

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

September 17, 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 Dartmouth High School Library Media Center. 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. Karafotis and Mr. Oliver. Dr. Jenkins was not in attendance.

Also present: Dr. Gifford, Ms. Roy and Mrs. Genthner. Mr. Kiely was not in attendance: It was noted that Mr. Kiely was giving a presentation on the Dartmouth Memorial Stadium Renovation Project to the Joint Meeting of the Town Select Board and Finance Committee.

Visitors present: Mrs. Oliveira, Mr. Thibault, Ms. Chavier, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Pavao, Ms. Correia, Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Porter, Mr. Grandfield, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Yermalovich, Mrs. McHenry, 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

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the Regular Session Minutes of August 27, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

WELCOME and INTRODUCTION OF NEW TEACHERS

Dr. Gifford took a moment to recognize Jeanne Sheridan, the Director of School Nutrition, who catered a reception for the new teachers.

Dr. Gifford invited Tracy Oliveira, the Director of Teaching and Learning, to introduce the District's new teachers and their mentors for 2018-2019.

Mrs. Oliveira gave a brief explanation of the P.R.O.J.E.C.T. Time Induction Program the new teachers would be participating in during their first year before the introductions.

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Brett Bolger	School Psychologist	DeMello	Katherine Noyes
Hannah Robidoux	Art Teacher (.8)	DeMello	David Finn-Clarke
Danielle Santos	Special Education Teacher	DeMello	Sara Couto
Sara Ventura	Special Education Teacher	DeMello	Sara Couto
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Melanie Smeaton	Kindergarten Teacher	Potter	Andrea Abreu
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Kathryn Morris	Therapeutic Classroom Teacher	Quinn	Melissa Gioiosa
Amanda Pimentel	Grade 4 Teacher (STS)	Quinn	Janine Tavares
Anne Realini	Grade 1 Teacher	Quinn	- Amy Polak
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Ana Marques	Spanish/Portuguese Teacher	DMS	Susan Pielech
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Stephanie Church	Math Teacher	DHS	Rachelle Lemieux
Brian Guillotte	Computer Science Teacher	DHS	Jeffrey Lemler
Huiping Judice	World Language Teacher	DHS	Hilaria Sousa
Tara Kearney	English Teacher	DHS	Wilbur Higgins
Kathryne Olsen	Special Education Teacher	DHS	Debra August
Daniel McGrath	Guidance Counselor	DHS	Cathy Thomas
Andrew Medeiros	Phys. Ed./Wellness Teacher (.5)	DHS	Paul Pavao
Taylor Souza	Chemistry/Physics Teacher	DHS	Douglas Smith
Meaghan Tully	English Teacher	DHS	Ann Fifield
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Melissa Sullivan	District Outreach Social Worker	District	Alison Caito-Galligan

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Shane Rose, Dartmouth High School Senior and newly appointed Student Representative to the School Committee, reported on the following Dartmouth High School activities.

- Peer Mentor Program – over 100 upperclassmen assisted in the freshmen orientation.
- “Back to School Bash” was held on Friday, September 14th before the football game which allowed students not only to have fun but also to meet the High School Administration in a less formal setting.
- The Club Fair was recently held with two new additions – fishing and skiing clubs.
- The Counseling Department has planned a Post-Secondary Fair scheduled to take place tomorrow, Tuesday, September 18th at the high school for juniors and seniors; there are 90 colleges as well as representatives from the Armed Forces participating.

- DHS Open House is scheduled for Thursday, September 20th.
- DHS Band Home Show is scheduled for September 29th.

RECOGNITION

Dr. Gifford recognized the following individuals for their work in the Dartmouth High School Unified Athletics Program and whose involvement resulted in the recent honor bestowed on Dartmouth High School – National Banner Recognition – by Special Olympics Massachusetts: Teachers - John Breault, Kristen Baptista, Michael Cappello; School Resource Officers – Richard Pacheco and David Tavares.

A video of Tim Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics International, was aired explaining the achievement as well as the process of obtaining National Banner Recognition.

Mr. Breault thanked the Superintendent and the Committee for recognizing the department's efforts.

Mr. Cappello thanked the Administration and Committee and noted the enthusiasm being brought by new teachers to continue the program's work.

Officer Tavares noted the dedication of the teachers and thanked the Administration and Committee for this recognition.

Dr. Karafotis asked if the Special Olympics National Banner Recognition is evaluated yearly.

Mr. Breault stated once the ten standards are met and the recognition given by Special Olympics it remains with the program "for good."

Dr. Gifford noted Special Olympics will present a banner to the school.

Mr. Breault stated the school has the banner and is currently working with Special Olympics to organize a pep rally noting that the rally will, hopefully, include all the teams.

Mr. Nunes asked that the Committee be notified when the Pep Rally will take place.

Mrs. Amaral commented that the program has many participants and is expanding.

