done. Congratulated Trish Banacos and Mr. Rose – grant was to receive stimulus money. Thanked Dr. Trouville for going and handing in grants.

Reorganized business department – working as a team. Meet with administration and teams weekly, next challenge is to file ARRA money.

Mr. Rose – working more collaboratively, every Wednesday 1 or 2 individuals go through invoice book for warrant.

Dr. Mullin – vendors complaining not receiving payment in a timely fashion – reorganized – will be looked at every Wednesday and all will be paid in a timely manner.

Mr. Miles – 9/24 Mr. Miles and Mr. Sheehan evaluated Dr. Mullin for 1<sup>st</sup> year and goals that have been met and some concerns – rating sheet of school committee members – addressed openly and honestly – nobody likes to be criticized, no surprises, have been accomplishments – 5 goals we did overlook – communication, big thing. Dr. Mullin feels he can improve on it.

Dr. Mullin – been a trying year, first time superintendent and learn as you go, being in education has been focus of career. Very public part, not prepared for, more prepared on student achievement, programs for kids, learning curve – most challenged – created school budget with help of Mr. Rose and staff, huge learning experience. Do believe assessment was honest – do believe always learning.

Mr. Mercier – evaluation I did, committee was addressed, showed positive things, can get overlooked. Did a good job first year, commendable with job cuts etc., would like to look into updating the evaluation format.

Mr. Sheehan took items out of order. Recognized Brenda Dolliver with a thank you for Rachel's Challenge Project – she worked hard and wanted to acknowledge her.

Ms. Elie – nicest program

Ms. Dolliver came up and talked about the follow-up of Rachel's Challenge. Message is communication – trained 60 students to spread the word.

Mr. Miles – 2 messages – sadness and what can occur

## **VII. Community Calendar of Events:**

Mr. Sheehan reviewed the community calendar of events.

## **VIII. Superintendent's Informational Items:**

Dr. Mullin reported:

- Mr. Sintros – Title I Program, Books for Bingo – Brookside 6:30-7:30
- 10/1 – parent information night at DHS 6:30 pm Music Room
- PTO – Parker – Pennies for Parker
- Thank you to Amy Berger – welcome back cookout at Greenmont
- Mrs. Rogers – LJHS – 37 students have been trained in anti-bullying program, focus on anti-bullying and respect. Second step program for 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

### H1N1 Update:

Mr. Stone reported a couple of developments – Dept. of Public Health mandated exclusion for employees and students with over 100.4 fever – must be excluded from schools, shortened time with influenza illness from 7 days to 4-5 days. Use schools with H1N1 vaccine to vaccinate children – no timeline of when vaccine will be available.

Dr. Mullin – new directive – could have impact on substitute budget, think about student achievement. Weekly meetings on Monday's and Mr. Stone is right on top of it.

Dr. McNamara – Ron Mote – seasonal flu clinic, did it happen?

Mr. Stone – yes and he will be go to all schools

Mr. Mercier – had conversation with the DTA President and brought up looking into an environmental sub-committee.

Mr. Sheehan – do have health and safety sub-committee

Mr. Stone – health advisory committee – schools will have, roll topics into that committee

Dr. McNamara – do we have a wellness committee?

Mr. Stone – 4 years ago we had, need grant money to start the sub-committee

Dr. McNamara – would like to coordinate committee

Dr. Mullin spoke with Mr. Maguire regarding children with severe food allergies, he is on top of it and it is going well.

Dr. Mullin – Ken Moge took over IT role and immediately updates DPS' website

Mr. Stone – website has specific health page

### Feasibility Study Update:

Dr. Mullin introduced Mr. Graham

Mr. Graham reported 9/8 SBA approved Town of Dracut the contract with company selected by building committee. This Wednesday there is a meeting, probably will sign contract and begin study. It has been a long process. R.F. Walsh is the company selected.

### MCAS Reports:

Dr. Mullin – MCAS scores were released – mixed news. Received letter from commission, we analyzed results. The DOE has released questions, eliminating 50% of the test items, will be a burden, 50% in grades 3-8 will not be released, will recycle questions to try to reduce questions and time it takes. All topics will remain the same, reporting categories will remain the same, will meet with principals the first week of October. Only ½ the questions will be released – will make it difficult. Asked Dr. Trouville to give a brief overview of elementary schools.

Dr. Trouville reported on grades 3-6

Mr. Mercier – scores are commendable, but look at scores that are down – what action are we taking that some stimulus money goes towards MCAS?

Dr. Mullin – will teach teachers with professional development, with grant money will develop a plan of improvement

Mr. Mercier – get teachers in classrooms while we have the money to help the students

Dr. McNamara – would like 3 year overview and trends, looking at budget, expenses of schools, been great reductions.

Mrs. Rogers reported LJHS MCAS scores

Mr. Mercier asked for a 1-2 month update on all grade levels for MCAS

Mrs. Hall and Mr. Moulton reported DHS MCAS scores. Mrs. Hall reported mathematics and Mr. Moulton reported ELA scores.

## **IX. Old Business:**

### Proposed Money Procedures for Dracut Public Schools:

Dr. Mullin had meeting with administrative team. On pages 32-35 of packet came up with procedure for approval. This upcoming week review and contact him, will be an ongoing process. Also, reported 9/24 Parker Avenue School received full payment of restitution (\$12,946.74) – all been returned to PTO.

Mr. Mercier asked to table the motion for Proposed Money Procedures for Dracut Public Schools.

Mr. Sheehan – representative for DATV Committee – received letter from Cyndy Curtis.

3. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Ms. Elie to appoint Cyndy Curtis as representative as DATV Board Member.

Vote: Unanimously approved

Mr. Mercier – shows dedication

Mr. Miles – concur – she is so helpful, fortunate to have her

4. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Mr. Miles to table the policy sub-committee.

Vote: Unanimously approved

## **X. New Business:**

5. Motion by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Mercier to suspend the by-laws for the October 12, 2009 meeting.

Vote: Unanimously approved

6. Motion by Mr. Miles, seconded by Mr. Mercier to purchase new mats for cheerleaders from school choice funds, donations, pop warner, or athletic revolving account.

Vote: Unanimously approved

Mr. Mercier – have boy scouts here working on their communication badges – congratulated them.  
Mr. Mercier – incident at DHS – couple of concerns, have superintendent look into regarding taping practices, how process happened, closed back door meeting? In newspaper without superintendent being informed. Innocent until proven guilty. Feel from meeting – got leaked to press. Asked the superintendent to look into it. Don't like how it was in the paper. Process wasn't fair – get back to committee, also was property damaged?

Dr. Mullin asked Mr. Generoso to come up and report on damage

Mr. Generoso reported there was no damage.

#### **XI. Adjournment:**

7. Motion by Mr. Mercier, seconded by Mr. Miles to adjourn the Regular Session Meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Dr. McNamara – yes, Ms. Elie – yes, Mr. Mercier – yes, Mr. Miles – yes, Mr. Sheehan – yes

Mr. Sheehan adjourned the Regular Session at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynne LaFerriere, Recording Secretary