

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
MELROSE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
September 22, 2009**

A meeting of the Melrose School Committee was held this date in the Aldermanic Chamber of Melrose City Hall with the following members present: Ms. Casatelli, Ms. Thorp, Mr. Spinale, Mr. Constantine, Ms. Driscoll, Mayor Dolan and Mr. Lehman.

Also in attendance were Superintendent of Schools Joe Casey and Business Manager Greg Zammuto.

Ms. Casatelli called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Driscoll moved, Mayor Dolan seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve School Committee Minutes of September 8, 2009

Public Participation

Ms. Thorp moved, Mr. Constantine seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To open Public Participation

Ted Kenney of Main St. commented favorably that progress is being made regarding improvement in the public participation mechanism and further suggested that Members' home and email addresses and fax numbers be posted online in order to communicate in a more timely manner regarding public participation and agenda items. Gerry Mroz of Mt. Vernon St. noted that timely and pertinent website management is needed to better communicate and retain the community's confidence in the system, Public Participation should allow conversation beyond public comments, and the public should be allowed to bring issues of concern to the Committee in the form of agenda items.

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: To close Public Participation

Report of the Student Representatives

Student Representatives Leanne Hogan and Joe LiCausi reported as follows: Congratulations to Scott Mendelssohn who was one of three students state-wide to attain a combined score of 36 on the June 2009 ACT; Senior transcripts were mailed yesterday and received today; first round of open response questions for MHS students scheduled for this week; Activity block this Friday at MHS; Senior class pictures this Friday; student government speeches and elections scheduled Friday; MCAS scores to be mailed and should be received by week's end.

Announcements – Superintendent of Schools

In response to Public Participation comments, Mr. Casey noted that in the absence of a salaried webmaster which the district cannot afford, volunteers strive to manage and upgrade the melroseschools website, and we will move forward with improving our posting of more timely and all-inclusive information, and enabling public input.

Victorian Fair Update – The Superintendent reported great attendance at this successful family event last week. Melrose put its best foot forward and got great reviews for our efforts.

MAAV Walk – The Superintendent announced that the 14th annual Melrose Alliance Against Violence Walk will take place on Sunday, October 25 at 10am. The School Committee has formed its own walking team, and all are invited to form a team or come out and cheer people on for this very worthy cause.

AYP Conference - Mr. Casey reported that he attended this meeting last week about attaining and gauging information to better judge what Melrose schools' performance really is by matching it against peer groups across the state. More information will be forthcoming.

Finance and Facilities – Don Constantine

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: For the second time, to accept August 2009 Maintenance Report

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Driscoll seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: For the second time, to accept August 2009 Budget Report

Summer Enrichment/Summer School Final Report – Director Jim Babineau reported on the success of the 2009 summer program, and thanked Secretary Connie O'Connor, Enrichment Director Marybeth Kiley, Mr. Brow, and teachers and volunteers for their work and commitment this summer. Enrichment, academic and SPED programs at the new Middle School location, and pre-K at the Franklin, were varied, productive and entertaining. Surveys were distributed to elementary parents at an end-of-program open house for their input. Committee members thanked Mr. Babineau and commented favorably on the quality and results of another successful program this summer.

Educational Programs and Personnel – Margaret Driscoll

NEASC – Mr. Casey reported that in order for us to provide time for the NEASC (New England Assn. of Schools and Colleges) seven standards subcommittees to prepare their committee reports due this Spring 2010, Mr. Dillon has identified two late arrival dates for *students only* on Tuesday, September 29 and Tuesday, November 17. This time change will not negatively impact our meeting the 990 hours requirement for time and learning. Mr. Dillon will report fully on this issue at the October 27 meeting.

Policy and Planning – Kristin Thorp

School Committee Goal/Communication Plan - Ms. Thorp invited Ms. Casatelli to report on her revised draft of School Committee Goal #4 – Create a Communications Plan for the Melrose School Committee. Specifically, we will create a framework so that the Committee can both *send* news and information to the public and *receive* vital community input on a variety of issues, and thereby increase community involvement, pride in schools, and improve student achievement. Committee members will commit to specific sections of the plan and suggest and finalize how to best implement them.

Ms. Casatelli expressed the need for Executive Session in order to discuss collective bargaining.

Ms. Thorp moved, Mr. Lehman seconded and on a roll call vote it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn to Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.