

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
DARTMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

June 26, 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. We also now have the capability of providing hearing impaired community members with a headset that will help to make the Committee members' discussion clear and concise.

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

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

Visitors present: Mr. Gallishaw, Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Pavao, Mr. Grandfield, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. McHenry, Mrs. Townson, Mrs. Cronin, Mrs. Brunette, Mr. Costa, Mr. Branco, Mr. Paine, Mrs. Vieira, Ms. Lemieux, and also members of the community. Ms. Teresa Hamm was present representing the Finance Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered on any agenda item.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2017 Regular Session School Committee meeting as presented. The motion carried with Mr. Oliver abstaining due to his absence at the meeting.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral, to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2017 Executive Session School Committee meeting as presented. The motion carried with Mr. Oliver abstaining due to his absence at the meeting.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2017 Executive Session School Committee meeting as presented. The motion carried with Mr. Oliver abstaining due to his absence at the meeting.

PRESENTATION: Technology Update

Chief Technology Officer Jonathan Gallishaw provided Committee members with an excellent powerpoint presentation regarding the status of technology in the district.

The following accomplishments were reviewed:

- MCAS Assessments: Over 1800 students took over 800 tests during a period of six (6) weeks.
- Restructuring of Technology Department: Mr. Gallishaw was proud to introduce William Costa – Network Specialist, Christopher Branco – Integration Specialist, and Charlie Paine – Computer Specialist. The Technology Department also consists of Hallie Larocque – Information Data Specialist, and Tracy Bourgeois – Secretary.
- At the school level, Mr. Gallishaw is very proud that students and staff have access to Instructional Technical Specialists, Library Media Specialists and Technology Coordinators.
- Infrastructure: the district has 907 desktops, 933 laptops, 411 ipads, and 692 chromebooks.

Projects currently being conducted:

- Network documentation.
- Lunch Point of Sale.
- Servers.
- Security Upgrades.
- New Computers: 70 desktops and 340 chromebooks.

Future Plans:

- New district website beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.
- Google Apps
- Dartmouth App
- Online student registration

Committee members were very pleased with the technology update and offered the following comments:

Mr. Oliver stated, "great presentation. I commend you for building a wonderful technology department. We are doing a lot of great things in Dartmouth!"

Mr. Gallishaw stated that the Town has been very supportive of the district's technology needs.

Dr. Karafotis stated, "I am very impressed with the progress that is being made in the area of technology. You can see the enthusiasm in our students."

Mrs. Amaral stated, "I am very impressed. Technology is so important to all our students. Hats off!"

Mr. Nunes stated, "Wonderful presentation! Your hard work is very much appreciated."

Dr. Jenkins stated, "Great presentation. It is important for people to see what is taking place in technology. Is there a plan to decrease the paperwork? Mr. Gallishaw stated that there is a plan but no definite date for implementation.

PRESENTATION: SEPAC Update

Marianne Santos updated the Committee on the activities undertaken by the SEPAC during the past school year. The Annual Resource Fair was conducted in October and was very successful. The 5th Annual Resource Fair is planned once again for the upcoming October. Four (4) buddy benches were purchased with the proceeds from the Resource Fair and delivered to the elementary schools in December. SEPAC also funded the highly successful Unified Bowling Team which is a big hit with the students.

SEPAC meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month in the upcoming school year. Family fun nights will also be continued.

SEPAC hosted a recently held Recognition Night. The following staff members were recognized for their efforts on behalf of special education students:

Cushman School: Julie Stenning and Maryann Lamarre

Quinn School: Stephanie Melo

Potter School: Darren Fleurent

Dartmouth Middle School: Sandra Fernandes

Dartmouth High School: Sheri Houle and William Hakeem, John Breault, and Kristen Baptista

SEPAC also honored two students: Cole Perry and Peter Lenz

Committee members offered the following comments:

Mrs. Amaral thanked Mrs. Santos for all her efforts on behalf of special education students. "Great collaboration in the schools." She encouraged new parents to join SEPAC.

Dr. Karafotis expressed her sincere appreciation to everyone involved in SEPAC. "I commend the work done for the integration of the students."

Mr. Oliver echoed his fellow Committee members' appreciation. "It is wonderful for you to come before the School Committee and provide community with an update on what you are doing for the students of Dartmouth."

Mr. Nunes stated, "job well done! Thank you to everyone including the student peers."

Dr. Jenkins stated, "SEPAC does a fabulous job! It is a group efforts. Our district is better because of your involvement."

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Gifford recommended the following request to be approved by Committee members:

- Request for a Unified Arts Trip to Italy – April 14-22, 2018.

Unified Arts teachers Judy Cronin and Sue Brunette spoke to the Committee about the great opportunity this trip will be to the approximately 15 students who have expressed interest in participating. Mrs. Cronin stated that she has conducted European trips several times over the past few years and all have been extremely successful.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to approve the request of the Unified Arts Department to participate in a photography excursion to Italy during the period April 14-22, 2018 as outlined and presented to Committee members. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

School Committee Policies – Second Readings and Votes: Ms. Roy provided Committee members with the second reading of the following School Committee policies:

- School Calendar (Policy IC/ICA);
- Instructional Materials (Policy IJ)
- Textbook Selection and Adoption (Policy IJJ)
- Equal Educational Opportunity (Policy JB)
- Student-to-Student Harassment (Policy JBA)

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis, to approve the above-listed School Committee policies, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Stadium Committee – Update: Mr. Oliver reported that the Stadium Turf Committee recently met. The committee consists of Mr. Oliver, Mr. Kiely, Stanley Mikelson, David Tatelbaum, David Cressman, and Deborah Wender. Discussion took place regarding the goal of the committee. The mission of the committee centers on the fact that the stadium needs to be updated and become ADA compliant. The committee is looking at all possibilities. Everything is on the table. Mr. Tatelbaum and Mr. Mikelson visited the Town of Plymouth to discuss the use of their turf fields. Mr. Oliver stated that because of the condition of our fields, our field is not practical. The committee is looking into a private/public partnership for funding. Ms. Wender was asked to look at 6-8 communities in Massachusetts to compare similar communities to Dartmouth. This information will be helpful so that we do not have to reinvent the wheel. The next meeting of the committee is on July 19th at 5:00 p.m. at the Bush Street offices. Mr. Oliver stated that he felt very positive after the meeting. Mr. Kiely stated that the committee consists of very positive people.

Mr. Oliver stated that he would like to see something in place within the next three (3) years. "We want to do it the right way. There are a lot of unanswered questions right now. These updates to the School Committee will continue."

Acceptance of Donation for DeMello School: Mr. Kiely was pleased to advise the Committee members that David Vermette and Vermette Development have generously donated their services to replace and upgrade the playground blacktop at the Joseph DeMello School. This is an area approximately 40 x 80 feet at an estimated cost of \$6,200.

School Committee members thanked Mr. Vermette for his generosity to upgrade the playground area at the DeMello School!

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to accept the donation of David Vermette and Vermette Development for the upgrade and improvement to the playground area at the Joseph DeMello Elementary School. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Evaluation: Dr. Jenkins reviewed the process utilized when evaluating the Superintendent's second year of employment with the Dartmouth Public Schools.

Dr. Jenkins was pleased to report that Dr. Bonny Gifford has received an overall rating of "Proficient" as a result of her second evaluation as Superintendent of the Dartmouth Public Schools.

Committee members offered the following comments:

Mr. Oliver stated, "another great year! I am very pleased with your overall goals as well as how you interact with your staff. I continue to be very pleased with your work ethic."

Dr. Karafotis echoed Mr. Oliver's comments. "I appreciate the many ways you have reached out to the community and staff. I really appreciate your vision. You are proactive and have ideas of how to reach the goals."

Mrs. Amaral stated she "appreciates the vision and transparency" of the Superintendent. "Students are at the forefront of your work."

Mr. Nunes thanked the School Committee members for their work in evaluating the Superintendent. "This district is heading in the right direction. I see nothing but great things for the district in the upcoming years."

Dr. Jenkins stated she is "thrilled to see the development of the focus on technology and social/emotional needs. Happy to see engaged learning. Kids are excited to come to schools. I am very happy to see that we are looking at the big picture. This is a credit to your leadership." Dr. Jenkins also thanked Committee members for participating in the evaluation process.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes, to approve and place on file the final evaluation of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bonny L. Gifford and authorized the School Committee Chair to sign the document. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gifford thanked the Committee members for their continued support. "None of this is possible without the staff and leadership team!"

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

- The successful end to the 2016-2017 school year took place on June 21st.
- The Dartmouth Leadership Team conducted their first retreat day reflecting on the Strategic Improvement Plan and the goals achieved.
- An evaluation feedback was distributed to the staff with 195 teachers responding.
- The DHS Administration participated in a professional development opportunity based on personalized and blended learning.
- The hiring of new staff members is underway for the upcoming school year.
- A two-day summer retreat for administrators will be held on August 9 and 10 with the concentration based on curriculum.
- Camp Invention commenced today.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Dr. Jenkins reported that discussion took place at a recent Joint Meeting relative to the implementation of three (3) town meetings being conducted annually. A survey of the 209 town meeting members was conducted with 122 surveys being returned. Fifty-nine (59%) percent of the members responding were somewhat in favor of three (3) meetings annually with twenty-seven (27%) opposed.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Mr. Nunes reported that a number of our high school music students are working and travelling with drum corps this summer.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, July 31, 2017.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:53 p.m. in order to discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining with non-union personnel. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed.D.
Superintendent