

## Devens Educational Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

Date: May 5, 2026

Time : 7:00 p.m

#### Elected Committee Members Present:

Philip Cheung

Martha Guerrero

Dorinda Abrafi

Marissa Rivera

#### Invited Attendees

Current superintendent: Linda Dwight

Incoming superintendent: Dana Ladd

#### Executive Vice President of Devens Operations

Michael Sweeney

#### Meeting as conducted according to Robert's Rules

##### Activity.

- 1) Meeting was called to order by chairperson Dorinda Abrafi.
- 2) Current superintendent Linda Dwight introduced herself, provided brief history of her time serving as superintendent.
- 3) Dwight announced her retirement as of June 30th and introduced her predecessor, Dana Ladd
- 4) Ladd expressed his commitment to maintain and strengthen the relationship between the Harvard public schools and the Devens community
- 5) Dwight provided a summary of the contract agreement between MassDevelopment and Harvard for educating the children in Devens, explaining how Devens residents' taxes are utilized through MassDevelopment to pay tuition to Harvard based on per-student cost.
- 6) Dwight also highlighted that there is not a capacity issue within the Harvard school and they are hopeful that the number of Devens students will increase as housing in Devens begins to grow
- 7) Committee member Philip Cheung asked about the current school budget deficit to which superintendent replied that the vote to override the current budget deficit is being addressed at the same in a Harvard town hall election meeting.
- 8) Superintendent Dwight mentioned that the Harvard education council has asked about the absence of the DEAC representation on the meetings. DEAC member responded that the committee is taking steps to reengage with the council in up coming meetings.

- 9) Committee member Philip Cheung suggested the school can take small step to create a unified Harvard school identity to ensure that current and new incoming kids have a sense of belonging to the school.
- 10) Committee member Philip Cheung asked incoming superintendent Ladd on his administration's approach for the Harvard school district.
- 11) Ladd outlined his vision, emphasizing on the need to make sure that all students have a sense of belonging. Ladd further discussed the importance of financial literacy, hands-on education, and preparing students for an evolving job market, while ensuring they have a rigorous education.
- 12) Committee member Martha voice her recent experience in which she was told that Deven kids are fortunate to have the opportunity to attend a school like Harvard district school.
- 13) Superintendent Dwight and Ladd responded that this opinion is definitely not the view of the current school administration and emphasized that the current arrangement with tuition paid through Devens residents' taxes is legitimate and beneficial to the town of Harvard.
- 14) Dwight and Ladd committed to ensuring that there is a welcoming environment for all students while acknowledging ongoing misinformation about the funding structure.
- 15) The group discussed possible ways of fostering a inclusivity between Harvard and Devens families/communities.
- 16) Committee did not have anymore questions for the superintendents and they left meeting.
- 17) Chairperson Dorinda indicated that to gain a better appreciation of the Harvard district school direction it would be good to attend the Harvard school council meetings as the superintendents ideally takes the direction of the district from the council

Meeting adjourned with Dorinda to set the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting Recorder  
Philip Cheung