

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

November 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 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 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: Mr. Thibault, Ms. Chavier, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. McHenry, Mrs. Townson and members of the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Renee Vieira, President of the Dartmouth Educators Association, Dartmouth resident and parent, addressed the Committee asking it to consider, when looking at the FY21 budget, where Dartmouth “falls” relative to the rest of the State in per pupil spending.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to approve the Regular Session Minutes of October 28, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 28, 2019, as written, with the stipulation that they be held until such time as the matter or matters for which the sessions were held have been resolved. The motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Sophia Waite provided an update of recent activities and events happening at the high school.

- First term grades have been issued.
- Fall sports have concluded with a number of teams making the state tournament: volleyball finished its season undefeated and the girls’ field hockey team received the Division I Sportsmanship award.
- Winter sports season is starting.
- DHS Band won its fourth consecutive national title.
- DHS Debate Team participated in its first meet on November 9th: many students placed with some moving to the semi-finals.
- DHS Cheer Team had strong performances at regionals this past weekend.
- Superlative or Homecoming Dance will take place soon and over 600 students are signed up to go: the

dance is open to all high school grade levels this year.

-Spirit Week starts November 21st and ends with a pep rally on Wednesday, November 27th.

-DHS will be hosting the annual faculty volleyball tournament on November 26th; funds raised will be donated to the Environmental Law Association.

RECOGNITION

Mr. Nunes invited the Dartmouth Schools Music Director, Mr. William Kingsland, and the Dartmouth High School Marching Band Drum Majors: senior Luke Higgins - Head Drum Major; junior Mitchell Morin, and junior Lyah Esplana, to the podium to be recognized for the Marching Band's fourth consecutive National Title (Division Five).

Mr. Kingsland spoke briefly thanking the Committee for this recognition and pointed out the students' ability to outperform their competitors despite the weather conditions and, through their concerted efforts and attention to detail, they were able to surpass their previous performance.

Mr. Higgins addressed the Committee praising the members of the band for their work ethic as well as the band's instructors.

Mr. Morin addressed the Committee explaining how excited he gets every fall for band season and that he doesn't know how but each year gets even better.

Miss Esplana addressed the Committee informing them that this is her first year as a drum major and this position has given her the advantage of experiencing the band as a whole; during the winter she is on the dance team which performs with the percussion group only.

Mr. Kingsland noted that directing the band takes the effort of many people: Tom Aungst, Michael Rayner, Tyler Kingsland, Addison Kaeterle among many others.

The Committee thanked Mr. Kingsland for his years of dedication and service to the band program and congratulated him, the instructors and the students on their accomplishments this season and seasons past.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Unified Arts NYC Excursion – April 2020
- DECA – Request to Participate in Competitions 2019-2020

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes, to approve the Unified Art Department's request to travel to New York City and DECA's Request to Participate in Competitions 2019-2020, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Spotlight on Kids – Dartmouth High School

Principal Ross Thibault introduced the following DHS students and members of the Robotics Team and invited them to address the Committee and provide a demonstration: seniors Vaibhav Dubey, Will Fang,

Nick McMaster, Nick Carnes and Brian Leong; sophomores Jack Kertscher, Jaryel Figueroa and Lucas Dion.

Vaibhav Dubey, President of the Robotics Team, provided a brief history of the team which has been in existence for six years under the advisement of Sam Brodsky, DHS science teacher, and the newly appointed co-advisor Gary Lauher, DHS math teacher; Mr. Dubey continued explaining the competition process for the robotics program.

Mr. Dubey explained that the season begins in September when the year's project is decided at the "Kick-off Party" in Boston and, if you are successful, you get to attend the world's competition which is held in April.

Mr. Dubey invited the Committee to come to its next scrimmage which is being held in the DHS Cafeteria on November 24th from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm.

Nicholas McMaster, co-captain of 7571: programming and design.

Nick Carnes, co-captain of Team 7571: lead mechanical engineer.

Jack Kertscher, co-captain of Team 13406: scheduler.

Brian Leong, a builder for Team 13406: design and construction.

Jaryel Figueroa, a builder for Team 7571.

Lucas Dion, a builder for Team 13406.

William Fang, former co-captain of Team 13406 and now, the Minister of Information for both teams handling fundraising and social media.

Dr. Gifford asked about the summer session classes.

Mr. McMaster responded that the course was started two years ago which was held at Southworth Library with 15 students participating and last summer 2 courses were offered at the high school using the robotics lab: we hope to offer the course this summer.

OLD BUSINESS

School Committee Policy – Second Readings: Assistant Superintendent Michelle Roy presented the following School Committee policy for a second reading indicating that no changes have been made to the policy since the first reading:

-SC Policy JKAA Physical Restraint Prevention and Behavior Support Policy

Ms. Roy proposed minor revision to SC Policies JKAA, wherein language will be added to include "In all circumstances, the use of medical or mechanical restraints is strictly prohibited." This was a component of our procedural guidelines but we did not have explicit language in our policy.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the revision to School Committee Policy JKAA - Physical Restraint Prevention and Behavior Support - as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

FY21 Budget Timeline: Mr. Kiely provided a brief explanation of the FY21 Budget timeline informing the Committee that it is fairly similar to last year's noting he plans to present the budget to the Committee for its initial review at the February 10th meeting.

Mr. Kiely noted that the Committee's budget vote will likely fall on the date of the joint meeting with the Select Board and Finance Committee which will likely be scheduled for April 6th; this was the case last year which is not ideal but we don't have much choice given calendar constraints.

Mrs. Amaral interjected at this time to discuss with the Committee a recent invitation from the Town Administrator to a joint meeting of the Select Board and Finance Committee to be held on December 16th which is the date of this Committee's next meeting.

Mr. Oliver asked "what is the purpose of the meeting."

Mr. Kiely responded he was told the meeting is to discuss the financial policies and budget timeline and goals for the upcoming budget season.

Dr. Karafotis stated she felt the Committee should attend.

Dr. Jenkins agreed with Dr. Karafotis.

The Committee agreed to attend the December 16th joint meeting and to add another meeting date to its schedule: December 9th.

Mr. Kiely stated he will include the joint meeting in the budget development timeline; additionally he will request that the agenda and additional materials be forwarded the week prior to the meeting.

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

- Highlander work continues at the elementary schools in the Grade 2 classrooms focusing on math.
- Project Time continues for new teachers working on "Skillful Teachers."
- DEF Spelling Bee was held on November 14th; "we" had a good showing.
- District Curriculum Council met last week to continue its discussion on resources.
- We recently applied for a *Project Lead the Way* grant; we are looking to adopt curriculum at DHS for computer science and engineering.
- The Stadium dedication was held last Friday; it was wonderful and moving event.

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

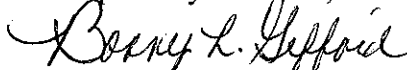
- Dr. Jenkins reported that \$16,900 was raised for the Dartmouth Education Foundation (DEF).
- Dr. Jenkins added that DEF grant applications will be available soon after the new year.
- Mr. Oliver commented that the Stadium dedication was a very nice event and thanked all those involved.
- Mrs. Amaral stated she will be attending the M.A.S.C. Superintendent Evaluation Drive-In Event on Monday, November 25th.

NEXT MEETING

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

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:33 p.m. in order to provide an update with respect to collective bargaining with union and non-union personnel 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