

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

December 11, 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 Auditorium of the James M. Quinn Elementary School. She noted that the meeting was being videotaped for future broadcast over DCTV, which is aired on Wednesday and Friday evenings, and the DHS YouTube channel.

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

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

Visitors present: Mr. Gallishaw, Mrs. Townson, Mr. Thibault, Ms. Chavier, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Grandfield, Mrs. Yermalovich, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Caron, Mrs. McHenry and members of the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered on any agenda item.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of November 20, 2017. The motion carried with Dr. Karafotis abstaining as she was not present at the November 20, 2017 school committee meeting.

SPOTLIGHT ON KIDS – Dartmouth High School

Principal Ross Thibault presented the Dartmouth High School Television Media Program for recognition. Mr. Thibault noted there are currently 60 students enrolled in various program courses as well as approximately 15 students who are part of the Media Club which meets after school. Mr. Thibault added that he thought it fitting to highlight that group of students whose task is to highlight their fellow students in the roles in which they excel from athletics to music to performing/visual arts to the national honor society.

Mr. Thibault listed some of the programs including the Dartmouth High School's weekly "Tribe" program which is produced and edited by students, as well as filming and producing "Dartmouth's Got Talent" with Dr. Gifford, and filming the school committee meetings.

Mr. Thibault introduced those members of the DHS TV Media Program and their advisor who were present: Cameron Figueiredo, Owen Guilbeault, Abigail Harpe, Kyle Lamontagne, Vegas Marshall, Connor Moniz, Izayah Neves and Ashley Pacheco.

Program Advisor, Robert Perrotti provided a brief explanation of the Television and Media Program noting the various outlets in which to view student programming. Mr. Perrotti commended the students present who deserve the honor of being highlighted this evening.

Cameron Figueiredo and Izayah Neves spoke about producing the "Tribe."

Abigail Harpe and Vegas Marshall spoke about editing the "Tribe" including the old and new technology and equipment.

Owen Guilbeault and Connor Moniz spoke about creating the sports segment of the "Tribe."

Ashley Pacheco and Kyle Lamontagne spoke about making their "Too Many Tomatoes" program including scriptwriting and filming at DCTV.

Mr. Perrotti concluded by stating that the "Tribe" is becoming an institution at the high school and once again commended the students on their hard work.

Mrs. Amaral congratulated the students and Mr. Perrotti for their presentation and work.

Dr. Karafotis asked if the program was new.

Mr. Perrotti stated that the idea for an early morning program was suggested by the student council last year. It was implemented last spring semester.

Dr. Karafotis asked if "everything" is done by the students.

Mr. Perrotti stated that the students do write, edit and produce the programs. He explained the process further by noting the technology and software used by students including google slide show and google docs which is used as a teleprompter. Mr. Perrotti added it is his hope that the program will get a teleprompter.

Mr. Oliver complimented the students and Mr. Perrotti.

Mr. Nunes asked how long the shows run and how long does it take to put the different segments together to create the show.

Mr. Perrotti noted that the morning program runs approximately 6 to 10 minutes other programs such as the cooking show run 20 to 30 minutes. Mr. Perrotti stated that it takes approximately one week to create a "package" piece.

Dr. Jenkins noted the students' professionalism and mentioned that the DEF round of grants is coming up and Mr. Perrotti may want to think about submitting a proposal for a teleprompter.

Dr. Jenkins thanked the students for their service filming the school committee meetings.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Madison Correia reported on the activities taking place at Dartmouth High School.

- Fall Athletic Season ended with the football team shutting out Fairhaven 14-0.
- The Underclassmen defeated the Upperclassman in the annual powderpuff game that took place the Friday after Thanksgiving. A significant amount of money was raised. Ms. Correia thanked Mr. White, Mr. Brough and Mr. Lima who were the game officials.
- The Winter Athletic season is off to a great start with boys' and girls' basketball, ice hockey, winter track, winter cheering and our unified bowling league.
- The Dartmouth Theatre company recently held three sold out performances of "The Last Shop 'til Christmas" and "Elf Jr."
- Dartmouth High School is currently participating in the hour of code program in an effort to expose students to coding which is led by Ms. Kane, Ms. Lawrence and Mr. Aguiar. Students performed 150 hours of coding last week and the program will continue this week.
- Dartmouth High School Orchestra has recently sold out its "Trans-Siberian Orchestra" concert which is being held at the Zeiterion Theatre.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Gifford recommended the approval of the following requests:

- Dartmouth High School Ice Hockey Team requests permission to host the First Annual Dartmouth Ice Hockey Tournament to be held at the Hetland Arena in New Bedford, MA on December 22nd and 23, 2017.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Dartmouth High School Ice Hockey Team's request as submitted to the School Committee for review and consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

- Dartmouth Athletic Program requests permission for its fundraising proposal.

Athletic Director Jeff Caron explained the WeFund4u fundraising program he is requesting permission to implement as well as his purpose for requesting this fundraising opportunity.

Mr. Oliver asked what percentage of funds raised will actually be going to the schools.

Mr. Caron responded the school would receive 80% of the funds raised. He added that this percentage is slightly higher than other area school districts which receive 60-40 and 70-30 rates.

Dr. Jenkins commented that the language in the materials submitted for the committee's review reads as though participation by the students is required and asked if the language could be revised.

Mr. Caron responded explaining the paperwork submitted is more a sample or suggestion than a set form and can be tailored to suit our district.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Dartmouth Athletic Program's fundraising request as submitted to the School Committee for review and consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Superintendent's Evaluation Process**

Dr. Gifford directed the Committee to the SMART Goals provided to them for their review and asked for their support and approval.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the SMART Goals as submitted by Dr. Gifford to the School Committee for review and consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Overview of new High School Schedule**

Mr. Thibault provided an overview of the new schedule to be implemented at the high school in September 2018 by comparing the strengths and challenges of the new seven (7) block schedule to the current block schedule. Mr. Thibault noted that input and feedback was sought from the staff and students during the process of creating the new schedule.

Mr. Thibault noted that core courses will be full year courses under the new schedule which provides for more time on learning than the current block or 90 day schedule. Additionally, Mr. Thibault pointed out that the new schedule will provide significantly more PLC time for staff.

Dr. Karafotis asked for an explanation of PLC time.

Mr. Thibault responded by explaining PLC stands for Professional Learning Community which is dedicated time for educators to meet to discuss curriculum, instruction and assessment.

Mr. Thibault recognized the prevailing sense of "angst" regarding the new schedule. However, he explained he is unable to provide a more definitive detailing of the new schedule at this time

because the driving force of the master schedule is student course selection, which is important in that students are given “ownership” of their learning, but it creates a more complex process. Mr. Thibault informed the committee that the high school administration is currently in the process of finalizing revisions to the 2018-2019 program of studies.

Additionally, the committee was advised of several informational events being held at the high school.

- January 31, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. a Showcase Evening highlighting the programs to be offered at the high school as well as a brief presentation of the new schedule. The incoming freshman class is being encouraged to attend this event.
- February 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Semester 2 Open House Program of Studies Evening.
- February 12th through February 15, 2018 Course Selection Week.

Mr. Thibault expressed to the committee the high school administration’s recommendation to “pilot” the new schedule in June 2018 in an effort to alleviate some of the anxiety around this major change. The proposed “pilot” would take place after the seniors have graduated.

Mr. Nunes complimented Mr. Thibault on his presentation and asked what would happen to students on dual enrollment or students participating in internships under the new schedule.

Mr. Thibault responded by stating the new schedule, as well as the current schedule, is not a rotating schedule and so should not adversely affect students who participate in these programs.

Mr. Nunes asked Mr. Thibault when he spoke about core courses and electives if he considered music and physical education as core subjects or electives.

Mr. Thibault stated, in the context of his presentation, he considers them electives. He added that the graduation requirements, as proposed, are aligned with Mass Core and the school administration met with the lead teachers of every department to discuss the changes.

Mrs. Amaral asked about how the schedule change will affect the volume of homework given.

Mr. Thibault responded homework is a “conversation” that will be ongoing regardless of the schedule change but it will be addressed with the staff and certainly there will be adjustments.

Mrs. Amaral asked how the students will be informed of the new schedule and programming.

Mr. Thibault stated that during course selection week assemblies will be held for each of the classes to inform students about the changes not only in the schedule but in the program of studies to help students make more informed decisions.

Mrs. Amaral asked how the new schedule will affect the graduation credit requirement for the current freshman, sophomore and junior classes.

Mr. Thibault responded, assuming the high school administration's proposal submitted to the policy sub-committee is approved, graduation credit requirements will be scaled back gradually over the course of the next four years.

Dr. Karafotis asked Mr. Thibault if he foresees any difficulties the in-coming senior class might experience with this change and will they have the opportunity to take the courses they need or want in their final year.

Mr. Thibault responded that he felt the incoming senior class will have the most difficulty transitioning as they are used to the block scheduling and, conversely, the incoming freshman class will have the least amount of difficulty as it concerns scheduling.

Mr. Thibault added that there is a potential for one less course to fit in to schedules however he stressed that this is only a potential as some students currently do not select the full course or schedule potential; students will have the opportunity to take courses they need or want.

Mr. Oliver congratulated Mr. Thibault and the administration and stated his appreciation and support in piloting the program to help alleviate the anxiety of students, staff and parents.

Student Representative Madison Correia commented that Mr. Thibault answered her concerns about homework and students' increased need to go to their lockers during a seven period day.

Dr. Jenkins thanked Mr. Thibault for his presentation and reiterated some concerns mentioned by committee members.

Dr. Jenkins added she was happy to hear Mr. Thibault mention the need to accelerate the pathway to calculus.

Mr. Thibault added that the high school is partnering with the middle school to "open up" the pathway to calculus.

- **Committee Discussion on Building the Budget**

Mr. Kiely updated the committee on the district's FY19 budget building process noting collective bargaining agreements are in place making the salary side of the budget a known value which puts the budget process in a better place this year than last year at this time, the district received a favorable rate on natural gas for FY19 saving approximately 11% over this year. The greatest unknown is regular and late transportation which is in the last year of a three year contract and will be put out to bid next month.

Mr. Oliver asked when the budget sub-committee will be meeting.

Mr. Kiely stated that the meeting is scheduled for February 5th.

Mr. Kiely added that directors' and principals' requests are due December 18th followed by individual meetings in January then a meeting with the administration, directors and principals

and lastly the budget sub-committee meeting with the hope of bringing the budget to the school committee on February 12th.

Mr. Oliver asked the committee if they had any thoughts as to what they would like to see built in to the budget.

Mrs. Amaral noted the need, district wide, for behaviorists which has been requested in the past but has not been funded.

Dr. Jenkins commented that there are requests that go unfunded each year due to the lack of funds.

Dr. Karafotis noted the technology instructors in the elementary schools and how long it took for that to happen.

Mr. Nunes asked that a list of those requests, including small “capital” items, which are not funded be included in the budget presentation.

Dr. Jenkins agreed with Mr. Nunes adding that she would like to see, in the budget presentation, a “highlight” of how school choice funds are being spent.

- **Superintendent’s Update**

Dr. Gifford reported on the following:

Dr. Gifford mentioned the DSAC math network group which is being hosted in the district and which will hold a second in-house meeting.

Dr. Gifford commended the Quinn school on its “vertical” rallies which enhance the culture and spirit of the school.

Dr. Gifford stated she finished the last of her school “chats” which were held for an hour at each of the schools over the last few weeks to give staff and teachers an opportunity to speak with her about ideas.

Dr. Gifford noted the in-school holiday concerts she has attended recently at the elementary schools.

Dr. Gifford mentioned the recent email indicating the January start of the iSTEM clubs in the elementary schools.

Dr. Gifford expressed her gratitude that all of the schools are participating in the hour of code program.

- **Report of the Chair:**

Dr. Jenkins stated she had nothing more to report and asked committee members if they had any additional comments to express.

- **Additional Comments:**

Mrs. Amaral noted that SEPAC is hosting a "Search and Rescue" Presentation in the Quinn School library.

Mr. Nunes reminded people of the music department's holiday concerts noting the DSMA home page has a listing of these music events.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the James M. Quinn Elementary School Community Room. Dr. Jenkins advised the committee that Executive Session will not be held this evening.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to close the Regular Session at 8:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent