

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

March 26, 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 Dr. Shannon Jenkins, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of 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, Mrs. Amaral, Dr. Karafotis, and Mr. Oliver.

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

Visitors present: Mrs. Townson, Mrs. Jodoin, Mr. Gallishaw, Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Porter, Mrs. Oliveira, Mrs. Pavao, Mrs. Correia, Mr. Grandfield, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Yermalovich, Mrs. McHenry, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Martin and members of the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Jenkins invited members of the public who would like to offer comments concerning any item listed on the agenda for this evening's meeting to please come to the podium and to state their name for the record.

No comments were offered on any of the agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the Regular Session Minutes of March 12, 2018.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 12, 2018, as written, with the stipulation that they be held until such time as the matter or matters for which the session was held have been resolved.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Charlotte Correiro, a junior at Dartmouth High School, reported on activities taking place at Dartmouth High School.

- March 19th Dartmouth High School gathered in the gymnasium as part of the national movement “to say enough” to senseless acts of violence. The rally was entirely student run and the leaders encouraged their peers to commit to performing random acts of kindness over the next seventeen days documenting and tagging these acts with #whatsyour17.
- Spring sports season has begun with nearly 400 students participating.
- All 10th Graders attended an assembly to kick-start the ELA MCAS exam which will begin on March 27th.
- Dartmouth High School’s National Honor Society recently put on the Teacher Talent Show which is a fundraiser for its international charity *Love 146*.
- Dartmouth High School Debate Team recently competed in Needham; congratulations to senior Noah DeRossi-Goldberg who won first place and to junior Andrew Zhu who won fourth place.

PRESENTATIONS

SPOTLIGHT ON KIDS – George H. Potter Elementary School:

Dr. Jenkins invited Mrs. Brooks, Principal of the Potter School, and Mr. Porter, Assistant Principal, to present the George H. Potter School’s “Spotlight on Kids” segment.

Mrs. Brooks thanked the Committee for the opportunity to showcase some of the important programs currently being implemented at the Potter School creating an atmosphere conducive to learning and teaching. Mrs. Brooks played a video that was compiled by Ms. Chicca, the instructional technology teacher at Potter school, which highlighted student responses to the question “Why is Potter school your happy place?”

Mr. Porter concluded the presentation by emphasizing how the teacher-student relationship that develops during these formative years becomes part of the students’ foundation for success.

The following fifth grade students performed during the segment: Aedan Nogueira and Jaiden DeMelo.

Booklets, which were made by students, were distributed to the Committee by the following students: future Potter student Alexa Morrison; kindergartner Adriana Dionisio; first graders Casey Martinho and Abigail Morrison; and second grader Dylan Dionisio.

The Committee congratulated Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Porter and the students on their wonderful presentation.

OVERVIEW - Proposed Therapeutic Program to Provide Services to Elementary Level Students:

Mrs. Townson, the District’s Pupil Support Services Administrator, thanked the Committee for the opportunity to provide an explanation as to what is meant by a brain based classroom and how a classroom with this focused instruction relates to the proposed therapeutic classroom for

elementary age students to be implemented at the Quinn school starting in the 2018-2019 school year.

Mrs. Townson began by informing the Committee that brain based therapeutic instruction is not a new field and that the District has been providing elementary level teachers and elementary level teacher assistants with professional development related to this type of instruction for the past three years.

Mrs. Townson continued, explaining that the state and national trend of increasing numbers of elementary aged students who require greater support in the area of social and emotional learning is occurring in Dartmouth.

Mrs. Townson described what brain based classroom instruction would entail and how it would require a different educational approach which would include “therapeutic interventions that consider how the brain functions.”

Mrs. Townson assured the Committee that the proposed therapeutic classroom is linked to the District’s strategic plan.

Mrs. Townson explained the criteria students would need to meet to determine whether or not the therapeutic classroom would be the best learning environment.

Mrs. Townson informed the Committee of the individuals and professional groups with whom the District has been collaborating as it relates to the therapeutic classroom and professional development: nearly 100 elementary staff has received professional development concerning the brain-based therapeutic model.

Mr. Oliver asked Mrs. Townson if she and her colleagues have met with the Quinn School Administration and staff regarding the proposed classroom.

Mrs. Townson stated she has met with the Quinn Administration as well as a Quinn focus group to discuss the proposed classroom and that it is an ongoing conversation.

Dr. Karafotis commented that she thought the proposed classroom may be a burden on the Quinn staff and she noted the importance of outreach to parents and staff providing information about the classroom.

Dr. Karafotis asked to meet with Mrs. Townson.

Dr. Karafotis asked how it is determined who will be in the class.

Mrs. Townson explained students will be placed in the therapeutic classroom if that classroom is the least restrictive placement that the IEP “can be held.”

Dr. Karafotis asked if the teacher will be doing therapeutic work.

Mrs. Townson explained teachers would be doing “therapeutic” work but not in a clinical sense.

Mrs. Amaral asked how many students would be in the classroom.

Mrs. Townson stated that it is anticipated that 4 to 6 students would be the range for the first year.

Mrs. Amaral asked about substitute teachers and substitute teacher assistants.

Mrs. Townson stated continuity is important for students so the teacher assistant would substitute for the classroom teacher and the most appropriate substitute teacher assistant would fill in for the teacher assistant.

Mrs. Amaral asked if there is a plan in place for students moving from the fifth grade to the middle school.

Mrs. Townson stated that there is not a therapeutic model for the middle school at this time.

Mr. Nunes asked for an explanation of how students “work out” of the program.

Mrs. Townson provided an explanation for the Committee.

Dr. Jenkins asked what the capacity is for the proposed classroom.

