

**Education Sub-Committee Meeting
Minutes of October 20, 2015
Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room**

Present for the Board of Selectmen: Alison Hughes and Tami Dristiliaris and Recording Secretary Shannon Rowe Beaulieu

Present for the School Committee: Betsy Murphy and Joe Wilkie

Mrs. Hughes opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Discuss October 1st Enrollment Numbers for Dracut Public Schools, Charter Schools, Greater Lowell Technical School & Essex Agricultural

Mr. Wilkie stated that the Dracut Public Schools have 3,603 students enrolled in grades K-12.

Mr. Wilkie stated that there are 53 Out of District students and there are 12 students at Essex Agricultural.

Mr. Wilkie stated that approximately 420 students are enrolled at the Greater Lowell Technical School.

Mr. Wilkie stated that student numbers will be certified after November 1st as some students are still moving back and forth.

Mr. Wilkie stated that the cost is approximately 3.8 million to send 420 students to the Greater Lowell Technical School. Mr. Wilkie discussed Dracut paying a disproportionate amount than Lowell for their students as Lowell has approximately 1500 students attending the Greater Lowell Technical School and are only paying 5.8 million.

Mr. Wilkie discussed using the Greater Lowell Technical School's services for printing brochures, etc.

The Committee discussed bringing students back to the Dracut Public Schools, sharing positives as much as they can on social media, etc., internal programs for Special Education and the new law allowing Schools to have stabilization funds.

Mr. Joe Espinola, Greater Lowell School Committee Member, discussed using the Parker Avenue School for Dracut's own Special Education Program.

Mrs. Murphy explained that not all 53 Special Education students are educated the same.

Mr. Wilkie explained that some students are housed 24 hours a day.

The Committee discussed unfunded State mandates and IDEA and negotiated transportation and programs for Special Education Students.

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Mr. Espinola stated that there were 404 students from Dracut attending the Greater Lowell Technical School last October 1st and discussed 20% of the students are Special Education students.

Mr. Espinola stated that he would like an open concept with the Education Sub-Committee.

Mr. Wilkie discussed the funding formula at the Greater Lowell Technical School. Mr. Espinola stated that the formula has not changes since 1986 and he has spoken to Representative Garry regarding the formula.

Mrs. Murphy discussed the foundation budget being partly based on Special Education.

Discuss Graduation Rates for Dracut Public Schools and Greater Lowell Technical School

Mr. Wilkie stated that he would get the information from for the Dracut Public Schools.

Mr. Espinola stated that 95.1% of all students are graduating and 90.9% of Dracut students are graduating.

Mr. Espinola stated that many graduating students are attending two and four year College's and stated that in 2014, 85% of Dracut students went onto College, in 2013, 83% of Dracut students went onto College and in 2012, 85% of Dracut students went onto College.

Mr. Espinola stated that in 2014, 51.7% of graduating students went onto College.

Mr. Espinola discussed the entrance formula, how the Charter works and how Cities and Town's pay the School.

Mr. Espinola discussed Dracut student enrollment numbers going down over the years.

Mr. Wilkie stated that the Dracut Public Schools have worked with students who are interested in attending the School.

Mr. Wilkie stated that he has advocated to have night visits at the School for Families with students interested in attending.

Mr. Wilkie stated that they have to continue to reach out to the State regarding their formula.

Discuss Enrollments being Capped

Mr. Espinola stated that they cannot cap the number of students attending the School and they currently have a waiting list of 50 students.

Mr. Espinola discussed the School's quota and equalization.

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Discuss Having the Greater Lowell Technical School Committee Members Join the Education Sub-Committee

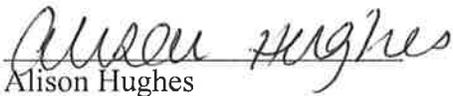
Mrs. Hughes stated that the Education Sub-Committee would like to formally invite Mr. Espinola and Mr. Morin to attend their meetings.

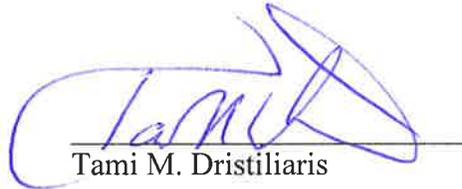
Mr. Espinola stated that Mr. Morin and he would be happy to be part of the Education Sub-Committee.

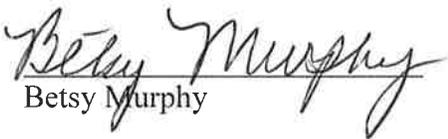
Mr. Espinola discussed the collaboration of resources from the Greater Lowell Technical School.

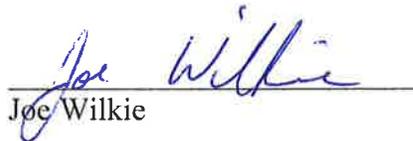
Mrs. Hughes stated that the collaboration of resources would be discussed at the next Sub-Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.


Alison Hughes


Tami M. Dristiliaris


Betsy Murphy


Joe Wilkie

Recording Secretary
Shannon Rowe Beaulieu