

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

December 10, 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: Mr. Gallishaw, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Pavao, Mrs. Correia, Mr. Grandfield, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Yermalovich, Mr. Porter, Mrs. McHenry 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. Jenkins to approve the Regular Session Minutes of November 26, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Shane Rose reported on the following Dartmouth High School activities.

- DHS Theater Company held three sold out performances of "A Christmas Story" at the high school on Friday, December 7th and Saturday, December 8th. The high school would like to thank District Fire Chief Brad Ellis for his support for the production.
- DHS winter sports season has begun and we wish all our teams well.

Dr. Jenkins asked Mr. Rose to share with the community his recent award.

Mr. Rose informed the Committee that he recently was awarded the U.S. Senate Youth Program Scholarship; the award provides \$10,000.00 in scholarship money to recipients as well as an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. where students will meet legislators and other officials of

the federal government: last year's recipients met the President of the United States, Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch as well as other government officials.

PRESENTATION

- **Spotlight on Kids – James M. Quinn Elementary School**

Principal Kyle Grandfield thanked the Committee and the Superintendent for the opportunity to present Quinn school's *Spotlight on Kids* and introduced Trisha Leary and Kate Powers, the Quinn School's Instructional Technology Specialist and Media Specialist respectively.

Ms. Leary and Ms. Powers explained the various ways technology is being embedded within the K-5 curriculum to support engagement, differentiation and enrichment opportunities for students at the Quinn school. The following is a list of technology programs highlighted in the presentation: Makey Makey; Word Clouds; Chatter Pix; Google Tour Builder; Book Creator; Osmo Kit.

Ms. Leary began the presentation by stating that students understand, at school, technology is a "tool not a toy" and that technology is becoming part of the school's culture.

Ms. Leary reported that there is a new Technology Committee at Quinn.

Ms. Powers reported that Quinn held its "hour of code" this past week which included the participation of all 651 Quinn students; she added that Quinn received a grant from the American Library Association and Google for its participation in the "hour of code" program using Google's new platform CS First.

Ms. Powers spoke about coding as well as explaining how it was adapted for younger students.

Ms. Powers stated she would be applying for further grant funding to support the iSTEM initiatives, specifically coding in the library, which will start up again in January.

Ms. Powers reported that she and Ms. Leary started STEM centers in the library to introduce students to different technologies.

The following is a list of students who were present and participated in the presentation: Olivia Araujo (Grade 4); Abigail Glaser (Grade 5); Sarah Galipeau (Grade 4); some students participated via video.

The Committee thanked the presenters and students for providing detailed information about technology and how it is used within the curriculum and in learning.

Mr. Nunes asked if this presentation would be used to support further funding.

Ms. Powers responded that in order to be eligible for the second round of funding from the American Library Association you need to demonstrate how the initial grant funds were spent which we have been doing.

Dr. Gifford asked Ms. Powers to speak about the reading award she recently received for the fourth consecutive year.

Ms. Powers responded that the Quinn School has won the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge for the state of Massachusetts by logging 1.3 million minutes. The school had its celebration this past Friday and First Lady Mrs. Baker sent a video message to the students.

- **Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) – Resource “Flip Book”**

Ms. Debra August, DHS math teacher and SEPAC’s Treasurer, and Ms. Stephanie Melo, Quinn School Special Education teacher, presented SEPAC’s “flip book” which provides resource information for parents with children involved in early intervention through twelfth grade and to ask for approval to disseminate this resource at team meetings going forward.

Ms. August stated that this resource would be completely funded by SEPAC as well as printed and collated by Dartmouth High School PALS students and final assembly will be done by SEPAC members.

Mr. Nunes asked about the bowling club.

Mrs. August responded that this is the bowling club’s third year and that it meets every Tuesday at Wonder Bowl in New Bedford and it is set up like a true league: middle school students join after five weeks.

Dr. Gifford asked if the District could help with the SEPAC calendar.

Ms. Melo stated that SEPAC’s information on the website is a little outdated and that if updated information could be forwarded to the District to have included on the website it would be appreciated.

Ms. Roy gave a suggestion as to how to send the updated information for inclusion on the website.

The Committee agreed to allow the dissemination of SEPAC’s resource flip book as requested.

- **Director of Teaching and Learning - Curriculum Update**

Tracy Oliveira, the Director of Teaching and Learning, presented a video which she narrated updating the Committee on the District’s direction as it concerns curriculum.

Mrs. Oliveira stated that the direction of curriculum is rooted in the District’s Strategic Improvement Plan adding the teaching and learning strategic objective is to develop and sustain

a vertically and horizontally aligned curriculum, instruction, and assessment to support growth of all learners.

Mrs. Oliveira continued by explaining the inclusion of project based and personalized learning which allows students voice, choice and agency in their learning.

Mrs. Oliveira explained that instructors from all learning levels meet to collaborate on curriculum and “best practices.”

Mrs. Oliveira stressed the importance of aligning curriculum to make the transition between learning levels more effective.

Mrs. Oliveira added that iSTEM club registration forms were sent out today.

The Committee thanked Mrs. Oliveira for her comprehensive presentation and for her on-going efforts moving the district’s curriculum forward.