Mr. Breault explained one of the standards was that the program had to sustain itself for five years and that students who participated in the program are finishing college and returning to the community.

PRESENTATION

Dr. Gifford welcomed the Early Childhood Director and Elementary School Administrators who were in attendance to present their respective 2018-2019 School Improvement Plan.

2018-2019 School Improvement Plan – Andrew B. Cushman School

Early Childhood Director Melissa McHenry presented the Andrew B. Cushman School Improvement Plan for the 2018-2019 to the Committee offering highlights within the three areas of focus: Teaching and Learning, Access and Equity, and Community Engagement.

Teaching and Learning:

- Literacy: Write If/Then Writing Lessons in Kindergarten and implement Lively Letters in Preschool.
- Math: Provide PD and math coaching to address student and teacher needs in implementing the math workshop model.

Access and Equity:

- Support Brain Based Therapeutic Practices.
- Define evidence based best practices for inclusion.

Community Engagement:

- Provide opportunities for parent/guardians and community members to actively participate within the school community.
- Provide diversified communication.

Mr. Oliver asked a question regarding pre-school enrollment and if there is a waiting list.

Mrs. McHenry responded that there are approximately 46-48 students on the pre-school waiting list.

Mr. Oliver asked if there was any room for more pre-school aged students at Cushman.

Mrs. McHenry responded that there is no room at Cushman or Potter as far as “peer partner” spaces but there is space for Special Education or students coming from Early Intervention or students who require services.

Ms. Roy commented that a pre-school was added at Potter last year and one at Cushman this year bringing the number of pre-school classrooms to 6 at Cushman.

2018-2019 School Improvement Plan – Joseph DeMello Elementary School

Principal Catherine Pavao and Assistant Principal Elizabeth Correia presented the Joseph DeMello Elementary School Improvement Plan for the 2018-2019 to the Committee offering highlights within the three areas of focus: Teaching and Learning, Access and Equity, and Community Engagement.

Teaching and Learning:

- Provide ongoing professional development for classroom teachers to orient themselves to the Writing Units of Study and continued refinement and expansion of the Model Curriculum Units.

- Provide continued professional development on the Reading and Writing Units of Study.
- Provide embedded coaching through the school year.

Access and Equity:

- Increase student capacity for creating constructed responses on a digital platform.
- Increase teacher capacity for implementing best practices into their everyday instruction.
- Provide teachers with professional development on current social emotional topics facing our student population (i.e. gender fluidity, racial bias, poverty, executive functioning.)
- Promote cultural and diversity awareness through various school-wide activities.

Community Engagement:

- Maintain family communication through the distribution of a monthly newsletter and calendar as well as topic specific updates and increased utilization of the school website.
- Design educational and enrichment opportunities to support student learning.
- (Enrichment Night, Family Math Game Night, Family Science Night, Family Literacy Night DNRT-DeMello Community Hike, etc.)

Dr. Karafotis asked about the school's confidence in the availability of the resources listed in the Improvement Plan.

Mrs. Pavao responded that more resources would be helpful but the resources that currently are available are used to the best of the school's ability and they have what they need to be successful particularly with the assistance of "coaches" and "interventionists."

2018-2019 School Improvement Plan – George H. Potter Elementary School

Principal Heidi Silva Brooks and Assistant Principal Rick Porter presented the George H. Potter Elementary School Improvement Plan for the 2018-2019 to the Committee offering highlights within the three areas of focus: Teaching and Learning, Access and Equity, and Community Engagement.

Teaching and Learning:

- Advance the progression of our Balanced Literacy Model throughout our grade levels including all aspects of Reader's Workshop, Writer's Workshop and Word Work.
- Refine Project Based Learning and Real World Applications to engage students in authentic learning experiences.

Access and Equity:

- Building upon our efforts to address uniform Tier 1 opportunities, this year we will focus our efforts on expanding Tier II supports.
- Provide additional professional development to staff on Brain Based Therapeutic and Trauma Sensitive Practices to better support at risk students.

Community Engagement:

- Provide Potter School parents, and interested community members, with information via virtual platforms.

Mrs. Amaral expressed her excitement about the new PSA format to increase parent communication and participation.

2018-2019 School Improvement Plan – James M. Quinn Elementary School

Principal Kyle Grandfield and Assistant Principals Audra Thomas and Stephanie Yermalovich presented the James M. Quinn Elementary School Improvement Plan for the 2018-2019 to the Committee offering highlights within the three areas of focus: Teaching and Learning, Access and Equity, and Community Engagement.

Teaching and Learning:

- Continuing the roll out and professional development of balanced literacy and the Lucy Calkins Reading/Writing Program.
- Revisiting the math workshop model, extension activities, and various ways to differentiate instruction to support all learners.

