

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 12p.m.

Meeting with Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent's Office, 2700 Regional Road, North Dighton, MA 02764

The Board of Selectmen met with the Superintendent Dr. Anthony Azar and Business Manager Catherine Antonellis. All members were present.

Selectman Goulart noted that she had read and revised the Annual Report for the School District and that it was finally completed and ready to be included in the Annual Town Report.

Dr. Azar reported that he had previously discussed future enrollment issues in Dighton Elementary School (DES) and Dighton Middle School (DMS) with Building Inspector James Aguiar and Zoning Board of Appeals member Peter Caron. Dr. Azar noted this as a hot button issue in town. He stated that there were internal expansions at DES in 2015 in order to accommodate increasing student enrollment. Part of the expansion efforts included double-door entry, permanent administration offices, a consolidated art room, permanent TLC room, and a modernized library complete with media center.

Dr. Azar noted that issues with space will arise in the future. He stated the need to discuss possible solutions. He added that it will not be a problem in Fiscal Year 2016–2017 but that something must be in place for Fiscal Year 2017–2018. He wondered where the new students would be placed once school programs are expanded as voted by the School Committee two weeks ago. He noted that this pertains mostly to DES.

The Board of Selectmen, Dr. Azar, and Mrs. Antonellis discussed the creation of an early childhood center. Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students would be combined in this center that would be complete with a centralized kitchen for district-wide food service. It was noted that it would be best if it were a stand-alone building, as it would create 5 additional kindergarten classrooms. It was noted that an expansion such as this would not be necessary until 3-5 years from now; however, based on the number of building permits out (1,200+ Form A lots to be built on), it is expected that it will be necessary in more like 2-3 years.

The possibility of expanding DES and re-configuring DMS were also discussed as alternative solutions to accommodating future projected student enrollment increases. It was noted that Chapter 74 programs are available in order to take on additional students in order to get more funding from the Commonwealth. Dr. Azar has discussed D-R programs with the BP superintendent so that the schools are not in competition with each other. All parties agreed to continue this discussion in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean D. Roma
Nancy J. Goulart

RECEIVED
2016 JUN 29 PM 1:33
KATHY COOPER
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brett R. Zografos
Clerk
Board of Selectmen