Dr. Karafotis congratulated Mrs. Oliveira on her efforts to align the K-12 curriculum.

Dr. Jenkins stated she was happy to hear about the new civics standard.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Update on DMS Roof Project and Memorial Stadium Project**

Mr. Kiely provided an update on the middle school roof project which is at “substantial completion;” paperwork being completed, a few minor deliveries to be made, landscaping to be completed in the spring; thermal scan was done today to see if any areas of the roof are wet underneath and which may need to be corrected.

Mr. Kiely noted there are no workers at the school at this time but added that it will be approximately another 2 months before the project is “done” done.

Dr. Jenkins asked about funding.

Mr. Kiely stated the project will come in “under” budget.

Mr. Nunes thanked Mr. Kiely and Mr. Ferreira for their attention to this project.

Mr. Kiely provided an update of the stadium project noting the project is in design development of Phase I and the Project Committee met with the engineers and designers last week to discuss drainage, sewerage and utilities as well as having met with the Town Administrator and the Department of Public Works about the site itself and the proposed parking lot.

Mr. Kiely added we are on schedule to bid the project out in February, commence construction in the spring and “be ready to go” for the start of the fall sport season.

NEW BUSINESS

- **FY20-FY24 Capital Improvement Plan (Draft):**

Mr. Kiely directed the Committee to the draft of the capital improvement plan which was provided to them and explained some of the items to be requested each fiscal year at the spring and fall town meetings and pointing out some of the District's priorities for a total of \$3,382,000 in improvements.

Mr. Kiely stated his thankfulness for the Committee and the Town's support for the District's capital improvement requests in the past and hopes to be able to rely on this support now.

Mrs. Amaral asked if the parking lot re-pavement is district wide.

Mr. Kiely stated that there are several areas throughout the District that need attention however the money being requested will not accomplish all that is needed but certainly will address those areas that are a priority.

Mr. Oliver asked if this money would be used for preventative maintenance or is it repaving lots.

Mr. Kiely stated that preventative measures would continue but it would be dependent upon what is left in the budget after the larger scale projects are completed.

Dr. Jenkins brought up the School Master Plan noting, at the very least, continuing the conversation with the Town about building new schools.

Dr. Jenkins added she would like to see the School Master Plan included in the capital improvement plan as a way of reminding the Town that putting money in to the current facilities cannot continue indefinitely; may be a "place holder" could be put in the plan.

Mr. Oliver agreed with Dr. Jenkins.

Mr. Nunes agreed with Dr. Jenkins.

Mr. Nunes asked Mr. Kiely to bring the plan back in January/February for a vote and, in the meantime, if any members had questions to please contact Mr. Kiely.

- **Superintendent's Update:** Dr. Gifford reported on the following:
 - A number of our schools participated in the kindness and gratitude challenge last week.
 - Students will be creating holiday cards for veterans.
 - All of the schools participated in the hour of code last week.
 - Sandra Chicca, Potter School's Instructional Technology Specialist, accepted a citation from Lieutenant Governor Karen Polito through the MA STEM Advisory Council for Potter School's participation in various activities.
 - Mr. Kiely and I met with Shawn MacInnes, the Town Administrator, and officials from

UMASS/Dartmouth last week to discuss a new partnership with the university.

-The District has participated for the past several years in the textile recycling program; each school has at least one recycling receptacle in its parking lot where clothes are deposited and Bay State Textiles retrieves the donations for which the District receives funds.

- **Chapter 70 Discussion:**

Dr. Jenkins provided some background on Chapter 70 law – School Funds and State Aid for Public Schools - and stated that some school committees around the State are forwarding resolutions to legislators requesting a revision of the Chapter 70 funding formula: copies of the resolution were provided to Committee members.

Dr. Jenkins stated that the resolution is focused on getting the State to increase its spending on education.

Dr. Jenkins asked Committee members if they would be willing to have a discussion about the resolution at the next meeting and whether or not they would be willing to support said resolution or come up with its own.

The Committee agreed with Dr. Jenkins request to have a discussion regarding Chapter 70 at the next meeting.

Mr. Nunes asked School Administrators for comment.

Dr. Gifford stated that Massachusetts's educator groups are discussing this matter.

- **Report of the Chair:**

-The Chair reported that Dartmouth high school has its first basketball games tomorrow night.

-The *Standard Times* has begun honoring fall athletes and some of our student athletes are receiving mention.

-Wednesday night is the Otto Graham Awards and Owen Guilbeault is our nominee and we wish him luck.

-Holiday concerts have begun at the schools.

-Mr. Nunes asked Dr. Gifford to check if Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Shea and Dr. Marland would attend the next school committee meeting to provide an update of what is happening at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School.

-Mr. Nunes asked Dr. Gifford about the innovation lab.

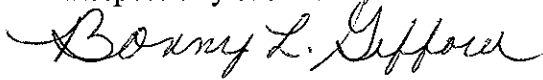
-Dr. Gifford responded the District is looking to make the "opening" of the lab an after school event and to have teachers and students available to explain how the lab is being used; Dr. Gifford added that she would like to have the press available and is looking to schedule the event for January 15th or 16th.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, January 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the James M. Quinn Elementary School Community Room.

Dr. Karafotis moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to close the Regular Session at 8:15 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