

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

October 7, 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 6:35 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, Mr. Gallishaw, Mrs. Townson, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Grandfield, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Pavao, Ms. Correia, Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Porter, Mrs. McHenry and members of the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Renee Vieira, President of the Dartmouth Educators Association, addressed the Committee asking it to recognize how committed the teachers, teacher assistants, school nurses and secretaries – all employees – are to the education of students in the Dartmouth School District and how they would like to be treated fairly as if they mattered like the children of Dartmouth matter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Regular Session Minutes of September 9, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 9, 2019 and September 25, 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

New Student Representative Sophia Waite, a sophomore at Dartmouth High School, provided an update of recent activities and events happening at the high school.

-Most students like the new change in the high school schedule from 6 periods to 5 periods and a PACE period.

-DHS Athletics are off to a great start: the volleyball team is undefeated.

-DHS Marching Band has done well winning competitions these past two weekends.

-DHS recently held an AP Kick-Off Rally.

DHS Club Exposition was held recently which brought in many students to explore current and new clubs

offered at the high school.
-Distractology Lab has started; helping new student drivers.

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Gifford invited Andrew Crisafulli, recently appointed Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics, to the podium to speak a little about himself.

Mr. Crisafulli spoke briefly about himself including his experience in other school districts and participation in professional organizations; he stated he is looking forward to working in Dartmouth and to continue the growth of the athletic programs.

Mr. Nunes asked what comments/thoughts he has on the issue of “vaping.”

Mr. Crisafulli responded “vaping” – which has become a nationwide epidemic –was addressed in freshmen and sophomore wellness and advisory classes in the school districts he has worked previously; he added M.I.A.A. conducts workshops for athletes as well as parents.

RECOGNITION

Dr. Gifford and Mr. Kiely recognized the District Facilities Director as well as Maintenance and Custodial Personnel for their continued efforts in readying the schools for the opening of each year and maintaining clean and functional buildings despite their age.

Facilities Director – Richard (Rick) Ferreira; **Maintenance Personnel** – Joseph Medeiros; Ricardo Melo; Steven Ouellette, Antonio Pacheco, Bobby Ferreira and Allen Braley; **Custodial Personnel** – **DHS:** Richard Pereira (Head), Kevin Abrantes, Jose Freitas, Eduardo Goncalo, Kyle Paquet and Matthew Raposo; **DMS:** Randell Pontes (Head), James Brogden, Antonio Camara, and James Riley; **QUINN:** Robert Nunes (Head), Arthur Pimental, Jr., Maria Rocha and Paula Tripp; **DeMELLO:** Joseph Fritze (Head), John Cabral, Marc Pereira; **POTTER:** Nicholas Chamberlain (Head) Daniel DaSilva, and Jesse Martin; **CUSHMAN:** Michael Bachand (Head), Donald Green.

The Committee praised the aforementioned personnel for their continued service as well as dedication and commitment to the School District and to students.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 20-2

Resolution Awarding A Driver Training Program

WHEREAS: Bid invitations for Driver Training Services were duly advertised and one bid proposal was received and opened at the Dartmouth Public Schools’ Administration Office at 11:15 a.m. on September 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS: the following bid result was recorded:

Martin Auto School, Inc., 487 Belleville Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02746

Cost to be paid to the Town by the bidder - \$205.00 per class

The above bid proposal was analyzed and has been judged as the most advantageous and responsible bid; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that Martin Auto School, Inc., of 487 Belleville Avenue, New Bedford, MA be awarded the Dartmouth High School Driver Training Program for the 2019-2020 school year based on Dartmouth Public Schools' specifications dated September 16, 2019.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to award the contract for a driver training program to Martin Auto School, 487 Belleville Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02746 at a cost of \$205 per class to be paid to the Town by the bidder. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Oliver asked if "we" have ever had another bid beside Martin.

Mr. Kiely responded that "we" have had other bids.

Mr. Oliver stated he has heard mixed reviews.

Mr. Kiely stated that the structure of the bid is not "overly attractive" to other companies; the company pays the District to provide driver training to students.

Dr. Jenkins asked how this year's bid compares to previous bid.

Mr. Kiely stated it is significantly less.

Dr. Jenkins asked how many classes are provided.

Mr. Kiely responded approximately seven (7); he added the money is deposited into the student activity account - the general fund.

Mr. Nunes asked the duration of the contract.

Mr. Kiely responded it is a one year contract with two one year renewal options.

Mr. Kiely added that "we" are going to look at ongoing issues with the bid to see if changes can be made; however, a change will likely affect the income received under the current bid structure which is a consideration.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Gifford recommended the following fundraising activities requests to the Committee for its approval.

- **Fundraising Activities – DMS PTO**
- **Fundraising Activities – DeMello/Cushman PTO**
- **Fundraising Activities – Potter PTO**

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the DMS, DeMello/Cushman and Potter PTO fundraising requests as presented. The motion carried with Mr. Nunes abstaining.

- **Unified Arts Cultural Excursion Permission Request**
Judy Cronin, Lead Teacher of the Unified Arts Program at Dartmouth High School, joined by Morgan Bozarth and Susan Brunette provided an overview of the proposed educational/cultural excursion to Greece (April 2020) as well as indicating possible fundraising activities to help defray costs to students.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to approve the Unified Art Department's request to travel to Greece in April 2020 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- **DHS Cultural Excursion Permission Request**

Lili Chamberlain, World Language Teacher at Dartmouth High School, provided an overview of the proposed educational/cultural excursion to Costa Rica (February 2021) as well as indicating possible fundraising activities to help defray student costs.

Dr. Jenkins asked if trip insurance would be available.

Ms. Chamberlain responded that the DHS administration is talking about requiring trip insurance.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis, to approve the high school's request to travel to Costa Rica in February 2021 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- **DSMA – Permission to Participate in National Competition**

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis, to approve the DSMA's request to participate in the National Competition as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Roy explained that all school improvement plans (SIP) are aligned with the district improvement plan (DIP). This year - for the elementary level SIPs - we have changed the presentations to eliminate some of the repetitiveness.

Ms. Roy invited Tracy Oliveira, Director of Teaching and Learning, to summarize the *Teaching and Learning* portion of the improvement plans: each of the schools will present their *Access and Equity*; *Community Engagement* portions of the plan as well as mentioning something they are particularly *Excited About* at their school.

Mrs. Oliveira summarized the elementary level *Teaching and Learning Portion* of the SIP which is based on the District Improvement Plan adding that the teaching and learning initiative has been mainly unchanged for the past several years and we have made great strides.

Mrs. Oliveira gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting new initiatives to *Teaching and Learning*:

- Implement ST Math Grades K-2
- Grades 2, 3 and 4 will develop Math project based lesson/unit outlines that address the critical areas of each grade level (in conjunction with Highlander and our C.I.A. teams)
- Complete implementation of Balanced Literacy with K-1 Phonics and Grade 5 Reading Workshop
- Provide ongoing PD on the workshop model, focusing on the components of the mini lesson

Andrew B. Cushman School Improvement Plan for 2019-2020

Early Childhood Director Melissa McHenry gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Andrew B. Cushman School Improvement Plan for the 2019-2020 focusing on the following areas: *Access and Equity* and *Community Engagement* as well as what they are "Excited About."

Access and Equity:

- Supporting the effective use of low tech and high tech teaching tools across academic areas in order to increase personalized and blended learning opportunities for all students.
- Incorporating Brain Based Therapeutic Practices - "*The 4 Rs*" - across all school settings from the classroom to the playground.

Community Engagement:

- Maintaining ongoing and diverse family communication through a variety of means including social media and virtual presentations.
- Enhancing communication between parents, Early Intervention providers and if applicable outside agencies, to ensure a smooth transition process from Early Intervention to the Dartmouth Public Schools for both parents and students.

Excited About:

- Purposeful Play Professional Development and Book Talk.

Mr. Oliver commented that early childhood education (pre-school and kindergarten) teaching practices are continually evolving; he asked if “we” find, as a District, that these changes are making a difference at the elementary level.

Mrs. McHenry responded that the Department of Education (DOE) is collecting data now from parents of incoming kindergartners to find out their experience; Mrs. McHenry believes the DOE is trying to find out how this correlates with MCAS scores.

Dr. Jenkins commented she was happy to hear about play being incorporated into the curriculum.

Dr. Karafotis asked about emergent storytelling.

Mrs. McHenry explained emergent storytelling; the purpose is for students to take the idea of the story and to carry it over, for example, to the “construction/building” centers; the goal is to help them develop writing skills.

Mr. Nunes asked about the use of the new technology - clear touch interactive panels.

Mrs. McHenry stated they are not fully installed but the students will use them as learning centers.

Mrs. Amaral offered her assistance in partnering with parents.

Joseph DeMello School Improvement Plan for 2019-2020

Principal Catherine Pavao and Assistant Principal Elizabeth Correia gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Joseph DeMello Elementary School Improvement Plan for the 2019-2020 focusing on the following areas: *Access and Equity* and *Community Engagement* as well as what they are “Excited About.”

Access and Equity:

- Foster diversity awareness in staff and students through professional development and instruction.
- Continue to design learning spaces that are brain-based, therapeutic environments.

Community Engagement:

- Utilize technology as a presentation tool and investigate virtual capacity for parent presentations.
- Capitalize on technology platforms to keep the community informed on school topics and happenings.
- Continue to engage families in connected activities (family nights, PTO events, etc.) to strengthen the school-home connection.
- Identify topics of interest to parent at each grade level.

Excited About:

- Embedded peer learning walk time – PLCs at their best.

Dr. Karafotis commented she is happy to hear about the professional development taking place at the schools particularly the peer observations: this must require some use of substitutes, what is what the substitute teacher situation.

Ms. Roy stated the District is “struggling” right now to reach its target of 90 substitute teachers but there are 70 substitute teachers available; occasionally teacher assistants cover a classroom.