Mrs. Townson gave the regulations: for 1 teacher and 1 teacher assistant, the classroom can support 12 students; however, Mrs. Townson assured the Committee that that number is not being proposed.

Discussion ensued on the prospect of greater numbers of eligible students increasing the staffing needs for the proposed classroom.

The Committee thanked Mrs. Townson for her presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Gifford recommended the following field trip request to the Committee for its approval:

- DHS requests permission to participate and compete in the International DECA Conference/Competition in Atlanta GA from April 20 through 25, 2018.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis, to approve the above-named request as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- **FY19 Budget**

Mr. Kiely stated that he and Dr. Gifford recently met with the Finance Committee and continue to confer with the Treasurer's office however the Town's budget remains in a deficit.

With this in mind, Mr. Kiely stated he feels comfortable recommending going forward with the FY19 Budget as presented at the last School Committee meeting.

Dr. Jenkins mentioned Mr. Oliver and she were in attendance at the meeting with the Finance Committee where at school safety items including radios were discussed as being part of the FY19 budget.

Dr. Jenkins continued noting she is comfortable with the FY19 Budget as proposed and would favor waiting on adding to that budget so that further evaluation could be made of appropriate and sustainable measures including safety items.

Mr. Oliver concurred with Dr. Jenkins.

Dr. Karafotis moved, seconded by Ms. Amaral to approve the FY19 Budget appropriation for High School Secretaries in the amount of \$161,057.20. The motion carried with Mr. Nunes abstaining from the vote.

Dr. Karafotis moved, seconded by Ms. Amaral to approve the FY19 budget appropriation for Potter School Classroom Teachers in the amount of \$1,656,168.00. The motion carried with Mr. Oliver abstaining from the vote.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the FY19 budget appropriation for the total budget, excluding those items voted individually in the two previous motions, in the amount of \$41,268,738.95. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Revised FY19-FY23 Capital Improvement Plan**

Mr. Kiely explained that although the FY19-FY23 Capital Improvement Plan had been voted on previously, it has been determined, after much discussion within the District as well as with the Police and Fire Departments, that moving forward with the district wide radio system was appropriate in the "short term" rather than waiting until next year as was originally requested and that he believed the Town would support revising the capital improvement plan to fund the radio system in FY19.

Dr. Jenkins commented that there may be some opportunity to move forward on parts of the stadium project this summer specifically the design and lighting.

Mr. Nunes asked if there was a plan to start work on the lights this summer.

Mr. Kiely stated it would depend on the amount of funding available.

Dr. Karafotis asked for clarification on what a district wide radio system entails.

Mr. Kiely briefly explained this system.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Amaral to revise the FY19-FY23 Capital Improvement Plan which incorporates the district wide radio system in the amount of \$2,150,000.00 to be funded through the Town and \$250,000.00 for the media center and innovation lab to be funded through school choice funds. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Revision of School Committee Policy IKF - Graduation Requirements
(Second Reading and Vote)**

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Roy presented the revised School Committee Policy IKF – Graduation Requirement – for a second reading and vote.

Ms. Roy noted that one small adjustment was made from the first reading based on questions from Committee members and based on current freshman enrollment data in health courses the high school administration felt comfortable recommending combining the health and physical education requirement for the class of 2021.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the revision to School Committee Policy IKF – Graduation Requirement as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2018 Summer Sports Camp**

Mr. Kiely requested permission to offer the Dartmouth Schools Summer Sports Camp for the 2018 Summer.

Mr. Kiely reported that 187 students participated in the summer sports camps last year; the camp would run from June 25, 2018 through July 27, 2018, and the location of the camp will most likely be at the high school since the middle school roof project will be underway this summer.

Dr. Jenkins asked if the profits from the camp go back to the athletic department.

Mr. Kiely stated that the profits have been minimal and so the majority has been left in the summer sports camp account but some funds have been used to purchase equipment for the athletic department.

Mrs. Amaral commented that she hopes options will be made available for extended school year students to participate as in previous years.

Mr. Kiely stated it is his understanding that the plan is to run the program consistent with previous years.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis, to approve running the 2018 summer sports camps as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Superintendent's Update**

Dr. Gifford informed the Committee of the following matters.

The middle school will be presenting "The Lion King" starting Thursday, April 5th and running through Saturday, April 7th.

Due to the number of snow days the high school is moving its term 3 closure to April 6th.

Safe and Kind School Rallies were held at all the schools recently: first responders attended the middle school rally where students got to thank them for their work.

The high school will hold its ALICE training this week and middle school administration will attend to observe as they will be holding a similar training.

Dr. Gifford recognized Mrs. Townson and Mrs. Jodoin for their efforts in the Special Education Department.

Dr. Gifford noted the work of Teacher and Learning Director Mrs. Tracy Oliveira particularly her efforts to move the curriculum forward and to create more consistency.

Dr. Gifford advised the Committee that she and Ms. Roy attended an MCAS Accountability System training this morning and we will provide an update in the future.

Team Chair training, which was run by Mrs. Townson's department, has been completed and each school now has several trained staff members to chair team meetings.

The high school art show is happening tomorrow at Russells Mills from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and on Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

- **Report of the Chair:**

Dr. Jenkins stated that the Dartmouth Education Foundation grant application process is now open and applications can be submitted on-line: the deadline is May 1, 2018. More information can be found on its website at defma.org.

- **Additional Comments:**

Mr. Nunes provided some information regarding the music program including the following: color guard finals are this Saturday in Salem; percussion finals are Saturday, April 7th at 1:00

p.m. at the high school; Night of Percussion will be on April 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school; and percussion took first place at its recent competition.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, April 9, 2018 after the Joint Session at Town Hall in the Planning Board Meeting Room.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to close the Regular Session at 8:04 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