

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

March 18, 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, and Mrs. Genthner. Mr. Kiely was not present.

Visitors present: Mr. Gallishaw, Mrs. Oliveira, Mr. Thibault, Ms. Chavier, Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Grandfield, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Yermalovich, Mrs. Pavao, Ms. Correia, 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 and asked those wishing to speak on the FY20 Budget to wait until the Public Hearing is opened.

No comments were offered on any of the non-budget agenda items.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

FY20 BUDGET

Mr. Nunes opened the Public Hearing on the FY19 Budget at 7:03 p.m. noting it was advertised in the *New Bedford Standard Times* on March 11, 2019. Mr. Nunes invited those wishing to speak on the matter to come to the podium and to state his/her name for the record.

Renee Vieira, President of the Dartmouth Teachers Association (DEA), did not verbally address the Committee but, on behalf of the DEA Executive Board, handed out letters to the Committee and Central Administrators sharing the Board's thoughts and concerns.

Michelle Sherman, a senior at Dartmouth High School, expressed her concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Emily Harding, a senior at Dartmouth High School, expressed her concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Kenzie Waskiewicz, a junior at Dartmouth High School, read a letter written by Mary Hamilton, a 2017 graduate of Dartmouth High School, wherein Ms. Hamilton expressed her concerns about the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Julia Klein, a junior at Dartmouth High School, expressed her concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Oona Clarke, a senior at Dartmouth High School, expressed her concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Jonathan Silvia, a graduate of Dartmouth High School, expressed his concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Ellen Hamilton, an advocate for the arts and parent of Dartmouth Public School students, expressed her concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Roslyn Dobnya, a senior at Dartmouth High School, expressed her concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Debbie Taylor, a concerned parent, expressed her concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Rose Bigsby, a concerned parent of a Dartmouth High School graduate, expressed her concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Allison Wheaton, a junior at Dartmouth High School, read a letter written by Mr. Hamilton, a parent of a Dartmouth High School graduate and student, wherein Mr. Hamilton expressed his concerns about the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Serenah Cornwell, a junior at Dartmouth High School, read a letter written by Lila Hamilton, a senior at Dartmouth High School, wherein Miss Hamilton expressed her concerns about the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Chloe Bachstein, a graduate of Dartmouth High School, expressed her concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Hannah Soares, a 2007 graduate of Dartmouth High School, expressed her concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Andrew Fernandes, a 2018 graduate of Dartmouth High School, expressed his concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Emma Sousa, a senior at Dartmouth High School, expressed her concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Alexandria Wood, a junior at Dartmouth High School, expressed her concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Katelyn Pimenta, a sophomore at Dartmouth High School, expressed her concerns to the Committee on the FY20 Budget; specifically, the decision not to fill an art department teacher position which is being vacated due to retirement.

Mr. Nunes closed the public hearing on the FY20 Budget at 7:43 p.m. and reopened the regularly scheduled school committee meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of March 4, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Miss Alves reported on the following Dartmouth High School activities.

- Charlie Gamache was crowned Mr. Dartmouth 2019 this past weekend at a fundraising event to support the junior prom and banquet: thank you to the efforts of Ms. Chamberlain and Ms. Kelly, advisors to the Junior Class.
- Indoor Percussion and Color Guard performed well in their events at this past weekend's competition held in New Jersey.
- The Speech and Debate Team performed well in the recent round of state competition: Seniors Shane Rose, Andrew Zhu, and Olivia Marques placed 1st, 3rd and 11th respectively in the General Discussion Category.
- Unified Athletics has been fundraising for the Special Olympics and they are approaching the \$4000 mark of its \$5000 goal: Teachers Mr. Hellkamp and Mr. Gaffney are in the "top two spots" and it looks as though they will be doing the "Polar Plunge."
- The DECA State Championship has concluded with many successes including qualifying for the "I.C.D.C." round of competition: Ari Silva placed second in her category and second overall; Eleanor Rosen and Sarah Jorge placed second overall, Aidan Sullivan placed fifth overall; Andrew Zhu who placed first and seventh overall; Adam Almeida placed seventh overall; Colin Zhu placed second and ninth overall and Taylor Alves placed third and twelfth overall.
- DHS DECA is sending 5 students to the International Competition (I.C.D.C) in Orlando FLA this spring.

Mr. Nunes asked what the date of the international competition is.

Miss Alves responded she believes it begins on April 27th and runs for four or five days.

Dr. Gifford commented that she spoke with Mr. Breault at the “Mr. Dartmouth” fundraiser who mentioned the unified sports program is growing rapidly at Dartmouth High School.

PRESENTATION

- **Spotlight on Kids – Andrew B. Cushman School**

Dr. Gifford introduced Early Education Director Melissa McHenry who thanked the Committee and the Superintendent for the opportunity to present the Cushman School’s *Spotlight on Kids*.

Mrs. McHenry highlighted the Cushman School’s *Kindness Challenge*.

Mrs. McHenry explained that the *Kindness Challenge* was started by a non-profit organization a number of years ago to spread the anti-bullying message; she continued by describing how Cushman students participate in this challenge in school and carrying the message outside of the school and to their families.

Mrs. McHenry noted that preschooler Noah Cores was the first student to complete the *Kindness checklist* with his family and to receive the first heart to add to the Cushman Kindness Tree which is located outside of the main office in the school.

Preschool students Logan Potter and Kevin Jia handed out jars of “Cushman Smiles & Hugs” to Committee members.

Mrs. McHenry introduced Lori O’Neil, Literacy Coach for Cushman School, who will share what “writing can look like in the kindergarten classroom.”

Mrs. O’Neil explained the writing process used by teachers which follows the workshop model to teach students writing skills.

Mrs. O’Neil continued informing the Committee that students are currently engaged in “informational” writing which “we” call “all about writing” books where the focus is on organizing pieces of information.

Mrs. O’Neil introduced the following students who read from their writings: Charlotte Lantz, Max Beattie, Thomas Holzer, Maeve Firth, and Grace Potter.

The Committee thanked the Cushman School Administration, Staff and Students.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Gifford recommended the following request to run the summer sports camp to the Committee for its approval:

- Authorization to plan the Summer Sports Camp for 2019 for students entering grades 2-9.

Mr. Nunes asked if information will be on the website.

Dr. Gifford confirmed that information would be on the district website.

Mrs. Amaral asked that there be “mindfulness” of those students who are going to summer school and that they be part of the dialogue when planning the camp.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- **FY20 Budget:**

Dr. Gifford asked the Committee if they had any specific questions on the budget.

Dr. Gifford clarified that course offerings in the art department will not be reduced but that courses which were previously full year will become half year courses which would allow for greater opportunities to take art courses.

Mr. Oliver asked Dr. Gifford to confirm that the number of course offerings in the art department at the high school are not decreasing.

Dr. Gifford confirmed that that is correct.

Mr. Oliver asked if the classes will have higher numbers.

Dr. Gifford stated she would anticipate they would stay the same.

Dr. Gifford commented that the budget is a painstaking collaborative process and no decisions are made lightly but rather with great thought for the greatest good of the District.

Mr. Oliver invited Dartmouth High School Principal, Ross Thibault to address the Committee on the matter.

Mr. Thibault explained that we all value the arts and students will not lose choices; Mr. Thibault stated that it may be possible for a technology integration specialist to offer some graphic art opportunities as part of their role.

Mr. Thibault stated he would expect art class enrollment to be around 25 or 26 which is typical for a healthy art department.

Mrs. Amaral commended the students who addressed the Committee this evening and thanked Dr. Gifford for clarifying that the art department would not be losing options.

Mr. Oliver commented on the importance of understanding the constraints on the budget when decisions are made to add or not add new positions or fill vacant positions.

Mr. Nunes expounded on Mr. Oliver's point.

- **Stadium Project Update:**

Mr. Oliver updated the Committee on the Stadium Project reporting that the bid opening for the general contractor is scheduled for Friday, March 29th and the goal is to get the project “rolling” by the end of April or beginning of May to be ready with the fields and lights for the 2019 fall sports season.

From the presentation to the Finance Committee, it “looks like” the project to install parking (50-60 spaces) at the back of Memorial Stadium is going to be “a go.” the Town has the Department of Public Works working with the School Department on the design for this project.

Mr. Oliver noted that fundraising will be part of the funding of future phases of the Stadium Project: we will keep the School Committee posted on fundraising activities.

- **School Choice Update:**

Dr. Gifford reported there are currently 92 school choice students attending Dartmouth high school noting a few of these students were Dartmouth school district students who moved out of district.

Dr. Gifford stated approximately 50 school choice applications have been submitted for 2019-2020: the deadline was March 15th and decisions will be made soon.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- The first round of the 8 week elementary iSTEM program has concluded and the second session will begin this week.
- Dartmouth has been chosen to advance to the second round of the MA ST Math Grant application: ST Math teaches math concepts to K-5 teachers.
- The District has been awarded a History and Social Science Planning and Implementation Grant: a K-12 vertical team will be working this summer to align units to the frameworks.
- Work continues with the Innovation Team.
- DMS continues to add readers to its Readers Hall of Fame.
- Last week the Quinn School held its Wax Museum in Ms. Voci’s class where students dressed as Revolutionary War era characters while explaining who they are and their role at that time.

- **Report of the Chair:**

- Night of Percussion will be held on Friday, April 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the high school.
- Percussion Finals will be held on Saturday, April 6th at 1:00 p.m. at the high school.
- Color Guard Finals will be held on Saturday, March 30th in Reading, MA.
- Thank you to Mr. Grandfield and the Quinn School staff for inviting me to read to second grade students: I had a “blast.”
- April 2nd is the Annual Town elections; please “get out and vote.”
- SEPAC will be hosting the Parents’ Rights Training on Thursday, March 21st at the Quinn School from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

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

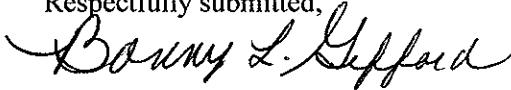
NEXT MEETING

The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, April 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall in the Planning Board Meeting Room.

Mr. Nunes asked Dr. Gifford to have Mr. Kiely “get” from the Town Treasurer, prior to the next meeting, a “breakdown” of all the balances of the stabilization funds we have as well as a breakdown of local receipts that make up the total budget for the tax recap.

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, reading "Bonny L. Gifford".

Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent