

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

August 27, 2018

The warrants for bills payable were reviewed and signed by the School Committee.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mr. John Nunes, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the James M. Quinn Elementary School. He 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: Mr. Nunes, Mrs. Amaral, Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Karafotis and Mr. Oliver.

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

Visitors present: Mrs. Oliveira, Mr. Thibault, Ms. Chavier, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Martin, Ms. Correia, Mr. Gallishaw and members of the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Nunes invited those in attendance to the podium to offer comments regarding any matter on the evening's agenda.

No comments were offered on any of the agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Regular Session Minutes of August 6, 2018. The motion carried with Dr. Karafotis abstaining as she was not present at the August 6th meeting.

PRESENTATION

• **2018-2019 School Improvement Plan – Dartmouth High School**

Dr. Gifford recognized the High School Administrators present and invited Principal Ross Thibault to present the 2018-2019 School Improvement Plan for Dartmouth High School.

Mr. Thibault reported to the Committee on the School Improvement Plan noting it is aligned with the District's Strategic Plan focusing on three main areas: Teaching and Learning; Access and Equity; and Community Engagement.

Mr. Thibault explained the focus for each of the three main components in the School's Improvement Plan.

- Teaching and Learning – “Targeting 21st Century Skills through Project, Personalized & Blended Learning Model.”
 - Access and Equity – “Launching 1:1 Initiative in support of targeting 21st Century Learning Skills.”
 - Community Engagement – “Continue to leverage Social Media to Celebrate DHS & be champions for our school.”
- Mr. Thibault noted the High School Council - who helped develop the School Improvement Plan - advocated for including school safety and security in the Plan.

Mr. Oliver asked about the status of the career pathways.

Mr. Thibault noted that career pathways were part of last year’s school improvement plan with the thought of creating 3 pathways: engineering, computer science and bio-technology. However, since some courses were already in place, seventeen new pathways were able to be created. Mr. Thibault added that pathways development is ongoing and more work needs to be done regarding the final piece of a pathway or the “capstone” so that students leave with credentials.

Dr. Karafotis asked what the High School is looking for from the Highlander Institute that it doesn’t already have.

Mr. Thibault explained how the Highlander Institute worked with specific teachers in the engineering and computer science departments as well as the work being done with lead teachers concerning instructional coaching.

Dr. Jenkins expressed her pleasure with the increase in common planning time as well as a focus on school safety and asked for more updates on the on-going work to keep the schools safe – i.e., semi-annual presentations by the schools – for the benefit of parents and the general public.

Mrs. Amaral asked for an explanation of the opportunities within the innovation lab.

In response to the Committee’s praise of the Freshmen Orientation and all the positive feedback they noted was received, Mr. Thibault recognized Associate Principal Rachel Chavier for all her work in organizing that event.

Mr. Thibault responded to Mrs. Amaral’s question concerning the Innovation Lab, noting visits made to area school districts that have innovation labs to learn what works and what doesn’t. The Dartmouth High School Innovation Lab will be open to all classes and will not be a STEM lab.

Mr. Nunes asked how the faculty is feeling about the new schedule.

Mr. Thibault responded noting that a teacher today described the feeling as a “nervous excitement.”

Mrs. Amaral moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the School Improvement Plan for 2018-2019 for the Dartmouth High School. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Turf Field Committee Proposal**

Mr. Kiely and Mr. Oliver presented the Turf Field Committee's Proposals for the Dartmouth Memorial Stadium Renovation project.

Mr. Oliver provided some background information on the Turf Field Committee and the Dartmouth Memorial Stadium Renovation project.

Mr. Kiely provided funding information and what has been spent currently, particularly on the Designer/Architect portion of the project, and took the opportunity to thank the Town for its support.

Mr. Oliver provided a pictorial view of the stadium while describing the proposed renovations.

Mr. Kiely explained the "phase" options the Turf Committee is considering due to the total cost of the project and the unlikelihood of gaining the Town's financial support for the project to be completed without it.

Mr. Oliver noted that the Turf Field Committee members will be going back to their respective boards to make presentations concerning the proposals and to obtain feedback. The Committee would like to hold a public forum to explain why the "phasing" option is being promoted and to reserve an "article" on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant to seek funding at that time.

Mr. Kiely added that conversations have been had with Turf Field Committee members, representatives of other Boards and Town Administrators regarding the Fall Town Meeting and there is recognition that this is a worthwhile project and they would be supportive of "something" moving forward from that Town Meeting. However, as far as the level of funding, we are not there yet.

Mr. Kiely advised that the estimates are more conceptual than actual because no testing has been done on the turf or concrete and so the estimates are on the "high side."

Mr. Kiely stated that, if funding is granted at Fall Town Meeting, construction for this project would be able to go forward after this football season.

Dr. Karafotis asked about some of the costs noted on the information provided by the Turf Field Committee.

Mr. Kiely explained the cost estimates and the contingencies.

Dr. Jenkins asked that the Design Firm add "renovation of bathrooms" language to the pictorial presentation.

Dr. Jenkins asked if the presentation to Town Meeting includes the options that were considered but not chosen as a way to support the option being put forward at Town Meeting.

Mr. Kiely agreed and will add that information to the Town Meeting Presentation.

Dr. Jenkins asked if any of the funds from the middle school roof project can be transferred to the stadium project.

Mr. Kiely stated he did not think those funds would be transferred but coming under budget for that project would be beneficial to point out.

Mr. Oliver added that the School District could make a gesture of the project's importance by offering school choice funds to offset the cost of the project.

Mrs. Amaral asked if the field will be available for field hockey.

Mr. Kiely stated the field will be lined for field hockey.

Mrs. Amaral asked if the Turf Field Committee, while waiting for Phase II, would look in to including a portable family/handicapped/wheelchair accessible bathroom unit.

Mr. Nunes agreed with the Committee's proposal for artificial turf and asked if the sprinkler/irrigation system have been taken in to account.

Mr. Kiely stated that all subterranean systems are being taken in to account.

Mr. Nunes asked about the maintenance/equipment storage.

Mr. Kiely stated that some space would be lost.

Mr. Kiely asked for support to move the project forward through the design process and to continue to make it a priority in our Capital Improvement Plan; it was added that the Finance Committee and the Select Board have a joint meeting coming up and that time might be available for the Turf Field Committee.

Mr. Oliver advised the School Committee that the Turf Field Committee is looking at private funding for Phase II by asking members of the Town's Business Community for corporate sponsorships.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the motion to authorize the School Administration to continue moving forward on the Dartmouth Memorial Stadium Renovation project. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nunes asked Dr. Gifford to let the School Committee know the date of the Joint Meeting.

Mr. Nunes asked if "they" were receptive to a "place holder" article on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Kiely stated he believed there will be an article.

- **One to One Technology Initiative**

Mr. Thibault and Jonathan Gallishaw, the District's Chief Technology Officer, presented the High School's One to One Technology Initiative describing the reasons for the initiative, the goals and its implementation.

Mr. Gallishaw explained the decision to go with Chromebook.

Mr. Thibault added faculty is familiar with Chromebook which will help to make the implementation more seamless however professional development will be on-going not only on how to use Chromebook but how to incorporate it with instruction.

Mr. Gallishaw explained the technology support the high school will receive including the possibility of developing student based technology support such as an internship or work study format.

Mr. Thibault described the phasing in of the initiative and Mr. Gallishaw explained the increase in technology infrastructure to support the initiative as well as noting work done by the District's Technology Department which saved the District money on installation.

Mr. Thibault provided options for families and students who do not have internet availability at home.

Mr. Gallishaw stated Chromebook can be utilized off-line.

Mr. Oliver asked about the cost of the insurance option to parents.

Mr. Gallishaw responded providing information on cost estimates and informing the committee that information concerning the insurance option will be made available to parents at Parents' Night.

Mr. Gallishaw reminded the Committee that the middle school is also participating in the initiative to prepare eighth grade students for their transition to the high school.

Mr. Oliver asked what the funding source is for the initiative.

Mr. Kiely responded funds were reserved in the school choice revolving account.

Dr. Karafotis complimented the presenters for the research done prior to implementing this program and asked what the benefit or difference is using electronic textbooks over traditionally formatted textbooks.

Mr. Thibault explained how the frequency of updating as well as the cost of electronic textbooks was better than that of hard copy textbooks.

Dr. Jenkins asked what tools will be provided to teachers to keep students from using the electronic devices for anything other than academic purposes.

Mr. Thibault responded stating his support for teachers circulating throughout the classroom and interacting with students to monitor activity.

Mr. Gallishaw explained the available software to track activity not only during school but at home as well.

Mrs. Amaral asked if there are APPs for students with 504 accommodations and/or Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

Mr. Gallishaw responded stated there are APPs for purchase to support specific needs.

Mr. Nunes asked if the District can support the additional technology.

Mr. Gallishaw stated that bandwidth has been expanded to accommodate the additional technology and use.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Maintenance and Improvement Projects Update:** Mr. Kiely updated the Committee on the current projects specifically the middle school roof and noting the completion of other projects completed by the District's Maintenance and Custodial personnel.

Dr. Jenkins asked if there is a projected finish date.

Mr. Kiely stated that the "substantial" completion date is September 14th however some items will not be completed by that date.

- **New Hire Update:** Dr. Gifford referred the Committee to the information provided in the meeting packet noting that all positions have been filled except for one which was posted today due to a recent resignation. The new hires will be introduced to the Committee at a later meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Superintendent's Update:** Dr. Gifford reported that today was opening day for all teaching staff and the mood was upbeat with everyone looking eager to get back to back to teaching.
- **Report of the Chair:** Mr. Nunes reported the following:
 - Acknowledged and thanked Mr. Kiely and Richard Ferreira, Facilities Director, for all their hard work over the summer.
 - Reminded the public that school is starting on Wednesday and to be aware that school

buses and students will be on the road.

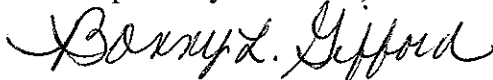
-DSMA is hosting its Home Competition on Saturday, September 29th starting at 6:00 p.m. and they are looking for people to hand out trophies.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the James M. Quinn Elementary School Community Room.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to close the Regular Session at 8:40 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent