

**THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN REVIEWED NOR
APPROVED BY THE MELROSE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
MELROSE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
February 9, 2010**

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. Driscoll, Ms. Thorp, Ms. Kourkoumelis, Mr. Constantine, Mayor Dolan, Ms. Casatelli, and Mr. LaRock.

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

Ms. Driscoll announced the need for an Executive Session in order to discuss collective bargaining.

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

VOTED: To adjourn to Executive Session at 7pm

Ms. Driscoll announced at 7:28pm that we are back in public session.

Approval of Minutes

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

VOTED: To approve School Committee Minutes of January 26, 2010, with changes

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

VOTED: To approve School Committee Workshop Minutes of January 16, 2010

Public Participation

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

VOTED: To open Public Participation

Ms. Carol Nadeau of Cottage St. commented on the Meeting the Needs of All Learners program and the need for program consistency, better communication between administrators and parents, need for gifted coordinator implementing a full-time gifted curriculum, and explanation of state funding for the district. Ms. Maryann Hollis of Melrose St. commented on our need to keep the public better informed, return to previous Subcommittee format, and supported a trial period of meeting change recommendations.

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

VOTED: To close Public Participation

Report of the Student Representatives

Student Representatives Joe LiCausi and Leanne Hogan reported as follows: Congrats to Boys Hockey for making the tournament after 13 long years; congrats to Gymnastics team who scored their highest score at their league meet; Parent Curriculum Night for 8th grade parents on March 4 from 6:30-8pm at the Resource Center; Senior Nights for Boys and Girls Basketball tonight, and Boys Hockey on Friday; Activity Block tomorrow where Seniors will meet with class advisors and underclassmen will work in homerooms on the mission statement; call Mrs. Carpenter to schedule a parent/teacher conference for this Thursday night; Drama competition on February 26.

Announcements – Superintendent of Schools

Board of Aldermen Meeting Update/ January 28, 2010 – Ms. Driscoll commented that DOE Associate Commissioner Jeff Wulfson presented report to the Aldermen and School Committee on State school financing, including the charter school funding formula. This presentation is posted on the melroseschools website.

MASC Day on the Hill – Ms. Driscoll noted that this event is scheduled for March 30 from 9am to 2pm on Beacon Hill and is a great opportunity to attend and advocate for our children. More information can be accessed on the masc.org website.

High School Late Arrival – Mr. Casey reported that there will be a 2-hour arrival delay for students at the High School on February 25.

Proposed Meeting Agenda -

Ms. Kourkoumelis moved, Mayor Dolan seconded to hold a public hearing period within the next two weeks to have a dialogue with the public about our meeting structure.

Mayor Dolan moved and Mr. Constantine seconded to amend the motion to have the public dialogue at 6:30 on February 23rd in the Aldermen's Chambers. It was unanimously

VOTED: to amend the motion

The vote to approve the motion as amended was unanimous.

Ms. Kourkoumelis moved, Mayor Dolan seconded to begin holding public dialogues at 6:15pm starting before our Tuesday, March 9th meeting, to be extended for a three-month trial period.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Superintendent will post public hearing dates and times.

Ms. Driscoll reviewed in detail the proposed meeting agenda.

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

VOTED: To approve the proposed agenda as presented

(Mayor Dolan left at 8:15pm)

Educational Programs and Personnel – Donald Constantine

Ms. Thorp moved, Ms. Casatelli seconded and with six (6) votes in the affirmative (Ms. Thorp, Ms. Casatelli, Ms. Kourkoumelis, Mr. Constantine, Mr. LaRock and Ms. Driscoll), none (0) in the negative, and one (1) absent (Mayor Dolan) it was

VOTED: To change the order of the day to hear the Summer Program update

(Mayor Dolan returned at 8:21pm)

Summer Program Update – Ms. Patti White-Lambright and Dr. Heather Josephson reported that literature will be distributed in March regarding how we will offer services to support families this summer, which will provide a change and also an opportunity. They also commended Mr. Jim Babineau for his work in historically guiding the success and longevity of this program. A survey we completed in December suggests parents are interested in programs five days a week and for extended times which we will pursue. The “Franklin Friends” program will continue, the elementary program will run from June 21 – August 18, we are looking at possibly adding recreational programs to the Middle School enrichment component, and academic program for Middle School, High School and students from other communities will be offered.

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

VOTED: To change the order of the day to hear the Meeting Needs of All Learners Update

Meeting the Needs of All Learners Update – Elementary Principals Jeff Strasnick of the Horace Mann, Brent Conway of the Lincoln, Kerry Clery of the Roosevelt, Bryna Davis of the Winthrop, Dennet Sidell of the Hoover, and Curriculum Director Pat Muxie reported on the successes and challenges we face in implementing our expanded K-8 model to serve all school populations via targeted instruction, and both cluster and flexible grouping. Creating smaller groupings in the classroom based on student ability and need while maintaining flexibility is key. Results of our gifted population survey should be available at our March 9 meeting.

Middle School Update - Principal Tom Brow, Math Department Chair Mr. Jim Babineau and English Department Chair Mrs. Angela Singer detailed their efforts to improve learning by instituting flexible groupings in Math and English and developing a more comprehensive curriculum featuring new concepts, MCAS preparation, and possible schedule changes.

ECC, K and Grade 1 Registration Update – Mr. Casey reported that we received over 200 online applications for K and Grade 1 registrations, along with 40 K families who came forward and 10 families who used paper applications. We continue to receive many positive comments from parents about the new online registration process. Parents will be contacted before the end of March regarding school placement.

Personnel Report - Mr. Casey reported that since last reported, 1 open secretary and 1 open teacher position due to retirements have since been filled, and we are now in the interview process to fill an open SPED secretary position.

Finance and Facilities – Christine Casatelli

Mr. Zammuto presented Cafeteria Report of January 2010.

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

VOTED: To accept January 2010 Cafeteria Report

Mr. Zammuto presented January 2010 Budget Summary.

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

VOTED: To accept January 2010 Budget Summary

Policy and Planning – Kristin Thorp

2010/2011 School Calendar/ Second Vote - Mayor Dolan moved, Ms. Kourkoumelis seconded and it was unanimously

VOTED: For the second time, to approve 2010/2011 school calendar as presented

MSC 2010 Goals – Ms. Thorp presented the five Committee goals as presented at our last meeting as follows:

The Melrose School Committee sets forth the following goals for themselves for the year 2010. These are areas that the Committee feels are specifically in need of extra attention. The enumeration of these goals is not intended to diminish the other work of the committee, which includes for example continued evaluation and revision of district policies, support of all educational and extra curricular programming, continued integration of technology into the curriculum, and continued clear and focused fiscal management of the district.

In order to better focus on academic achievement, the Melrose School Committee in 2010 will

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of current SC governance and give effect to improvements
2. Continue to develop, and work to execute, a viable and living Communication Plan
3. Increase the frequency of presentations, discussions, and other opportunities for the education of the committee, educators and the public, about academic issues
4. Participate in the Strategic Planning process and ensure that the Strategic Plan is integrated with the policies and goals of the School Committee and support, to the extent fiscally possible, its integration into district action
5. Continue aggressive fiscal management including pursuing external funding and cost savings in order to enhance educational opportunities for students

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

VOTED: To approve Melrose School Committee goals for 2010

Ms. Thorp commented that in light of the recent incidents of school bullying in other communities which have been in the news, the School Committee has a policy on bullying and harassment which was updated in 2007. The Legislature is working on this issue and we also will review our policy. The anti-bullying policies and procedures for each school are in the school handbooks, and we encourage anyone with questions or concerns to contact either a teacher or a principal.

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

VOTED: To adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:40pm.