Access and Equity:

- Embedding our PBIS Committee, ILT, Integrating Technology, and RTI/Data Team, into our monthly staff meetings based on survey feedback.
- Trainings will begin for a 5th grade peer mediation program.

Community Engagement:

- Quinn will be hosting the first ever Color Run for the Dartmouth Community on October 6th.

Mr. Nunes asked what time the Color Run starts.

Mrs. Thomas stated check in is at 9:30 a.m. and the run starts at 11:00 a.m.

The Committee Members complimented the Director and the Elementary School Administrators on their thorough School Improvement Plans; particularly the inclusion of information supporting gains made from the previous year as plans presented this year will expand on programs currently in place.

Dr. Karafotis moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the School Improvement Plans for 2018-2019 for the Andrew B. Cushman School and the Joseph DeMello, George H. Potter and James M. Quinn Elementary Schools. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Gifford recommended the following fundraising activity requests to the Committee for its approval:

- **DSMA Fundraising Activities 2018-2019**

Dr. Karafotis asked about the Mattress Fundraiser.

Mr. Nunes explained the activity.

Mr. Oliver commented that he would like to know what amount of money is being raised by DSMA.

Mr. Nunes stated that the group is currently working on financial reports and will provide a copy of the same once they are completed.

Mrs. Amaral moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the DSMA's Fundraising Activities for 2018-2019 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- **DMS PTO Fundraising Activities 2018-2019**

Mrs. Amaral moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to approve the DMS PTO's Fundraising Activities for 2018-2019 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Capital Improvement Plan:**

Dr. Gifford reported it has been agreed that an additional \$1.1 million is to be added to the \$400,000.00 previously granted to the Stadium Renovation Project.

Mr. Oliver added that a public forum is being planned by the Turf Field Committee to inform the public about its proposal for the Stadium Renovation Project.

- **FY18 Year End Financial Report:**

Mr. Nunes stated that the FY18 Year End Financial Report submitted by Mr. Kiely indicates that the FY18 Budget of \$41,915,606 was "totally spent" indicating transfers and adjustments that were made to the budget.

Dr. Gifford added that Mr. Kiely noted only 1% of the overall budget required him to make adjustments.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the FY18 Year End Financial Report. The motion carried unanimously.

- **New Bedford Regional Vocational Regional Technical High School – School Committee:**

Mr. Nunes reported that John Montigny, one of Dartmouth's representatives to the School Committee for New Bedford Regional Vocational Regional Technical High School (GNBVT), has resigned.

Mr. Nunes added that he sent an email to Shawn McDonald, Chairman of the Select Board, to inquire about any "game plan" the Town may have to gather Town interest for the now vacant seat on the GNBVT School Committee.

Mr. Nunes asked that if any Dartmouth resident had an interest in applying for the position to please forward a letter of interest and resume to the Board of Selectmen by October 9th which will allow the Dartmouth School Committee an opportunity to review the applicants before its next meeting currently scheduled for October 15th.

Mr. Nunes explained that the appointment to the GNBVT School Committee is a joint decision made by the Chairman of the Select Board, the Chairman of the School Committee and the Town Moderator.

Mr. Oliver stated he had a conversation with Mr. Shea, a current Dartmouth representative to the GNBVT school committee, who indicated he and the Business Manager of GNBVT would be happy to address this Committee on what is happening at the vocational school.

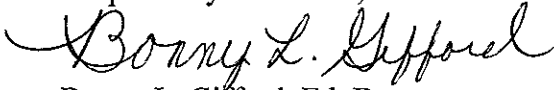
- **Superintendent's Update:** Dr. Gifford reported on the following:
 - Recent M.A.S.S. Executive Board Retreat
 - The District Music Department held the Grade 5 Music Learning Experience last week
 - Phase I of the One to One Initiative Has Begun: Teachers for Grades 6 through 12 received their ChromeBooks and Phase II will begin in October when 8th Grade and high school students will receive their ChromeBooks.
 - Teachers were provided time during the recent early release day to develop their SMART goals and to meet with their evaluators as required by DESE.
 - Dartmouth Education Foundation (DEF) grants were awarded last week.
 - Recognition of Bridgit Martin and the Counseling Department for the hard work in organizing tomorrow's Post-Secondary Fair to be held at the high school.
- **Report of the Chair:** Mr. Nunes reported the following:
 - DEF Spelling Bee is scheduled for November 8th at the high school.
 - Annual Home Show scheduled for September 29th at 6:00 p.m. at Memorial Stadium.
 - The Class of 2020 is holding its annual 5K Road Race fundraiser event on October 7th. The deadline for on-line registration is October 6th.
 - Destination Imagination applications are available on-line.
 - Dartmouth High School is holding a Blood Drive on October 28th and you can pre-register on-line.
 - SEPAC Community Resource Fair is scheduled for October 28th.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Media Center at the Dartmouth High School.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to close the Regular Session at 8:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonny L. Gifford".

Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent