

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

October 30, 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, which is aired on Wednesday and Friday evenings, and the DHS YouTube channel.

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

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

Visitors present: Mr. Gallishaw, Mrs. Oliveira, Mrs. Townson, Mr. Thibault, Mrs. Pavao, Ms. Correia, Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Grandfield, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. McHenry, Mr. Doane, Mr. Robidoux, Mr. Kingsland and members of the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered on any agenda item.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Regular Session Minutes of October 16, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

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

- Highlights of a successful fall sports season including those teams qualifying for post-season play: boys' & girls' soccer, volleyball, field hockey and football as well as the Unified Basketball team coming out strong with a record of 2-1 recently defeating Dighton-Rehoboth and Durfee High School.
- Dartmouth High School Band had a first place finish at this past weekend's competition in New Britain, Connecticut.
- The recent Faculty Flag Football fundraiser against New Bedford Vocational raised \$2,000.00 for the DHS After Prom Program.

- Several community service and fundraising events were held recently by DECA and the volleyball and field hockey teams to raise awareness of breast cancer as October is breast cancer awareness month.
- Dartmouth High School National Honor Society is wrapping up its *Shades for San Juan* event tomorrow. You can make your donations of new or used prescription glasses or sunglasses by dropping them off in the box located in the library or to the NHS Advisor, Ms. Madsen.
- Term One ends November 3rd.
- The Superlative Dance is November 9th.

PRESENTATIONS

State Assessment Data – Michelle Roy, Assistant Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Roy presented the Committee with an overview and explanation of the 2017 State Assessment results for the District as well as an update on the State Assessment timeline and the District's progress.

Ms. Roy explained that data from past MCAS is called Legacy MCAS and data for the new updated computer based and fully aligned to the new standards and expectations is called Next Generation MCAS. Ms. Roy noted that the District went fully computer based for grades 3 through 8 this past year and the District was "held harmless" by the State as it made this transition. The State is requiring schools to be fully computerized from grades 3 through 10 by the spring of 2019.

Committee members offered the following comments:

Mr. Oliver thanked Ms. Roy for her presentation and expressed a desire to see more growth at the high school level. Mr. Oliver asked what the District is doing to prepare students on how to take the test particularly in light of the test's "text box" issue and students' use of texting which may affect the written responses on computerized tests.

Ms. Roy responded that the District has enhanced greatly the integration of technology as a teaching as well as a learning tool in the District.

Dr. Karafotis noted that two new things which are happening at the same time have affected the scores. Dr. Karafotis asked if an item analysis is possible. That is, can you see where the mistakes are being made?

Ms. Roy responded that you can see the item analysis but you can't see all the items. She explained further that the achievement is high but the growth is slower.

Dr. Jenkins stated that slower movements show large variations.

Dr. Jenkins asked if you are in a district with more low performing students is it harder or easier to achieve higher levels of growth.

Ms. Roy stated that growth assessment was brought in to “equalize the playing field.”

Dr. Karafotis asked how schools address students who are not meeting expectations.

Ms. Roy stated that MCAS is not the only assessment that the District utilizes.

Dr. Karafotis noted that the new report is much easier to read.

Mrs. Amaral concurred with Dr. Karafotis stating that the new report is easier to read. She continued by commenting she hoped the high needs population at the high school will “reap some growth” from the data of the targeted areas.

Mr. Nunes commented that he likes the new set up of the MCAS report. He expressed some concern about not having the questions available.

Dr. Karafotis stated that she hoped we are not “teaching to the test” and that good teaching will garner good test results.

Ms. Roy agreed with Dr. Karafotis.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Gifford recommended the approval of the following field trip request:

- Mr. Kingsland presented the DHS Choral Group’s request to attend Broadway Shows and Tour Performance Venues in New York City from May 25, 2018 through May 27, 2018

Dr. Karafotis asked why the students were paying more for the field trip than the adults attending.

Mr. Kingsland explained that the additional cost is for the students’ participation in the *Hamilton* workshop.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the field trip request submitted to the School Committee for review and consideration. The motion carried. Mr. Oliver abstained as he was not present for the vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Acceptance of a Donation to DeMello School**

Mr. Kiely presented the DeMello School PTO’s donation of a new school sign for acceptance by the Committee. Mr. Kiely provided the price quote and design for the committee’s review.

Dr. Karafotis moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the acceptance of the DeMello School PTO's donation of a school sign. The motion carried. Mr. Oliver abstained as he was not present for the vote.

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

Dr. Gifford highlighted objectives of the District's Strategic Plan noting some of the additions in the original plan: the expansion of our STEM programs as well as enhancements to our math program including partnering with UMASS/Dartmouth: the emphasis on technology not only the infrastructure but the "embedding" and the use of technology in the classroom: creating Child Protection Units in all our elementary schools. Dr. Gifford reported the hiring of additional personnel to assist with the improvements in technology as well as social emotional needs helping students transitioning from middle to high school: Director of Counseling and Student Services and a social worker at the high school. Dr. Gifford stated Ms. Townson's weekly visits to the schools have been beneficial in developing relationships in the schools. Dr. Gifford noted the anticipation of the new district website and APP which will help improve community engagement. Dr. Gifford emphasized the opportunity created by the Skills Grant to create partnerships with the local business community and community college.

Committee members offered the following comments:

Mr. Nunes asked if there was a new web address.

Dr. Gifford stated it is www.dartmouth.school/

Mrs. Amaral stated she was very excited about all the work done with the Highlander Group including the personalized learning.

Dr. Karafotis asked if there could be a presentation at a later time to explain personalized learning.

Mr. Oliver echoed his colleagues' comments and is looking forward to the next update.

Dr. Jenkins recognized the work being done by the teachers and staff implementing these new programs.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

- Dr. Jenkins asked the Committee members to have a working session on the Agenda for the year. The Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. on November 20th in the library. Dr. Jenkins invited the Student Representative.
- Dr. Jenkins encouraged people to attend the Dartmouth Education Fund's Annual Spelling Bee on Thursday, November 2nd at the high school at 7:00 p.m.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

None were offered.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, November 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the James M. Quinn Elementary School Community Room.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis, to close the Regular Session at 7:40 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bonny L. Gifford".

Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent