

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

April 29, 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 Mrs. Kathleen Amaral, at 6:30 p.m. in the Quinn School Community Room. It was noted that the meeting was being videotaped for future broadcast over DCTV, which is aired on Wednesday and Friday evenings, and on the DHS YouTube channel.

Present were the following members: Mrs. Amaral, Dr. Karafotis, Mr. Nunes and Mr. Oliver. Dr. Jenkins was not present.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to approve the Regular Session Minutes of April 8, 2019. The motion carried with Dr. Karafotis abstaining.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Miss Alves reported on the following Dartmouth High School activities.

- Color Guard did extremely well at the WGI National Championships making it to the final round as did Indoor Percussion taking 4th place and winning the fan favorite award.
- Harmonix, the DHS a capella group, performed on *Sing That Thing* this past Friday, April 26th.
- DHS athletic teams are performing well this spring season particularly sailing (13-2) and softball (6-1).
- AP Art Students exhibited at the art show *In the Moment* held this past Thursday and Friday at the Russells Mills School House in preparation for the annual Art Innovation Show to be held on May 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the Carlin Lynch Activity Center for grades K-12.
- DECA students are currently competing in the International DECA competition in Orlando FLA.
- Student Council just held its annual elections.
- DHS students made course selections this past week
- Members from DHS counseling department will be visiting the middle school on May 2nd and May 3rd to provide assistance to in-coming freshman with their course selections.
- Students from the Art Department visited Iceland from April 10th to April 16th where they experienced Icelandic culture and we look forward to their photographs.
- Marine biology students recently went on an outing to local areas in order to gather "marine creatures" for study and observation.

- Good luck to DHS students who will be taking math MCAS.
- Spanish classes recently visited the Frida Kahlo exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.
- The Business Department had representatives from First Citizens Federal Credit Union come to the high school recently to speak with students about credit unions and career possibilities.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Authorization to run the Summer Arts Camp for 2019.

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

OLD BUSINESS

FY20-FY24 Capital Improvement Plan:

Mr. Kiely provided an update on recommendations for funding at town meeting and asked the Committee to vote on the “whole” FY20-FY24 Capital Improvement Plan (“CIP.”)

Mr. Kiely continued by explaining the following recommendations were made by the CIP planning committee for funding at the June Town Meeting: technology hardware - \$200,000; technology hardware - replacement of Smartboards - \$180,000; Maintenance Trucks (2) - \$110,000; and flooring replacement - \$175,000.

Mr. Kiely stated funding for the remaining items on the original CIP would be requested at the October Town Meeting.

Mr. Oliver asked what schools will benefit from the flooring replacement.

Mr. Kiely replied DeMello, Potter and the middle school are slated for flooring replacement but the project is ongoing.

Mr. Oliver asked if “they” are aware that the Dartmouth Memorial Stadium would be the District’s number one priority for the Fall Town Meeting.

Mr. Kiely stated that they are aware: Mr. Kiely added that they would consider that item for “borrowing” in the Fall.

Mr. Nunes asked how many Smartboards are being replaced.

Mr. Kiely responded approximately thirty (30).

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis, to approve the FY20-24 Capital Improvement Plan in the amount of \$3,382,000 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Revisions of School Committee Policies (First Reading): Ms. Roy presented the following policies for the Committee’s consideration.

- **School Committee Policy – JFABD – Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services (First Reading)**

Ms. Roy reported a minor revision to include summer programming language and the removal of language referring to students awaiting foster care.

- **School Committee Policy – JFABE – Educational Opportunities for Military Children (First Reading)**

Ms. Roy reported this is a new policy. Ms. Roy added that the main purpose of this policy, as with the homeless and foster children policies, is to provide some educational stability for the more transient students.

- **School Committee Policy – JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care (PreK-12) (First Reading)**

Ms. Roy reported this is a new policy: the District currently follows the requirements but does not have an official policy. Ms. Roy highlighted some aspects of the policy including the following; district of origin is responsible for transportation costs; a “best interest determination” is required and the immediate enrollment of students regardless of student record availability.

Ms. Roy concluded that these policies are presented this evening for a first reading and that she would be seeking a second reading and vote of the Committee at its next meeting.

Proposed Revisions to Student Handbook:

Ms. Roy asked the Committee to table this matter as it includes the updated language on the homeless student policy which the Committee will vote on at its next meeting.

Ms. Roy pointed out that the proposed revisions are highlighted in the handbooks that were provided to the Committee Members.

Ms. Roy summarized the revisions for the Committee.

Town’s Proposed Revisions to Overall Financial Policies:

Mr. Oliver asked Mr. Kiely if he had any concerns about the Town’s recommendations.

Mr. Kiely stated that the only change the Town proposes is to item# 11 – Other Post-employment (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund – to allocate additional funding in an attempt to address that liability which is significant.

Mr. Kiely noted that adding money to post-employment benefits would take money away for things now.

Mr. Oliver summarized what was discussed at the Joint Meeting on this issue as follows: Bristol County Retirement is currently charging the Town for OPEB liability which is expected to be paid off and, once “that” is paid off, the Town would continue to take that money and put it towards other post-retirement benefits.

Mr. Kiely concurred with that assessment.

Mr. Nunes explained why he is not in favor of the proposed revisions.

Dr. Karafotis agreed with Mr. Nunes.

Dr. Karafotis asked Mr. Kiely if he stated that many towns are not “as far along” as Dartmouth is on OPEB funding.

Mr. Kiely stated that that is correct however being proactive is a credit to Dartmouth.

Mr. Kiely added that there has been some debate as to whether or not the State would put pressure on communities to fund OPEB or to make it a requirement at some point but nothing has happened in this regard and so, some communities are deciding to allocate resources for current needs.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to not approve the Town’s proposed revisions to Policy #11 of the Town’s Overall Financial Policies. The motion passed 3-1.

Superintendent’s Update: Dr. Gifford reported on the following:

- Teachers, Wilbur Higgins (DHS) and Anne Brown (DMS), are serving on the MCAS Assessment Development Committee.
- New format of the Summer Reading program (K-12).
- Summer Institute and summer school are in the planning stages; summer school registration will be on-line again this year.
- DHS Teachers attended a Highlander Blended Learning conference in Providence RI which aligns with our work with the innovation and transformation leadership network.
- DMS Energy Quest.
- 2nd Round of iSTEM Clubs.
- Teachers have been accepted to the Teachers College Summer Institute at Columbia University adding to the quality professional development in which our teachers participate and which benefits all students.
- AP Tests will commence soon and the technology department is doing a wonderful job keeping the new on-line format working smoothly.
- Footloose will be performed this week at the high school.

Report of the Chair: Mrs. Amaral provided a report on the following:

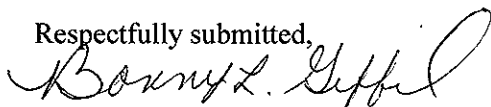
- The After Prom committee is meeting on May 7th at 6:30 pm at the high school: the group is looking for people to volunteer at after prom.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Quinn School Community Room.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:05 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