Dr. Jenkins commented she is excited to hear about the alternative seating at the elementary level as well as other levels.

Mrs. Pavao thanked the Dartmouth Education Fund which funded a grant to purchase flexible seating.

Mr. Oliver asked about “Pineapple Charting.”

Mrs. Pavao explained the “Pineapple Project.”

George H. Potter School Improvement Plan for 2019-2020

Principal Heidi Brooks and Assistant Principal Richard Porter gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the George H. Potter Elementary School Improvement Plan for the 2019-2020 focusing on the following areas: *Access and Equity* and *Community Engagement* as well as what they are “Excited About.”

Access and Equity:

- To integrate technology skills into Project Based Learning.
- To introduce the use of fidelity data relative to suggested strategies.

Community Engagement:

- To expand the use of social media platforms to engage our Potter families.
- To engage with Community Agencies to expand classroom experiences in art, cultural and historical significance.

Excited About:

- The opening of the North Dartmouth Branch Library.

Mr. Oliver asked what the plan is for the existing school library space.

Mrs. Brooks indicated Lynne Antunes, the Town’s Director of Libraries, will review “our collection”: books can go into classroom libraries.

Mrs. Brooks added that a soft surface pathway has been constructed that students will use to travel between the school and the new public library; this year “we” will be using both the school library and the new public library and once “we” see how this works a decision on the school library space will be made.

Dr. Karafotis thanked all the elementary administrators for their comprehensive summations.

Mrs. Brooks responded stating the summations help administrators to see how instruction is evolving.

James M. Quinn School Improvement Plan for 2019-2020

Principal Kyle Grandfield and Assistant Principal Audra Thomas gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the James M. Quinn Elementary School Improvement Plan for the 2019-2020 focusing on

the following areas: *Access and Equity* and *Community Engagement* as well as what they are “Excited About.”

Access and Equity:

- Revisiting our school-wide PBIS initiative throughout 2019-2020.

Community Engagement:

- Provide *Storytime* with Mrs. Thomas and friends.

Excited About:

- New Peaceful Playground.
- Professional development for staff on how Trauma impacts students with Dr. Applestein.

Mr. Nunes commended all elementary administrators for their presentations.

Dr. Karafotis asked about the restructuring of the master schedule.

Mr. Grandfield explained “we” are trying our best to continue common planning time for grade levels and not just on common planning time days which was difficult to schedule since we have a different number of classrooms at each grade level.

Dr. Jenkins offered her services for *Storytime*.

Mr. Oliver asked if there is an existing playground structure.

Mrs. Thomas responded there is but this past summer “we” focused on the blacktop.

Mr. Oliver asked if there is an educational challenge in the District.

Dr. Gifford commented that the District has wonderful building administrators: the challenge is money to continue to support the work they do.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to approve the four (4) School Improvement Plans as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Acknowledgment of Contribution: Dr. Gifford reported that she and Mr. Kiely recently met with Dr. James McBratney, Administrator of the McBratney Trust, and acknowledged that the Trust contributed an additional \$100,000 to the Dartmouth Scholarship Trust which will now be known as the “Dartmouth Scholarship Trust funded by Dr. J. Greer and Elizabeth I. McBratney” as well as contributing \$50,000 to the Dartmouth Enrichment Fund (which they had previously established). The Trust’s non-expendable principal balance is \$229,500.00 and the balance of the Fund is \$117,724.55 after these donations.

The Committee thanked the McBratney Family for its continued support enriching the opportunities of Dartmouth students.

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

- Superintendent’s Chats have begun.
- Athletic Teams are doing so well; win-loss statistics were provided.
- Through our involvement in the Innovation and Transformation Network, DPS was recommended to have a visit by a group called K12 Education which is a virtual school who wanted to see best innovation practices: they visited the high, middle and and Quinn schools.

- High School Media Production Teacher, Robert Perrotti, obtained a \$1,000.00 gift card from Bob's Discount Furniture.
- Dr. Gifford shared a brief video that was presented by Dartmouth leadership members at the Innovation Leadership Network conference held this past weekend in Denver, Colorado.

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

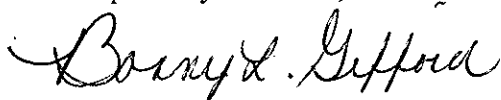
- SEPAC Community Resource Fair is happening Sunday, October 20th from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the high school.
- The Chair reminded the Committee about its invitation to Senator Montigny and Representative Markey to attend a meeting to speak about school funding legislation advising them that Senator Montigny is not available on the dates provided and asked if there are other dates that can be agreed upon to provide as an alternative.
- Town Meeting is Tuesday, October 15th.
- DHS Marching Band is currently undefeated and upcoming competition in Cranston RI on Saturday and a parade on Monday, October 14th.
- DEF Spelling Bee is Thursday, November 14th from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. forms are available on-line.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, October 28, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Media Center at Dartmouth High School.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. in order to provide an update with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel and to discuss a complaint brought against an employee 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