



DUXBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DUXBURY FREE LIBRARY

RECREATION

PERCY WALKER POOL COMMITTEE

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

The Duxbury Public School District focuses its direction each year on the continuous goal of improving student achievement. This direction and focus is tied directly to the district's vision and mission, which seeks to establish the concept of life-long learning for students while instilling in all members of the school community a passion for learning, respect for diversity, integrity of their actions, and a desire to make a difference educationally. This vision and mission is the guiding force that is incorporated into all aspects of the district's Strategic Plan.

For the 2006-2007 school year our schools have directed our actions in meeting the mission and vision through a number of action items. Among these are: the creation and implementation of new graduation requirements that will hold our students to a higher academic standard; the continued exploration and piloting of community service learning projects that provide students at the high school with the opportunity to connect their academic learning to projects that link meaningfully back to the community; and the implementation of the Peacebuilders program at the middle school, which provides students with lessons to expand their understanding of diversity and effective conflict resolution strategies. In addition the district continues to align its curriculum with the standards established by the state of Massachusetts. The curriculum mapping in all academic areas is designed to provide a clear continuum of learning from preschool through grade 12 that will prepare our students to successfully progress to their next level of learning. This year as part of the curriculum articulation, a new literacy program was implemented in grades preschool through grade 5. This is a balanced literacy program that integrates reading, writing, listening, language, and spelling (all the aspects of literacy) through an integrated approach.

In addition a significant action item for this year has been the establishment of a new distributive leadership model. This supervision model provides teachers with an expanded opportunity to share, observe, and reflect upon best instructional practices within our schools that will enable teachers to continue to utilize the expertise and knowledge of colleagues to increase their repertoire of teaching strategies. The increased opportunity for professionals to dialogue and conduct peer observations enriches the environment for all, which will have a beneficial impact on our students' learning.

Technology has been a significant issue this year. The technology department addressed a number of issues, not the least of which has been the use of a data management system that will effectively meet the needs of the district. Through the systematic review of a number of alternative systems, as well as the effective input of a community task force, the decision to change systems was reached and the implementation of that system has begun. This new system will provide easier and more effective access to and use of student data. The technology department has also successfully piloted a program at the high school to provide families with newsletters through the use of email and the district website. The success of this program will lead the district to institute this same means of dissemination to the other schools by the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

As part of the District's goal to address the building needs at both Duxbury Middle School and Duxbury High School, letters of interest were submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. This is a new process established by the state to establish where state monies will be allocated. The district will continue to work through this process with town and state officials.

This year the district has also had to focus on the change in leadership that would result from the retirement of the Superintendent, Dr. Eileen Williams as well as other vacancies that occurred in the district. Search committees and interviews were held and conducted for the selection of a new superintendent, assistant superintendent, high school principal, and director of special education. Each of these is a significant position within the district and the careful selection of these individuals was essential to the district's operation and for the continued success of its students. As a result of these job searches, I was selected as Superintendent. Mr. Edwin Walsh was selected as Assistant Superintendent, Andrew Stephens as Duxbury High School Principal, and Deborah Corvini as Director of Special Education. Each of these individuals is highly qualified and will be an invaluable asset to the community. As we move forward into a new school year, the transition of the administrative team will be a significant focus for the future.

Notwithstanding significant pressures, the FY07 budget was successfully executed. The financial management skills of business manager, Mickey McGonagle, significantly accounted for this accomplishment. The district will continue to seek out and implement cost effective opportunities.

Financially, as budgets have continued to tighten, the administration and School Committee have had to make significant and difficult decisions regarding funding. The focus of these decisions has been the continuation of

class sizes that will ensure effective instruction for students as well as the continuation of programs and classes that will provide all of our students with a diverse and comprehensive education. Increased mandated programs and academic requirements through state and federal legislation as well as the increased cost of health care have continued to have an impact on the district's ability to meet the goals established through the strategic plan. The School Committee made some difficult decisions when preparing the FY08 budget. These decisions included a reduction in staffing at the middle and high school, a reduction in the elementary Spanish program as well as reductions in supplies. An increase in user and bus fees were also made so as to reduce any further elimination of staff or services in an effort to preclude further degradation of services.

The Duxbury Public Schools has experienced a number of retirements with the end of this school year. These include Margaret Kelleher, Margaret Mosher, James Lessard, Helen Fowler, Deborah Crawford, Edward Pankowski, Deborah Kelly, Linda Gunderson, Robert Webster, Michael McGuire, William Bristol, and Carol Sutherland. Each of these individuals has contributed significantly to the children of Duxbury over their years of service to the Duxbury Public Schools. Their talents and contributions will be greatly missed by the District and community.

The District looks forward to continue addressing the needs and aspirations of its students, and the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan K. Skeiber
Superintendent of Schools

DUXBURY FREE LIBRARY



Ted Flynn and Nancy Delano were re-elected to three year terms on the Board of Library Trustees. For the first time, the Board held a retreat to do a self-evaluation and to ensure that it is functioning fully and appropriately. It reviewed and revised its by-laws this year and annually reviews all library policies.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners appointed library director, Elaine Winquist, to its State Aid Review Committee. This was a year long commitment to review the current role the state plays in improving library services and to recommend a next generation program to the Board. She also served as chair of the Personnel and Budget Committees for Old Colony Library Network.

Library statistics for FY2007 show three major areas of growth: loans to other libraries grew a record 64%, programs for the public increased 23%, and use of the library web site grew 51%. Overall, we loaned 240,000 items; sent 34,000 to other libraries and borrowed 27,000 from other libraries. We increased our subscriptions for licensed electronic reference databases from 13 to 17.

The Library was a happening place this past summer with great participation in our annual Summer Reading Program—*From Bay to Bayou*—under the direction of Nancy Denman (Mrs. D.). Over 800 children signed up to read for Cameron Parish, LA, whose libraries were destroyed by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. To honor the children's reading, the Friends of the Library made a financial contribution to Cameron Parish. The poster and public relations materials the staff created for this program took second prize in the Massachusetts Public Library Association 2007 PR Awards. Our teen book discussion group, *The Bookmarks*, took first place in the Town's July 4th parade for best maxi-float (*Adhesives Hold the World Together!*), as well as winning the Margery Parcher trophy. They donated their cash award to Cameron Parish. Comcast also contributed to our cause. Our Young Adult Librarian, Ellen Snoeyenbos, collaborated with the Plymouth Independent Film Festival on Future Filmmakers Awards, sponsored in part by the Friends. A Duxbury film was showcased as one of the 13 award winners.

In our Technical Services Department, a professional part-time librarian resigned and library associate Denise Garvin was appointed to that position. Eithne Dundas was hired to fill Denise's vacated position

The Friends of Duxbury Free Library contributed \$15,000 this year for library materials. This gift qualified the Library to receive about \$300 in additional funds from the *FY07 Massachusetts Public Libraries Fund*. The Friends donated funds for landscape design and installation for the campus side of the library to be done in FY2008. It also underwrote the summer programs for children and teens.

The generosity of Duxbury Free Library, Incorporated, allow the library to meet its state-mandated materials expenditure requirement by supplementing the town's appropriation for books, museum passes, and audio-visual materials. DFL, Inc. also awarded funding for a well and irrigation system for the library's grounds. Having irrigation in place will ensure that lawns and shrubs endure.

Finally, the library remains committed to its goal of providing great programs for all ages. In FY2007, patrons attended the Fourth Friday Film Series, Sunday Salon Series, Author Talks, Poetry Circle, Book Discussion Groups, and special programs to support *Bay to Bayou*. It is also committed to supporting our schools. Reference, children's, and young adult librarians provided classroom visits—at both the schools and at the library, book talks, and instruction to Duxbury's public and private schools, and to our home schooling families.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Winquist,
Library Director

Board of Library Trustees:
Ted Flynn, Chair
Carl Meier, Vice chair
Laney Mutkoski, Secretary

Jack Hill
Nancy Delano
James Mandrell

REPORT OF THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

For the fourth consecutive fiscal year the Recreation Department has struggled with dwindling resources allotted through the budget process. We are hopeful that the future will bring a brighter fiscal situation that will allow us to maintain and expand our level of excellence.

Recreation

The Recreation Department offered 40 year round programs to Duxbury residents in fiscal year 2007. The Recreation Revolving Fund generated revenues of \$264,219 and had expenditures of \$221,858. The Revolving Fund returned \$32,361 to the General Fund. The Recreation Revolving Fund employed 115 part time employees and was also assisted by over 200 community volunteers. In fiscal year 2007 over 3,000 residents registered for our 40 programs.

The Ellison Playground, along with other Town playground areas of Tarkiln and Wadsworth continue to host strong numbers of residents enjoying leisure time activities.

The playing fields in the Town of Duxbury continue to be an extremely popular destination for people in Town. This past year over 6,000 residents used our playing fields. The Duxbury Board of Health instituted a 6pm curfew due to EEE for the third straight summer/fall. This closure while supported by this department has a large impact on our youth sports programs. At present we see no end to this ban.

The Recreation Department has worked closely with the PRIDE Committee assisting the School Department's efforts to build two "Field Turf" athletic complexes. We are hopeful that these new facilities will assist this Department in scheduling youth sports activities.

Percy Walker Pool

The Percy Walker Pool was open an average of 123 hours per week in FY 2007. Budget cuts for this past fiscal year resulted in no capital projects being completed at the Percy Walker Pool for the fourth year in a row.

Even with the above noted budgetary difficulties, the pool was a popular destination for residents and non-residents alike. Nine area swim teams continue to use our aquatic facility as their base of operations: Duxbury High School boys and girls swim teams, Gators/Aquadux swim team, Marshfield High School swim team, Marshfield Area Swim Klub, Dolphins, Pembroke Swim Team, South Shore Diving Club and Pembroke High School.

At the ATM of 2006, \$15,000 was approved to conduct a Property Conditions Assessment of the Percy Walker Pool. That study was completed in April of 2007 and the Percy Walker Pool Long Range Planning Committee will be presenting its findings to the Board of Selectmen in the near future. The study conducted by the architectural firm of Graham/Meus indicated that our 32 year old municipal swimming pool is in need of nearly \$1,000,000 in rehabilitation projects.

Finally, we continue to enjoy having both Duxbury High School swim teams and the fourth grade swim program at Alden Elementary use the Percy Walker Pool at no charge. We feel that these programs provide a great service to the community at large.

North Hill

This past year North Hill Country Club had approximately 28,000 rounds of play. The property continues to be a popular facility for golf, cross country skiing, running, sledding, and other leisure activities.

Due to budget cuts no capital projects were completed at North Hill for the fourth year in a row. The operating budget at North Hill is currently at an all time low of \$2,500.

The Town of Duxbury received \$101,000 in rent from the golf course manager and over \$6,000 in taxes, licenses and fees in FY '07. The current contract with the Manager runs through December 31st of 2008. The Recreation Department has been working closely with the North Hill Advisory Committee investigating the Town's best option for managing the course after 2008 and into the future.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my staff at the Recreation Department and the Percy Walker Pool for all their help and support during this past year. It is a pleasure to work in such a great community where people can pull together during very difficult economic times. Hopefully better fiscal times are on the horizon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gordon H. Cushing
Recreation Director

REPORT OF THE PERCY WALKER POOL COMMITTEE

Town Meeting 2006 authorized the Moderator to appoint a Long Range Planning Committee to develop a Master Plan for the Percy Walker Pool and, as part of that plan, the committee, under the direction of the Town Manager, was to have an existing conditions survey completed and to develop rehabilitation recommendations. The committee began work in May of 2006 and has made great progress thus far.

The committee began the process of developing a master plan by conducting a town wide survey to gain an understanding how the pool was used and where it needed the most work. While the survey was being conducted the group then began the RFP process to find an architect who would be able to complete an existing conditions study of the facility. In January 2007 the Town awarded the contract to the Graham Meus, Inc architectural firm of Boston, MA. Graham Meus has an extensive background in designing and rehabilitating recreational facilities and was an excellent fit for the project. The firm has designed and completed more than a dozen pool facilities in the past 10 years, and more than 30 pools since 1980. Some of these projects were, in fact, rehabilitation efforts much like those expected at the Percy Walker. As expected Dan Meus, the primary architect working with the committee, has been a wealth of information and delivered an extensive report to the committee in May 2007.

Since May the committee has continued to work to determine a long term master plan for the Percy Walker Pool given the information provided both by the survey and the existing conditions study. We intend to present the results of these studies and some initial ideas to the Board of Selectmen in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Coghlan, Chair

Doug Backlund Doug Carver
Nancy Johnson Stephen Shay

Craig Dolloff

Gordon Cushing