

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

April 30, 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, and Mrs. Genthner. Mr. Kiely was not present.

Visitors present: Mrs. Oliveira, Mr. Thibault, Ms. Chavier, Mr. Martin, Mr. Grandfield, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Pavao, Mrs. Correia, Mrs. Townson, Mr. Caron, Jonathan Gallishaw and members of the community.

Mr. Nunes asked for a moment of silence to recognize the recent passing of the Honorable Thomas M. Quinn, Jr., former Dartmouth school committee member.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Nunes invited anyone 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 Dr. Karafotis to approve the Regular Session Minutes of April 9, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Charlotte Correiro reported on the following Dartmouth high school activities.

- The high school recently hosted Cory Palazzi who shared his story about the dangers of opioid abuse in two powerful assemblies.

- The DHS Color guard and Indoor Percussion performed well at World Championships in Dayton Ohio in April.
- Seventy 10th graders completed a field test in preparation for next year's computerized MCAS exam.
- DHS students, senior Tony Root and junior Shane Rose each placed first while DHS junior Jack Pullin placed third at the recent international DECA competition held in Atlanta GA.
- DHS Theater Company invites the public to their performance of "Beauty and The Beast" from May 3rd through May 6th at the high school.

RECOGNITION

Dr. Gifford invited Dartmouth High School Principal Ross Thibault to the podium in order to recognize the following individuals for their achievements.

- Charlotte Correiro was awarded the Rensselaer Medal Award Winner which is awarded annually to a Dartmouth High School junior who has proven mathematic and scientific excellence.
- Mary Bancroft, a junior at Dartmouth High School and the executive editor of the high school's newspaper *The Spectrum*, was awarded the National Silver Medal from Scholastic for Art and Writing. Additionally, Miss Bancroft was recognized recently by the *Standard-Times* for her interview with Pete Souza, chief photographer for former Presidents Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama.
- John Breault, a special education teacher at Dartmouth high school and a coach for unified athletics, was awarded the Unified Track and Field Coach of the Year for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by the MIAA. This is the first year that the MIAA is presenting such an award to a unified athletic coach.

The Committee congratulated the students and staff.

ADDRESS COMMITTEE

Ms. Renee Vieira, President of the Dartmouth Educators Association, addressed the Committee on the matter of health care premiums as well as the cost of health care in the Town of Dartmouth.

Ms. Vieira began by stating that the union does not have any complaints with respect to the health insurance coverage provided.

Ms. Vieira explained the union's concern with the current premium splits: Ms. Vieira reported that, at a 52/48 "split," Dartmouth has one of the lowest premium splits in the region.

Ms. Vieira commented that high health insurance costs are turning qualified and desirable applicants away from Dartmouth.

Ms. Vieira stated that Mr. Kiely, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, had been in contact with her to ask that the union consider the Town's current proposal of a high deductible plan called *Access Blue*.

Ms. Vieira discussed the benefits and drawbacks of the proposed high deductible plan.

Ms. Vieira asked if health costs are a school or a town cost.

Mr. Nunes stated it was a Town cost.

Ms. Vieira thanked the Committee for its time.

Dr. Gifford agreed with Ms. Vieira that due to the high cost of health care the District has lost some candidates.

PRESENTATION

- **Overview of the District's Athletic and Health Programs**

Jeff Caron, the District's Athletic Director, provided a presentation highlighting the District's athletic and health programs.

Mr. Caron provided data noting that fifty percent of the student body at the high school participates in athletics and more than seventy-five percent of the coaching staff including head coaches are Dartmouth Public school employees.

Mr. Caron highlighted the successes of the athletic teams listing the impressive amount of state competition play for teams in all seasons.

Mr. Caron noted the overwhelming support for the unified sports program through the dedication of the District's staff as well as of the community specifically mentioning Mr. Breault for his recent recognition.

Mr. Caron stated he would provide the Committee with a gate receipt update once the spring season has concluded.

Mr. Caron informed the Committee of the community service that student-athletes perform throughout the school year.

Mr. Caron updated the Committee on health and physical education initiatives noting that the elementary level staff continues to build on the SPARK physical education curriculum program which was adopted a number of years ago; through professional development and model lessons the District has been able to provide some continuity among the elementary school programs.

Mr. Caron noted that at the middle school level there have been some joint efforts with the high school; the SOS program - which is in partnership with the health department - provides suicide

awareness training within the classroom; a Grade 8-12 Health Survey was conducted in April in an effort to gather information about the concerns that Dartmouth students have and how we - as educators - can better address their needs; and, with the new high school schedule going in to effect in September, the physical and health curriculum will be able to offer a more complete program to students.

Mr. Caron recognized the physical education and health staff, lead by Mr. Gaffney, for all their work in creating course descriptions for the new course schedule. Mr. Caron noted Mr. Gaffney's work in securing funds to put on a violence prevention program called "Game Changers."

The Committee thanked Mr. Caron for his presentation and for his dedication to the program.

Dr. Gifford asked Mr. Caron about the new fitness center.

Mr. Caron commented that the District received a substantial gift from the Howland Family which allowed the District to renovate some space in the high school and to create a fitness center and to hire a strength and conditioning coach which will not only support the athletic program but will allow the health and fitness program to expand its offerings.

Mr. Caron noted that program is new and we need to promote it more but that is just a matter of time.

Dr. Jenkins commented that she hopes female athletes/students are encouraged to take advantage of the program.

Mr. Caron responded that at a recent "boot camp" participation was over fifty percent female.

Ms. Roy commented that this program would be beneficial for training coaches.

Mr. Caron agreed and noted that when the strength and conditioning coach was hired team coaches were brought in to see what the program had to offer in season and as well as off season.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 19-1

Driver Training Program

Dr. Gifford noted that resolution 19-1 is a resolution awarding a contract for driver training at the high school.

WHEREAS: Dartmouth Public Schools has opted to renew its contract with Martin Auto School, Inc. pursuant to Item #14 of the Bid Specifications dated April 20, 2016 for the school year 2018-2019; and

WHEREAS: the following 2016-2017 bid result will continue for the school year 2018-2019;

- Martin Auto School, Inc., 487 Belleville Avenue, New Bedford MA 02746
- Cost to be paid to the Town by the bidder - \$1,328.00 per class

RESOLVED: that Martin Auto School, Inc., 487 Belleville Avenue, New Bedford MA 02746, be awarded the Dartmouth High School Driver Training Program for the 2018-2019 school year, based on the Dartmouth Public Schools specifications dated April 20, 2016.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve awarding the contract for the Driver Training Program to Martin Auto School, Inc. The motion carried unanimously with Mr. Nunes abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Last Day of 2017-2018 School Year**

Mr. Nunes asked for a vote on the last day of school for the 2017-2018 school year as it has changed from the original date included in the voted upon 2017-2018 school year calendar due to snow days. The new date for the last day of school will be Tuesday, June 19, 2018 barring any unforeseen changes.

Dr. Karafotis moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the date for last day of school for 2017-2018. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Superintendent's Update**

Dr. Gifford provided an overview of her recent educational tour of Portugal with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents and "powered" by the Luso-American Foundation for Development (FLAD.)

Dr. Gifford explained that the program is a university consortium developed in order to promote Portuguese culture through educational partnerships: summer programs, unpaid internships and student/faculty exchange programs.

Dr. Gifford noted that during the program participants met with Margaret Young, the American Ambassador to Portugal, who explained how her agency assists with information and facilitating cultural/educational exchanges.

Dr. Gifford described her visits to various schools and noted that a common theme from school officials was the need to enhance student creativity and innovation.

Dr. Gifford reported that Portugal has "centralized and devolved school management" whereby the government assigns teachers to schools and that it has a national curriculum.

Dr. Gifford reported the group met with Dr. Joao Costa, Portugal's Secretary of State for Education, noting that Portugal and U.S. share some of the same educational concerns.

Dr. Karafotis asked if there is a plan to meet periodically as a group.

Dr. Gifford responded that some members of the group did want to get together to discuss applying for a grant as it concerns a marine science program.

- **Report of the Chair:**

The Chair did not offer a report.

- **Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting.**

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

- DHS Sailing Team requests permission to participate and compete in the Spring Intersectional for the Phebe Corckran King Memorial Trophy in Annapolis MD from May 11th through 13, 2018.

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

- Dr. Jenkins reminded teachers and administrators that the DEF grant deadline is fast approaching.
- Dr. Jenkins asked if the Committee could talk about the status of Dartmouth's representative to the Greater New Bedford Vocational School Committee (GNBVT).

Mr. Nunes advised the Committee that Mike Shea, the Dartmouth representative to that Committee, was appointed on February 28, 2018.

Dr. Jenkins stated she would like the opportunity to speak with Mr. Shea.

Mr. Nunes asked Dr. Gifford if the District receives copies of minutes of GNBVT School Committee meetings.

Dr. Gifford responded that it does not.

Mr. Nunes asked if obtaining those minutes can be looked in to: Mr. Nunes noted that in the past the Dartmouth School Committee members used to receive copies of those minutes.

Mr. Oliver stated that Mr. Shea told him he would be happy to come before this Committee to answer any questions.

Mr. Nunes commented that maybe Mr. Shea could be invited to the June meeting or a meeting scheduled for the beginning of the next school year.

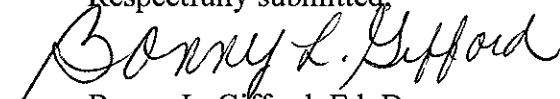
Mr. Oliver stated he would like to hear from GNBVT Superintendent O'Brien as well as Mr. Shea.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, May 14, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the James M. Quinn Elementary School Community Room.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. in order to discuss personnel, grievance and collective bargaining 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