

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
DARTMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

October 16, 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 Dr. Shannon Jenkins, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the James M. Quinn Elementary School. She noted that the meeting was being videotaped for future broadcast over DCTV and is aired on Wednesday and Friday evenings and, also, the DHS YouTube channel

Present were the following members: Mr. Oliver, Dr. Karafotis, Mrs. Amaral, Mr. Nunes, and Dr. Jenkins.

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

Visitors present: Mr. Gallishaw, Mrs. Oliveira, Mrs. Townson, Mr. Thibault, Ms. Chavier, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Martin, Ms. Martin, Mrs. Pavao, Mr. Grandfield, Mrs. McHenry, and also members of the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered on any agenda item.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the Regular Session Minutes of September 25, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 25, 2017 with the condition that they be held until the matter for which the session was requested has been settled.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Madison Correia, the new student representative, reported on the activities taking place at Dartmouth High School.

- American Red Cross Blood Drive
- Students Have Been Taking the PSATs
- Art Club Fundraising to support its Spring 2018 trip to Italy

- Media Class is working on its news program “The Tribe” – the program will include items like the school lunch menu, sports results as well as the Principal’s Corner where Mr. Thibault will report on what’s happening at the school
- Senior Fundraisers including the Dartmouth Faculty vs. Greater New Bedford Vocational Faculty Flag Football Game to Support the After Prom Program
- Key Club is supporting Hurricane Relief for Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico
- Environmental Club recently had a beach clean-up at Palmer’s Island

Dr. Jenkins welcomed Madison and invited her to tell the Committee about herself. Madison stated she is a junior at Dartmouth High School and is currently taking Public Speaking, Algebra II Honors, and AP U.S. Government and Politics. She added that she writes for the *Spectrum* and is a member of the Environmental Club and dances competitively.

PRESENTATIONS

School Improvement Plan – Dartmouth High School

Principal Ross Thibault addressed the Committee with an update on the Dartmouth High School Improvement Plan for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Thibault thanked his administrative team, who was present, as well as the lead teacher team for reviewing the plan and offering feedback. The areas of focus are Improving Core Instruction, Empowering People, and Building Strong Relationships. (Copy of the School Improvement Plan is available by contacting the Superintendent’s Office.)

Committee members offered the following comments:

Dr. Karafotis stated she was very pleased with the amount of committee involvement in the plan. She added that she thought the plan was well written.

Mr. Nunes asked how the recently awarded grant will affect the high school plan specifically with STEM.

Mr. Thibault responded that the recent award will enhance and accelerate the plans that are already in place by providing funding to purchase equipment needed to go forward with the planned programs. He added that the grant will benefit the partnership with the Highlander Institute in developing these pathways.

Mrs. Amaral commented “great work.” She added that she was very happy to see the new counseling position and the development of a counselling curriculum as well as higher math programs.

Mr. Oliver thanked Mr. Thibault for his great presentation and asked if he thought he will have “staff buy-in” on his plan.

Mr. Thibault responded by stating that that is the goal and he is being transparent about the plans for the school.

Dr. Jenkins echoed the Committee's sentiments by stating that this is a great presentation especially as it concerns community engagement. She added that there needs to be communication to parents' particularly as it concerns the new schedule.

Mr. Thibault responded that he is planning a meeting with parents, teachers and students to explain how the new schedule will work.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Gifford recommended the approval of the following fundraising activities:

- Fundraising Activities – Dartmouth Middle School PTO;
- Fundraising Activities – DeMello/Cushman PTO;

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the fundraising activities submitted to the School Committee for review and consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Jenkins thanked the fundraising efforts of parents and the community which go to support enrichment activities for Dartmouth students.

- Request for DHS Band to participate and compete in the USBands National Championship Competition on November 11 & 12, 2017 in New Jersey

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the field trip request submitted to the School Committee for review and consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Amendment to Elementary & Middle School Handbook**

Michelle Roy reported on the amendment to the Elementary and Middle School Handbook as it concerns the inclusion of the restraint policy which was voted on in January 2016. The amendment will be to include the three (3) paragraph portion of the policy in both of these handbooks. Ms. Roy stated that an email "blast" regarding the amendment will be sent to parents as well as being posted on our website.

Mrs. Amaral moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to approve the amendment to the Elementary and Middle School Handbook to include the restraint policy as submitted to the School Committee for review and consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Dr. Gifford highlighted the recent grant award and how it will affect the programs started at the high school including the iSTEM club and engineering program and biotech lab as well as the robotics course at the middle school. Dr. Gifford went on to recognize the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board who initially notified the District

about the grant as well as the feedback from teachers which helped to complete the application. The District will sign a contract and will need to report back later in the year as to what has been done with the grant funds. Dr. Gifford noted that an article on the grant award will run in the *Dartmouth Weekly*.

Dr. Karafotis commented that she hoped in the future there will be a presentation on what is being purchased and how it is integrated in to the program.

Dr. Jenkins commented that this infusion of capital makes the District more attractive to students that might otherwise choose to go to one of the regional schools.

Mr. Nunes asked if there is a time frame associated with the grant.

Dr. Gifford stated that it is a year grant.

Dr. Jenkins restated the request to have a presentation later in the year.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

- Dr. Jenkins reminded members that the Town Meeting is tomorrow night.
- The Annual Spelling Bee will be held on Thursday, November 2nd. Anyone interested in sponsoring a team or forming a team to participate in this fundraising event is urged to contact Dr. Jenkins.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

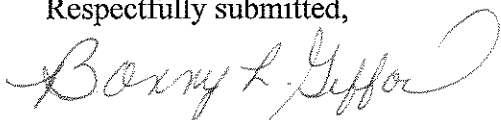
- Mrs. Amaral reminded the members that SEPAC will be holding its craft fair at the high school on Sunday, October 22, 2017 from 10:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M.

NEXT MEETING

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

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to close the Regular Session at 7:02 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent