MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
DARTMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 4, 2019

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. Karafotis and Mr. Oliver. Dr. Jenkins was not present.

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

Visitors present: Mr. Martin, Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Porter, Mrs. Thomas, 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.

Mrs. Vieira, President of the Dartmouth Educators Association, made comments regarding the FY20 Budget and stated the concern for large class sizes at the high school particularly in the freshman classes: larger class sizes increase safety concerns in the classroom.

Mrs. Vieira made further remarks regarding the FY20 Budget requesting more support personnel and training particularly in the area of Special Education.

Mrs. Vieira concluded by asking for further consideration in the FY20 Budget for supporting these issues and offered to participate in any conversations relative to these concerns.

Mrs. Kathleen Baldwin, Occupational Therapist for the Dartmouth Public Schools, asked about the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) position, which was funded under the FY19 budget but not filled, and which is not included in the FY20 Budget.

Mrs. Baldwin noted she will be forwarding to the Committee members a link to the Board Certified Analysts Certification Board which group oversees BCBAs.

Mrs. Baldwin concluded by stating her concerns over the funding of the Applied Behavior Analyst (ABA) and the Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) positions and not funding a BCBA position in the FY20 Budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the Regular Session Minutes of February 11, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

No report was provided: Miss Alves was not in attendance.

PRESENTATION

- **Spotlight on Kids – Potter Elementary School**

Principal Heidi Brooks thanked the Committee and the Superintendent for the opportunity to present the Potter School's *Spotlight on Kids* and acknowledged administration and faculty participants: Richard Porter, Assistant Principal and Carrie Gregoire, Potter School Social Worker. Mrs. Brooks noted the contribution of Paul Chouinard, Potter School Social Worker, who was not present.

Mrs. Brooks highlighted the A.L.I.C.E. training program at the Potter School: a video was shown illustrating student participation in A.L.I.C.E training activities.

Mr. Porter provided background on the A.L.I.C.E. protocol prior to showing the training/teaching video: Mr. Porter mentioned the professional development staff received recently on how to instruct younger students in A.L.I.C.E. protocols.

Mrs. Brooks provided a brief narration of the video as it was shown explaining what Ms. Gregoire, Mr. Chouinard and students were doing in relation to A.L.I.C.E training.

Mrs. Brooks added students embraced the training rather than being afraid of preparing for life's possibilities no matter how frightening and stressed the importance of being properly trained at every age level.

The Committee thanked the Potter School Administration and Staff for providing this necessary training.

OLD BUSINESS

- **FY20 Budget:**

Dr. Gifford asked the Committee if they had any more questions on the budget and noted that she and Mr. Kiely will be presenting at the Finance Committee meeting on Thursday at 6:40 p.m. and that the Joint Meeting (School and Finance Committees and the Select Board), at this time, is set for April 8th.

Mr. Oliver noted the comments on safety made by Mrs. Vieira during the Public Comment segment citing what appears to be a lack of communication among Central Administration, Building Principals and the Teachers' Association.

Mr. Oliver asked for a meeting with the Teachers' Executive Board and the Committee Chair and Central Administration.

Mr. Nunes stated that dates have been provided and that "we" are waiting to hear back from Mrs. Vieira.

Dr. Karafotis stated she wanted to be sure that when "we" look at the budget that if there is flexibility within it that efforts are made to address some of the needs that have been expressed.

Dr. Karafotis asked for further discussions on the concerns being expressed particularly the additional training for teacher assistants.

Mr. Oliver agreed with Dr. Karafotis.

Mrs. Amaral noted the importance of the BCBA position and reiterated the request for further discussion.

Mr. Nunes confirmed the date of the Public Hearing on the FY20 Budget, March 18, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Superintendent's Update:** Dr. Gifford reported on the following:
  -Mr. Kiely and I as well as Mr. Oliver attended a breakfast at UMASS/Dartmouth to "kick-off" a "compact" between the Town and UMASS/Dartmouth to expand cultural, facility and professional development collaborations.
  -Laura Gardner was nominated for a Super Media Superstar Reader Leader award by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL).
  -Dr. Seuss events were held at the schools last week.
  -The response to last Friday's bomb threat at the high school was well executed between the District and area Police and Fire Departments: all safety protocols were followed.

Mr. Oliver complimented the District on its ability to keep the lines of communication open.

Mrs. Amaral asked Dr. Gifford to clarify for those parents who did not receive the text messages what they can do to make sure they will receive them going forward.

Dr. Gifford explained the process for parents to verify their child's contact information.

- **Report of the Chair:**
  -Thank you to those who helped out at the Indoor Percussion and Color Guard Show on February 23rd.
  -Over 40 DECA members are heading to Boston to the State Competition on Thursday.

- **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:

- Dartmouth High School's request for the Indoor Percussion program to compete at the W.G.I East Power Regional Competition in Toms River New Jersey, March 16th and March 17, 2019

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

NEXT MEETING

The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, March 18, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the James M. Quinn Elementary School Community Room.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to close the Regular Session at 7:27 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonny L. Gifford

Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent