

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
DARTMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 6, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dr. Shannon Jenkins at 6:30 p.m. in the James M. Quinn Elementary School. She noted the meeting was being videotaped by the Dartmouth High school media club for future broadcast over DCTV as well as the Dartmouth High school YouTube channel.

Present were the following members: Dr. Jenkins, Mr. Garth and Mr. Nunes. Student Representative Stacie Hartman was present. Dr. Jenkins noted that Mr. Oliver and Dr. Karafotis would not be in attendance at this evening's meeting.

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

Visitors present: Mrs. Cabral-Townsend, Mr. Grandfield, Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Maccini, Mrs. Pavao, Mrs. McHenry, Mrs. Thomas, Mr. Gallishaw, Mrs. Townson and members of the community.

The Committee participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Jenkins asked that people remain standing to offer a moment of silence for Genevieve Vieira, a former secretary at the Cushman school who passed away.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Jenkins invited members of the general public to speak relative to items on this evening's Agenda.

Laurie Dionisio, a speech language pathologist in the Dartmouth school system, commented on the lack of adequate space for the proposed pre-school at the Potter school as provided for in the FY18 budget and expressed her concern as to the adverse effect it may have on other classes, students and staff. Additionally, she commented on the need for physical education staff at the high school which is not provided for in the FY18 budget.

SPOT LIGHT ON KIDS – James M. Quinn Elementary School

Principal Kyle Grandfield and Assistant Principal Audra Thomas reported on the student activities at the Quinn School.

Ms. Thomas reported on school and district wide initiatives that have and will take place during the school year.

- Unity Day celebrated in October 19th – students wore orange to unite against bullying.

- Mix-It-Up Day celebrated on October 25th –students were encouraged to take risks by sitting with different students at lunch time.
- iStem (Innovation, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Club) started as an 8 week program last January and has been very popular with students and a new program will start in March.

Mr. Grandfield reported that Quinn school participated in the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge and, with the efforts of Kate Powers, the Quinn librarian, the Quinn readers have been named the top school in the state for the most hours read for the second consecutive year. First Lady Mrs. Baker came to the Quinn school to present citations to the top readers.

Mr. Grandfield reported on the school's Dr. Seuss themed Literacy Night that was held last week and noted the concerted effort that was made by staff to enable the event to be such a success. Over 200 students participated.

Mr. Grandfield reported on PBIS rallies and the initiative to encourage positive character traits among students.

Mr. Grandfield invited Tiffany Martin, an outreach worker at Quinn, and fifth grade peer leaders to make a presentation regarding the Peer Leader Program.

Ms. Martin presented information on the 5th grade peer leaders program noting its primary purpose is to build leadership skills.

Ms. Martin noted activities where peer leaders have volunteered or participated:

- The Great Kindness Challenge
- "Souper" Bowl of Caring
- Bookmarks for Library Books
- Random Acts of Kindness Day
- Literacy Night last week

The application process of how to become a peer leader was explained. One criteria of the application is to submit an essay. The following peer leaders read excerpts from their essays: Kylie Gagne, Olivia Bloom-Glover, and Tessa Renzo.

Ms. Martin stated that the peer leaders are prepared to answer any questions from the audience.

Dr. Gifford asked what current peer leaders might suggest to another student who asked them what they could do to become a peer leader.

Kylie Gagne responded to the question stating her advice to someone who wanted to be a peer leader would be that it is a good opportunity and it helps the school and community.

The following fifth grade peer leaders were in attendance: Megan Arruda, Olivia Bloom-Glover, Tessa Renzo, Elliott Dion, Lylah Costa, Kayla Kalamajka, Kevin Lemieux, Jacob Reimels, Lilly Champagne, Edric Esplana and Kylie Gagne.

PUBLIC HEARING

FY18 School Budget

Dr. Jenkins asked Dr. Gifford and Mr. Kiely if they had any comments to add regarding the FY18 Budget before opening the public hearing.

No comment was offered.

Dr. Jenkins declared the Public Hearing on the FY18 Budget open at 6:53 p.m. inviting public comment on the proposed FY18 School Budget.

No comments were offered.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins, to close the Public Hearing on the FY18 Budget. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Garth, to approve the Regular Session Minutes of February 13, 2017, as written. The motion carried with Dr. Jenkins abstaining as she was not present at the meeting.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Garth, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 13, 2017, as written, with the stipulation that they be held until such time as the matter or matters for which the sessions were held have been completed. The motion carried with Dr. Jenkins abstaining as she was not present at the meeting.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Stacie Hartman updated the Committee on activities taking place at Dartmouth High School:

- Congratulations to the Varsity Hockey Team who defeated Middleborough and moves up in the playoffs. They will be playing against Old Rochester Regional on Wednesday March 8th at the Gallo Ice Arena in Bourne.
- Senior Colin McCabe won third place in the New England Shot-put competition.
- TED Talks will be held in the high school auditorium on Wednesday, March 8th which can be accessed on YouTube.
- On Friday, March 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium the annual Mr. Dartmouth Pageant will be held which is a junior class fundraiser.
- The National Honor Society is holding a fundraiser at Not Your Average Joe's every Tuesday in March.

OLD BUSINESS

- **FY18 Budget**

Dr. Jenkins asked Mr. Kiely if he had anything to add concerning the proposed FY18 Budget which he presented at the last school committee meeting.

Mr. Kiely stated that no changes have been made to the proposed FY18 budget as presented at the last meeting.

Mr. Kiely stated that he spoke with the Town Treasurer about the school budget and, although the Town is in a slight deficit, we should not be too concerned. We are hopeful that once the State's revenue issues are resolved more Chapter 70 aid will become available.

Mr. Kiely stated he believes the school department will be able to work out the deficits within the school district's budget.

Mr. Garth commented on the Potter pre-school issue and suggested that the committee look at re-districting the schools in view of the development in the northern area of the town.

Mr. Garth added that the needs of the district cannot be met with the amount of funds allocated to the schools which has been consistently inadequate.

Mr. Nunes concurred with Mr. Garth as to the issue of space and low funding however redistricting is not easy to implement and we do not have enough resources to allow for all the needs of the district.

Dr. Jenkins stated she does not believe we will find more money from the State in June or July. The district does amazing work with the little funding it receives but more needs to be done for the students.

Dr. Jenkins added that she understands the issue of space at Potter however some way must be found to add a pre-school class.

- **2017-2018 School Calendar**

Dr. Jenkins asked if there was anything the administration might like to add to the 2017-2018 calendar that was submitted at the last meeting.

Dr. Gifford stated the administration did not want to add anything.

Mr. Garth stated he would like to address policy IC/ICA which states the school year will start on the Tuesday before Labor Day.

Mr. Garth proposed waiving this language in policy IC/ICA for the next year and to have the policy sub-committee meet and remove this language from the policy.

Mr. Nunes offered some information as to the how the policy came to be.

Dr. Jenkins stated since there is a written policy she is inclined to leave it in place for this year but to go back and look at in a more timely fashion.

Dr. Jenkins proposed moving parent teacher conferences to the Wednesday before Thanksgiving which is only a week earlier than when they are currently scheduled. She added this proposal was not for this year.

Mr. Garth stated he would not like to approve the proposed SY2017-2018 calendar tonight.

Dr. Jenkins agreed to wait to vote on the calendar until the next school committee meeting when more members are present.

Mr. Garth made a motion to waive policy language that requires the school year to start on a Tuesday and to let the Superintendent determine the schedule for this year.

Mr. Garth moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes, to approve the motion as proposed by Mr. Garth. The motion carried 2-1.

Dr. Gifford stated she would bring options for the 2017-2018 school calendar for the committee to vote on at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **School Choice**

Dr. Gifford noted that the public hearing on school choice as well as the committee's vote is scheduled for the next meeting on March 27th.

Dr. Gifford provided the following information on school choice for the current school year.

- 30 students were accepted (25 freshmen and 5 sophomores).
- Total District enrollment has not changed over the last few years.
- The District loses approximately 60 – 70 students every year from 8th to 9th Grade.
- School choice students have had great success fitting in at Dartmouth.
- The District will receive \$150,000.00 for participating in school choice which will be put in to a revolving account.

Dr. Gifford stated she will recommend, at the next meeting, that the District continue with school choice as well as recommend a number.

Mr. Garth commented that he is sensitive to differing opinions on school choice but it is a way for the district to generate much needed revenue.

Mr. Nunes stated he is not in favor of school choice.

Dr. Jenkins stated she agreed with Mr. Garth.

Dr. Jenkins asked if, in the future, the date school choice is voted on could be scheduled earlier in the year.

Dr. Jenkins added that another way to generate revenue is the international students program and she asked for an update on this program on a future agenda.

- **School Committee Policy KHB (First Reading)**

Ms. Roy reported that the policy sub-committee has recommended a change to the last line of the current policy by adding the word "sponsorship" after advertising.

Ms. Roy added that procedural guidelines were developed to go with the policy.

Dr. Jenkins asked that "marijuana" be added to number 2 under the guidelines in light of new laws allowing its usage.

Mr. Garth asked if the policy was clear in all its points on not partnering with firms that promote discrimination.

Mr. Garth had a comment on the last line of the policy where the Superintendent chooses to enter in to partnerships with advertisers but building principals review and recommend.

Mr. Nunes commented that the administrators vet the advertisers and forward their recommendations to the Superintendent.

Mr. Garth recommended that the last line be removed from the policy.

Ms. Roy stated that the sub-committee was meeting on March 8th.

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

- Dr. Gifford reported that Educatius contacted the District to let us know we have been approved as a site for the international students program.

- Dr. Gifford stated that the CPR interviews with DESE will be held on March 10th.

- Dr. Gifford announced that Cathy Maccini will be retiring at the end of this school year

Dr. Gifford announced the Southworth Library's new Wampanoag exhibit which is running from March 3rd through March 30th.

Dr. Gifford stated that the high school drama club competed in Bourne where Kempton Campbell won best actor and the tech crew won the award for best set design.

Dr. Gifford stated that Mr. Gallishaw is busy readying the schools for upcoming MCAS tests.

- **Report of the Chair**

No comment was offered.

Dr. Jenkins announced that the call for applications for Dartmouth Educational Foundation grants will be happening soon.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Mr. Nunes reported on the following music matters.

- Indoor percussion performed in Trumbull Connecticut where they won the WGI Regional Finals
- NESBA Indoor Percussion show is on March 11th

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2017 at 6:30 pm, at the Quinn School Community Room.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Garth to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. for the purpose to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with union and non-union personnel. The Committee will not be returning to Open Session. On a roll call vote with all members voting in the affirmative, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent