

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
DARTMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 9, 2017

The warrants for bills payable were reviewed and signed by the School Committee.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Christopher Oliver, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the James M. Quinn Elementary School. He noted that the meeting was being videotaped for future broadcast over DCTV and is aired on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

Present were the following members: Dr. Karafotis, Mr. Nunes, Mr. Garth, Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Oliver. Student Representative Victoria Costa was also present.

Also present: Dr. Gifford, Ms. Roy, Mr. Kiely, and Mrs. Boucher.

Visitors present: Mr. Gallishaw, Mrs. Oliveira, Mr. Porter, Ms. Maccini, Mrs. Pavao, Ms. Chavier, Mr. Ferreira, and also members of the community. Terri Hamm, representing the Finance Committee, was also present.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Committee members observed a moment of silence in memory of Mary Ann Bettencourt who served the district for 22 years as an Accounts Payable Clerk. Mrs. Bettencourt passed away unexpectedly on December 22, 2016.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered on any of the agenda items for this evening's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the December 12th School Committee meeting were not ready for approval.

Spotlight on Kids – Joseph DeMello School

Principal Cathy Maccini and Assistant Principal Catherine Pavao were happy to highlight the great learning activities taking place at the Joseph DeMello Elementary School.

Ms. Maccini was pleased to report that nearly 100 students participated in a Kids Workshop evening event that hosted 16 different sessions. These included topics such as robotics, introduction to Portuguese, yoga, basketball, scrapbooking, crayon art, sunflower mosaics, just to name a few of the great activities experienced by the students. The next Kids Workshop is planned for March 30th from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The DeMello staff continue to work together to provide activities that will encourage students to develop a love for reading. With this goal in mind, the next big event will be "Books, Blankets and Breakfast" in February. Students can bring a cozy blanket and snack from home to make for comfortable reading time. A "Rocking and Reading" event is planned for March. National Poetry month in April will be celebrated by student poetry.

Instructional Technology Specialist Joshua Rodrigues provided the Committee with a video of students participating in an early morning enrichment program entitled, "Make It Club". A series of I-Stem programs will be conducted in the near future for students interested in developing their technology problem-solving skills.

Committee members were extremely happy with the presentation. Their comments included:

Mr. Oliver stated, "it is great to see that the Instructional Technology position is working out so well. I am very pleased that each school has one now."

Dr. Karafotis stated, "I am so pleased that we have been able to fill this major gap in our elementary school curriculum by hiring Mr. Rodrigues. The kids are so excited with these hands-on experiences!"

PRESENTATION

DHS Video Program Sponsorships (Robert Perrotti)

Unified Arts Department Teacher, Robert Perrotti, addressed the Committee seeking approval to sell sponsorships for the DHS TV/Media program produced at the school for broadcast on DCTV. The funds would be used to upgrade equipment and computer software. The sponsorships would provide local businesses an opportunity to show support for the high school programs.

Dr. Jenkins expressed her support but "wants to make sure we are on firm legal ground". She suggested that MASC and MASS be consulted for legal opinions on this topic.

Mr. Garth also expressed his concern particularly if an organization was denied a sponsorship request.

Discussion continued.

Dr. Jenkins stated, "we need to take a broader look at the policies. This would establish the criteria for sponsorships".

Mr. Oliver applauded Mr. Perrotti's efforts on behalf of the TV/Media program.

Mr. Nunes suggested discussion be held with DCTV relative to the underwriters of sports programs. No formal ads are included.

Dr. Karafotis stated, "if we could come up with a procedure with everyone on the same page, it would be beneficial to the district".

Dr. Gifford stated she will review the current sponsorship policies and consult with legal counsel and report back to the Committee at a future meeting.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Victoria Costa updated the Committee on activities taking place at Dartmouth High School:

- The DHS Theatre Company hosted Neil Simon's "*Fools*". Great production!
- The acapella group, Harmonix, visited elementary schools, middle school, and nursing homes during the month of December. Great experience for everyone!
- The Trans Siberian Tribute Show was held on December 16th. Two shows were held and very well attended.
- The National Honor Society continues their charitable association with the Citizens Foundation chapter in Pakistan. The NHS hosted a volleyball tournament in November with a revenge tournament planned to be held in March.
- Students will be taking final exams to culminate the first semester of coursework.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following activities were recommended to the Committee for approval:

- Request for DHS Winter Color Guard to participate in the WGI World Championship events in Bethlehem, PA on March 18-19, 2017 and Dayton, Ohio on April 5-9, 2017.
- Request for DHS Indoor Percussion group to participate in WGI World Championship event in Dayton, Ohio on April 19-23, 2017.
- Request for DHS Advanced Art Classes to visit several museums in New York City on May 19, 2017.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins, to approve the above-listed excursions as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Garth would like the administration to develop a better field trip/excursion form that would be easier to understand exactly what the student cost of a field trip/excursion is.

Mr. Oliver stated he would like the agenda for the next meeting to include a topic to discuss field trip forms.

Dr. Jenkins stated she would like to receive a copy of the itinerary for the New York trip.

NEW BUSINESS

Release of Executive Session Minutes of 8/24/15, 9/14/15, 9/28/15, 11/23/15, 1/25/16, 2/22/16, and 4/11/16: The Executive Session Minutes of the aforementioned dates were presented to the Committee and recommended for release.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis, to release the Executive Session Minutes of 8/24/15, 9/14/15, 9/28/15, 11/23/15, 1/25/16, 2/22/16, and 4/11/16. The motion carried unanimously.

FY18-FY22 Capital Improvement Plan (draft): Mr. Kiely presented the following revised Capital Improvement Plan for FY18 through FY22 for the Committee's review.

Technology Hardware	\$ 200,000
Dartmouth Middle School Roof Project	\$1,645,000
Dartmouth Memorial Stadium Synthetic Turf Field & Lighting	\$1,400,000
Boiler Retrofit and Replacement – DHS	\$ 240,000
Flooring Replacement Project	\$ 150,000
Classroom Furniture	\$ 100,000
Replacement of Doors and Hardware	\$ 170,000
Playground Improvements	<u>\$ 175,000</u>

TOTAL: \$4,080,000

Mr. Kiely advised the Committee that he has received revised estimated for the Middle School roof project that increase the cost by \$1,645,000 over the \$4,250,000 already voted by the Town in June of 2016 and October of 2015. The total estimated cost of the project is now \$5,894,699 of which the Town is eligible for reimbursement by a MSBA grant in the amount of \$2,996,583.

Mr. Kiely suggested three options for the Committee to consider: proceed with the project as planned hoping that bids will come in under estimate; scale back the project to allow for a partial roof replacement with the funds already appropriated; or, delay the entire roof replacement project for another year.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Kiely stated that he will be meeting with MSBA representatives next week and options will be discussed. "Delaying the project will increase the costs and interest rates. It doesn't solve our problem. We are going to work with MSBA to work out a solution." Mr. Kiely continued, "we are not committed to the project. We are only in the schematic design phase. We do need to make decisions. One option is to bid the project out. We cannot sign a contract if we do not know if the money is available. Difficult situation at this time."

Dr. Jenkins inquired, "where do we stand on the Master Plan?" Mr. Kiely stated the Master Plan will be ready by the summer. Dr. Jenkins continued, "how much does it cost to call for a special town meeting?"

Mr. Kiely continued, "there is a possibility of some savings if we postpone the project for a year. There are 24 MSBA projects on the docket for this year. There are very few companies available to perform this size project. However, I do not like having to delay the project."

The priority order of the projects proposed was discussed.

Dr. Jenkins expressed her concern that the middle school needs more refurbishment then just the roof. "The building currently is not a 21st century learning space."

Mr. Garth suggested changing the priority order of the proposed CIP plan.

Mr. Kiely stated that the problem with changing the priority order is that he needs to go to the town with a plan that clearly states what the school district needs and wants.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Capital Improvement Plan in the priority order as presented. The motion carried with four members voting in the affirmative and Mr. Garth voting as opposed.

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Gifford reported on the following:

- Recommended that the February 27th School Committee meeting be postponed to Monday, March 6th. Committee members approved the change.
- The Emergency Management Plan will be presented to the community at an information meeting in March.
- A peer leadership group has begun for Grade 5 students at the Quinn School. Students are very excited for this opportunity!
- iStem groups will begin at the elementary schools this week. The interest in this activity has been huge – 250 applications have been received for the 110 spots available. Enrollment has been chosen on a first-come, first-served based. "Very happy to see the excitement."

Report of the Chair:

Mr. Oliver reiterated that the demolition of the former Gidley School is scheduled to begin in February to make way for the new Dartmouth Police Station. He has received a lot of feedback from community members seeking recognition of the former school building prior to its demolition. Mr. Oliver and Marylou Clarke, former Assistant Superintendent of Schools, will head up the plans for the memorial event to be held on Monday, February 13th in the Quinn School Auditorium. Plans include at least 200 bricks from the school to be salvaged for distribution as souvenirs. The school name etched in granite on the building will also be saved.

Dr. Karafotis stated that she served as Principal of the Gidley School for 15 years. It was a "special place" for students and staff. Many, many people have very fond memories of the Gidley School.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- Community members were reminded to maintain sidewalks following snowstorms. Students need to be able to walk to school on sidewalks and not in roadways.
- DHS Varsity Cheerleaders will be competing at the NCA Senior High School Championship in Dallas, TX on January 21-22, 2017.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, January 30, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Quinn Elementary School.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bonny L. Gifford".

Bonny L. Gifford, Ed.D.
Superintendent