

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

October 15, 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 Quinn School Community Room. He noted 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, Mrs. Pavao, Ms. Correia, Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Porter, Mr. Grandfield, Mr. Kingsland 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 September 17, 2018. The motion carried with Dr. Jenkins abstaining as she was not present at the September 17th meeting.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Shane Rose reported on the following Dartmouth High School activities.

- The DHS Band earned 4 first place finishes at the recent Home Show held at Memorial Stadium.
- The DHS Girls' Volleyball team recently won against the undefeated New Bedford High School team.
- Seven DHS Students attended the Game Change Leadership Conference on October 10th hosted by Northeastern University at Gillette Stadium: Senior Hannah Carvalho received an award of recognition for her leadership with the Game Change Program at DHS from MA Attorney General Maura Healy and Robert Kraft.

RECOGNITION

Dr. Gifford and Mr. Kiely recognized the District Facilities Director as well as Maintenance and Custodial Personnel for their diligence and efforts in maintaining a high level of functionality and cleanliness in all of the Dartmouth School facilities.

Facilities Director – Richard (Rick) Ferreira; **Maintenance Personnel** – Joseph Medeiros; Ricardo Melo; Steven Ouellette, Antonio Pacheco, Bobby Ferreira and Allen Braley; **Custodial Personnel** – **DHS**: Nicholas Chamberlain (Head), Kevin Abrantes, Joseph Cunha, Richard Pereira, Jose Freitas, Eduardo Goncalo; **DMS**: Randell Pontes (Head), Francisco Amaral, Antonio Camara, James Riley; **QUINN**: Robert Nunes (Head), Jim Brogden, Thomas Mendonca, Maria Rocha; **DeMELLO**: Joseph Fritze (Head), John Cabral, Marc Pereira; **POTTER**: Richard Charpentier (Head) Daniel DaSilva, Dave Richard; **CUSHMAN**: Michael Bachand (Head), Donald Green.

The Committee praised the aforementioned personnel for their hard work not only this past summer which included many renovations but for past years.

PRESENTATION

DHS Orchestra – Scotland

Dr. Gifford welcomed Heather Church, Co-Director of the Dartmouth High School Orchestra and the following student participants: Hannah Chamberlain, Orchestra President; Madison Correia, Orchestra Vice-President, and Charlotte Correiro, Orchestra Secretary.

Ms. Church expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to share highlights of the Orchestra's excursion to Scotland which she and her colleague and Co-Director, Charlene Monte, organized for 109 individuals including 53 students.

Miss Chamberlain, Miss Correia and Miss Correiro narrated a video showing places of interest which were visited by the group as well as providing "clips" of some of their five performances.

The Committee thanked Ms. Church and the students for sharing their experiences.

PRESENTATIONS

State Assessment Data – Michelle Roy, Assistant Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Roy provided the Committee with a power-point presentation of the 2018 Student Assessment results for the District noting that the State has changed the format in which results are presented.

Ms. Roy reminded the Committee about the two MCAS formats for administering the test; the older format called Legacy and the new computer-based format called Next-Generation.

Dartmouth administered the new computer based MCAS for grades 3 through 8 for the past two years.

Ms. Roy reported that all assessments in ELA and Math for grades 3 through 8 will be computer based for the third year in Dartmouth; science for grades 5 & 8 will be computer based and this will be the first year for grade 10 to have computer based assessments in ELA and Math. They will be piloting or “field testing” computer based assessments in some high school science classes this year.

Ms. Roy continued by explaining the District’s scores and comparing them against previous results as well as the State average and incorporated the District’s plan to address those areas that need improvement.

Ms. Roy explained the new accountability system implemented by the State which reflects the percentage of targets met by an individual school; a score of 50% or higher indicates the school is improving. Ms. Roy added the District does not get its rating from all of the schools but from all of the students.

Committee members offered the following comments:

Mr. Nunes asked how the scale score is determined.

Ms. Roy responded it is the students’ scores divided by the number of students.

Dr. Jenkins asked for an explanation of graphs where there appears to be a discrepancy.

Ms. Roy responded that the State “played” with the thresholds to make them more reasonable to meet the expectations.

Dr. Jenkins commented on the complexity of the system and how it will likely prove difficult for teachers and parents to translate.

Ms. Roy explained there is literature available for parents to help explain their child’s score.

Dr. Jenkins stated the scores for the schools overall are confusing.

Mr. Oliver commented he found the 2018 Data Summary graph the most helpful and asked Ms. Roy what is the District’s view on the scores reflected in the graph.

Ms. Roy responded that the scores are per school and the targets are different for each school so the District is looking at how close each school is to the scale score and its targets.

Ms. Roy added that there are many successes within the data presented.

Mr. Oliver asked what the State considers “chronic absenteeism.”

Ms. Roy responded it is a student missing 10% or more of his/her days in membership.

Mr. Oliver asked if the State looked at the attendance rate of the individual student.

Ms. Roy confirmed that it did and added it begins in Grade 1.

Dr. Jenkins asked if the State differentiates between excused and unexcused absences.

Ms. Roy responded that the State does not differentiate however, if a student is medically absent and the District provides tutoring, it will not count as an absence.

Dr. Karafotis commented that the work being done with curriculum alignment is improving instruction district wide and it shows when you compare Dartmouth's scores with the State average.

Mrs. Amaral asked about low performers.

Ms. Roy responded that the low performers are students who performed in the bottom 25% the previous year but who are not part of any particular sub-group.

Mr. Nunes thanked the District and all its personnel for the work they are doing with students to help them to perform to the best of their ability.

Dr. Jenkins commented that it is important to note that every school has a different target which is a new evaluation; there are no longer "Level" schools.

Ms. Roy added it is important to note that targets are weighted on the State's 3:1 ratio and the schools have to meet their achievement target which accounts for 60%.

Ms. Roy concluded that this was a good report card for the District.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Fundraising Activities - Potter School PTO 2018-2019

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Potter School PTO Fundraising Activities for 2018-2019 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- Fundraising Activities - Cushman/DeMello PTO 2018-2019

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis, to approve the Cushman/DeMello PTO's Fundraising Activities for 2018-2019 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- Unified Arts Excursion Permission Request

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to approve the Unified Art Department's request to travel to Iceland and for Approval of Fundraising Activities as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- DSMA – Permission to Participate in National Competition

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis, to approve the DSMA's request to participate in the National Competition as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Nunes directed the Committee members to the applications for the vacant seat on the GNBVT School Committee which were provided in their meeting packets.

Mr. Nunes reminded the Committee members that this would be a joint appointment with the Select Board and the Town Moderator and stated he would take the Committee's recommendation to them.

After a brief discussion of the applicants a vote was taken as to which applicant the Committee would recommend.

Mr. Nunes noted he would like to have the new appointee and Mr. Shea, the other Dartmouth representative to the GNBVT School Committee, appear before the Committee sometime in the next month or so.

Mrs. Amaral moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to recommend the application of Dr. Cindy Marland for the vacant seat on the Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School (GNBVT) – School Committee. The motion passed with Dr. Jenkins abstaining citing she did not know enough about the applicants to make an informed decision.

Mr. Nunes stated he would be seeing Shawn McDonald and Melissa Haskell tomorrow and would try to schedule a meeting to move forward on the appointment.

Mr. Nunes noted he would like to invite not only the new appointee and Mr. Shea but James O'Brien, Superintendent of GNBVT, to appear before the Committee to provide an overview of what is happening at the school.

Dr. Jenkins stated she would like to get regular updates from the GNBVT School Committee.

Dr. Karafotis stated she would like GNBVT Administrators to present an overview of the school.

NEW BUSINESS

• **School Committee Policies – First Readings:** Assistant Superintendent Michelle Roy presented the following School Committee policies for a first reading:

- SC Policy AC Non-Discrimination
- SC Policy GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity
- SC Policy GCF – Professional Staff Hiring
- SC Policy JB – Equal Educational Opportunities
- SC Policy JFBB-1 – School Choice
- SC Policy JJF – Student Activity Accounts

Ms. Roy proposed minor revisions applicable to all policies, except SC Policies JJF and JFBB-1, wherein language will be added to include “genetic information, military status, pregnancy or pregnancy related condition.” The proposed minor revision to SC JFBB-1 would include the new language cited above except military status.

Mr. Nunes asked if the changes are state and federally mandated.

Ms. Roy responded that the revisions were recommended by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (M.A.S.C.)

Mr. Kiely offered the changes - recommended by the M.A.S.C. - to the District’s existing SC Policy JJF to formalize the language on graduating class funds, inactive student activities, and student activity deficits.

Mr. Kiely noted that the District has been operating consistent with the language that would now be formalized in policy.

Mr. Kiely read the new language to the Committee.

Mr. Kiely reported that the District had a review last year conducted by the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials (MASBO) to look at District policies and procedures to make sure it was compliant with the Department of Education guidelines: Mr. Kiely noted changes were made at that time to become compliant.

Committee members will review the proposed policies. A second reading on each policy will be held at the next School Committee meeting and, if recommended, a vote to approve will be taken on each policy.

• **Proposed School Committee Meeting Dates:** Dr. Gifford proposed the following meeting dates through March 2019 for the Committee’s consideration: January 14th, January 28th, February 11th, March 4th, and March 18th including proposed dates for the Budget and School Choice Hearings.

Mr. Nunes asked if the proposed FY2020 Budget hearing date could be moved to March 18th and the vote to the following meeting.

Dr. Gifford stated that setting the Budget hearing date did not need to be settled now but that the District is flexible.

Dr. Jenkins asked if the School Choice vote could be moved one meeting earlier.

It was agreed to move the date for the School Choice Hearing and Vote to January 28, 2019.

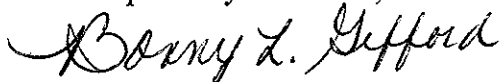
- **Superintendent's Update:** Dr. Gifford reported on the following:
 - October 17th is an early release day and the elementary schools will be working with the police department running the ALICE drill; the schools continue to work with students in the classroom with instruction about intruders, etc.
 - Ms. Roy has been meeting with colleagues to review the language changes in the Educator Evaluation rubric.
 - Changes to the Principal Rubric have been made and at the last meeting of the Executive Board members from DESE attended to obtain feedback to adjust the Superintendent Rubric.
 - Mrs. Oliveira and the Curriculum Council are reviewing survey feedback from staff regarding professional development.
 - Mr. Kiely and I met with DHS Theater Parent Group members who are looking for more storage space.
 - The One-to-One Initiative is moving forward.
 - Amanda Lawrence, DHS librarian, recently had the headline article in the *School Library Journal*.
- **Report of the Chair:** Mr. Nunes reported the following:
 - SEPAC Community Resource Fair is scheduled for October 28th.
 - DEF Spelling Bee is scheduled for November 8th at the high school.
 - Unified Basketball team is playing tomorrow at DHS at 5:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, November 5, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Quinn School Community Room.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. in order to discuss negotiation matters and not to return in to Open Session. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent