

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

August 19, 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 Kathleen Amaral, at 4:00 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, Mr. Oliver, Dr. Karafotis, Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Nunes.

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

Visitors present: Mrs. Oliveira, Mrs. Pavao, Mrs. McHenry, Mr. Gallishaw, Mr. Martin, Mr. Thibault, Mr. McGrath and members of the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Amaral stated that if “anyone” would like to have a topic added to an agenda to please contact the Superintendent who will forward your request to “me.” Mrs. Amaral added that in September the School Committee will hold a working meeting to discuss and decide on matters to be placed on meeting agendas throughout the coming school year.

No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the Executive Session Minutes of July 8, 2019, 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. The motion carried with Dr. Jenkins abstaining.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 20-1: Special Education Transportation

Mr. Kiely noted that Resolution 20-1 is a resolution awarding a contract for Transportation for Special Education Students for the Dartmouth Public Schools.

WHEREAS: Bids for the transportation of Special Education students are exempt from Chapter 30B; and

WHEREAS: Tremblay’s Bus Co., Inc. has been responsive and responsible in delivering Special Education transportation services from 1993 through 2019; Therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the contract for the transportation of Special Education Students for the Dartmouth Public Schools for FY20-22 be awarded to Tremblay’s Bus Co., Inc., 284 Myrtle St., New Bedford, MA 02746-1670, at a cost of \$4.32 per mile for FY20, \$4.54 per mile for FY21 and \$4.76 per mile for FY22 per the Dartmouth Public Schools specifications dated April 15, 1998.

Mr. Kiely referred the Committee to the recommendation he prepared and which was provided to them in their packets.

Mr. Oliver asked if the contract went out for bid.

Mr. Kiely stated it did not as it is a specialized service and not required to go out to bid; Mr. Kiely added that continuity of service is desired and Tremblay's has provided excellent service.

Dr. Jenkins noted Tremblay's has had the contract for approximately 25 years; has it ever been "put out to bid" during this time?

Mr. Kiely stated that he did not believe the service has been put out to bid during this time adding the District does its due diligence by comparing our costs with other communities to ensure we are not overpaying for the service.

Mr. Kiely reported the District is significantly below the state average in per pupil costs for special education transportation and below the average of surrounding communities.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve awarding the contract for the Special Education Transportation to Tremblay's Bus Company, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Summer Maintenance and Improvement Projects: Mr. Kiely provided an update on summer maintenance projects as they have progressed since June 10th noting the list he will provide is not comprehensive: at **DMS** 8 classrooms were refurbished which included new ceilings, new energy efficient lighting fixtures, new wall paint and flooring; installed and repaired sewer clean-outs; painted the outside trim of the middle school green; installed water bottle filling stations, the old photo lab in the basement was converted in to a better space for music activities as well as bathroom renovations: at **Cushman** outside lighting was replaced with energy efficient LEDs: at **Potter** security we continued the flooring replacement which is an on-going project as well as security improvements (swipe card access): at **DeMello** we made security improvements (swipe card access); installed water bottle filling stations and are refurbishing the modular classroom similar to what was done at Potter last summer and which is nearly completed: at **Quinn** we renovated office space in the front of the building; made energy efficient lighting upgrades particularly in the media center; renovated classroom sinks; installed air conditioning in the MBF room; installed water bottle filling station: at the **School Administration Building** we improved security access issues in the reception area: at **DHS** we made energy efficient lighting upgrades; installed water building filling stations; made air conditioning improvements and replace bathroom fixtures.

Mr. Kiely reported new lighting was installed at the stadium and today the "in fill" was being put in to the new field; things still need to be completed but we are very happy with the progress and the field will be ready for fall sports.

Mr. Kiely stated the first "big" event scheduled at the stadium - at which the District is hoping to have a grand opening ceremony - is the first home football game against Old Rochester on September 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Kiely concluded by thanking the Committee, the Finance Committee, Select Board and Town Meeting and the residents of the community for its support of this project.

Mr. Nunes asked about the lines on the field specifically hash marks.

Mr. Kiely responded some lines will be painted on and not sown due to the current controversy and uncertainty specifically regarding hash marks.

Dr. Jenkins reminded viewers and the community that that there is only so much refurbishing of these buildings that can be done and we need to start the conversation about replacing these buildings.

FY20 Budget Update: Mr. Kiely stated he was asked to give a summary of the State Budget and what the vote of the legislature taken in July did for Dartmouth Public Schools: the net change is an increase of \$7,223 which is not what we had planned on as part of the FY20 budget.

Mr. Kiely added that Greater New Bedford Regional Technical High School ("Voke") was provided an increase from the State Legislature's vote which the Town of Dartmouth will be assessed; in the end the net will be a

negative and it is “my” understanding the plan is to add an article on to the October Town Meeting warrant to rectify the resulting FY20 budget deficit.

Mr. Oliver asked what the deficit is.

Mr. Kiely stated the assessment for “Voke” will be about \$23,000 so the deficit will not be a great amount but it needs to be addressed.

Mrs. Amaral asked for clarification regarding the assessment to Dartmouth is as it concerns “Voke.”

Mr. Kiely explained “we” have no control over funding of “Voke” other than a vote at Town Meeting or through the Town’s representative on Voke’s School Committee.

Mr. Nunes asked what happened to the State talk of funding education.

Mr. Kiely stated we are not alone but most of the funding went to the cities.

Mr. Nunes proposed inviting local legislators to come before the Committee.

Dr. Jenkins supported Mr. Nunes’ proposal.

New Hire Update for 2019-2020: Dr. Gifford reported the District has filled almost all of its vacant instructional positions except for some recent additions and referred the Committee to the list of new hires provided to them in their packets.

Dr. Gifford mentioned the new hires recently participated in Project Time facilitated by Tracy Oliveira, Director of Teaching and Learning.

Dr. Gifford stated Jeff Caron, Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics recently resigned and that a search committee - chaired by Mr. Thibault, DHS Principal - has been formed and met today to set some guidelines so that the position can be filled with the best candidate as quickly as possible.

Mr. Oliver asked for the make-up of the Committee.

Dr. Gifford provided the names and positions of those individuals on the committee.

Dr. Gifford noted Mr. Gallishaw is working on filling positions vacated in his department.

Mr. Oliver remarked that he would like – when building the budget next year – to discuss more funding for technology for increasing staffing or raising salaries.

Dr. Gifford agreed with Mr. Oliver.

School Choice Update: Dr. Gifford provided an update of school choice enrollment noting high school aged children of staff who live out of district are included in this number and reported the current enrollment is 109 over the 4 participating grades.

NEW BUSINESS

Driver Training Update: The matter was tabled for a future meeting.

Superintendent’s Evaluation Presentation:

Dr. Gifford proposed putting the formal evaluation of the Superintendent on a two year cycle and this evening’s presentation would be a mid-cycle review focused on the progress of the innovation work being done within the District through its involvement with the Innovative and Transformational Leadership Network.

Dr. Gifford referred the Committee to the Mid-Cycle Progress Report which was provided to them in their packets pointing out some of the information provided therein.

Dr. Gifford provided a PowerPoint presentation as it concerns innovation work being done and to be done throughout the District explaining the more salient points specifically the “GPS Statement” developed by the Core Team (DPS staff) and “Compass Points” which help define the purpose of the partnership with the Innovation Network.

Dr. Gifford noted there are “Ambassadors” (DPS staff) who are leaders within their schools who assist in fostering the message and work of this program.

Dr. Gifford reminded the Committee of the District’s partnership with the Highlander Institute and how the high school will continue to include more cohorts of teachers; the middle school will continue its partnership on a consult basis; and the District will expand the partnership this year to include grades 2, 3 and 4 focusing on math.

Dr. Gifford summarized her presentation by stating the District is very pleased with the work being done and the energy and involvement of teaching staff is confirmation that the partnerships are helpful and working noting the District will continue with this work.

The Committee thanked Dr. Gifford for her presentation.

Proposed School Committee Dates:

Dr. Gifford proposed the following meeting dates through December 2019 for the Committee’s consideration: October 28th November 18th and December 16th.

The Committee agreed on the dates.

Mrs. Amaral stated that these dates can be scheduled.

Mr. Nunes asked if the Maintenance and Custodial personnel could be invited to the October 7th meeting.

Dr. Gifford stated that would be fine and that she may have another group she would like to invite as well.

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

- Dr. Gifford described the first two days for instructional staff and referred the Committee to the Opening Day Agenda as well as the back to school professional development day information provided to them in their packets.
- Dr. Gifford reported that over \$18,000 has been earned through the textile recycling bins which are located at all the school buildings noting each school retains its own account for proceeds from their bins noting the program has been in place for 2 years.
- Dr. Gifford provided data on Summer School 2019 which was held at the Quinn School: 218 students were enrolled with 62 staff members were employed; breakfast, lunch and transportation were provided at students. Dr. Gifford shared some parent comments with the Committee.
- Dr. Gifford referred the Committee to information on the Administrators’ Retreat which she provided to the Committee.
- Dr. Gifford invited High School Principal Ross Thibault and Guidance Counselor /FLIP Coordinator Daniel McGrath to come to the podium to provide information about the High School’s Flip Program which just completed a successful inaugural year.

DHS FLIP Program: Mr. Thibault reminded the Committee of the FLIP program - which was “pitched” to it back in January/February 2019 - which stands for Flexible Learning & Individualized Pathways to a DHS Diploma.

Mr. Thibault gave a brief PowerPoint presentation wherein program data was provided including enrollment - 20 students. Mr. Thibault noted he was pleased with the program’s success and is looking forward to the coming year when more focus can be placed on underclassmen.

Mr. McGrath explained that the main focus this past year was to “target” those students who would benefit most from the program which were senior class members to ensure they would graduate. Mr. McGrath explained the referral and “in-take” process for participants in the program.

Mr. Thibault noted he was most proud of the fact that 15 out of the 16 seniors who were enrolled in the program received their diploma and the one individual who did not graduate is still enrolled and working towards the goal.

Report of the Chair: Mrs. Amaral reported on the following.

- School starts next Wednesday, August 28th.
- Starting today, if high school students need to make schedule changes the guidance department is available.
- Band camp has begun and Thursday is the band cookout.
- Football pre-season has begun.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, September 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Quinn School Community Room.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to adjourn and not to convene in to Executive Session - as there are no updates on negotiations to report - at 5:11 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent