

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

July 8, 2019

The warrants for bills payable were reviewed and signed by the School Committee.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairperson Chris Oliver, 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 and Mr. Nunes. Dr. Jenkins was not present.

Also present: Ms. Roy, Mr. Kiely, and Mrs. Genthner. Dr. Gifford was not present.

Visitors present: Mrs. Townson, Mrs. Oliveira, Mr. Doane, Mr. Robidoux, Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Pavao and members of the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 10, 2019. The motion carried with Dr. Karafotis abstaining.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 10, 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. Karafotis abstaining.

PRESENTATION

- **DMS School Improvement Plan for 2019-2020**

The following middle school administrators were invited to the podium to present their 2019-2020 School Improvement Plan: Darren Doane, Principal; Carl Robidoux, Associate Principal; and Peter Rossi, Assistant Principal.

Mr. Doane informed the Committee of the efforts made to ensure the Middle School's plan aligns with the District's goals.

Mr. Robidoux directed the Committee members to information provided to them in their meeting package and provided an overview of the *Teaching and Learning* component of the School Improvement Plan.

Teaching and Learning

- Create and monitor scope and sequence for all content areas.
- Continue to use data to identify student needs and match with targeted interventions and enrichments.

Mr. Robidoux remarked on and commended the collaborated efforts of the teaching staff to improve student results.

Mr. Robidoux provided an explanation of the data and its primary purpose of identifying individual student needs and to provide proper interventions.

Mr. Robidoux was glad to report that through blended and personalized learning the middle school has started to collaborate more with the elementary schools noting the importance of a K-8 “flow.”

Mr. Robidoux concluded by sharing comments made by eighth grade students in response to the annual survey as well as feedback from instructors which focused on the school’s one to one technology capability and the positive impact it is having on their learning and teaching respectively.

Mr. Rossi provided an overview of the *Access and Equity* component of the School Improvement Plan.

Access and Equity

- Provide more experiences for authentic use of technology to differentiate instruction.
- Provide professional development on reluctant learners and students with anxiety.

Mr. Rossi reported on the on-going professional development middle school staff receives concerning students with anxiety and reluctant learners.

Mr. Rossi noted that the middle school has begun to offer professional development which focuses on the effects social media and technology have on students as it relates to anxiety and depression; he added the middle school will likely invest more time on this type of professional development in the future.

Mr. Doane provided an overview of the *Community Engagement* component of the School Improvement Plan.

Community Engagement

- Support college and career exploration activities.
- Expand and refine family nights.

Mr. Doane expounded on the work done by the guidance department who have begun to assist students with creating a personal digital portfolio - through the MASSHire Career Information System - as a way for students to begin the process of exploring and identifying their learning styles and future career options: the program is a three year process.

Mr. Doane reiterated the efforts the school continues to make in order to maintain and improve its relationship with parents and the community: family night, talent show, literacy night as well as the school's community service work.

Mr. Doane concluded the presentation with a video during which students could be seen at work or play illustrating the work being done at the school to advance their learning.

Mr. Nunes asked about the hydroponics project which was presented last fall.

Mr. Doane stated that Ms. Hellstrom and Ms. Mitchell are maintaining the project and that a grant was recently received to support the program.

Dr. Karafotis thanked the administration for its presentation and commented that she was happy to hear of the collaboration with the elementary schools.

Mr. Oliver asked the administration what - during the past year - they are most proud of.

Mr. Doane responded for the team stating that the middle school is most proud of its non-complacency; educating students is a continuous balance between academics and the social emotional well-being of children.

Mr. Oliver asked what percentage of teachers are using the on-line ASPEN grade book.

Mr. Doane responded that every year more teachers are utilizing on-line programs to keep parents and colleagues informed of student achievement.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the School Improvement Plan for 2019-2020 for the Dartmouth Middle School as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

New Hire Update: Ms. Roy reported that there have been approximately 40 transfers and/or new hires with about half being new hires; 2 positions have been re-posted and two late openings in the technology department have been posted recently.

Stadium Renovation Project Update: Mr. Kiely reported the stadium renovation project is progressing slightly ahead of schedule and overall the project is going very well: fencing is being installed today and we are close to putting down the turf.

Mr. Nunes asked if there is a date for the turf to be delivered.

Mr. Kiely responded that it most likely will not come before the end of next week; the one item beyond our control is Eversource engineers who need to approve some items which is the only thing holding us back right now.

Mr. Oliver stated he was very impressed by the work being done after his recent walk through; he noted the LED lighting which should not "spill over" to neighboring properties.

Mr. Oliver reported he spoke with Shawn MacInnes, Town Administrator, and "we" should start to see "some movement" regarding the parking lot to be put in behind Town Hall - approximately 60 additional parking spaces are planned.

NEW BUSINESS

Report of the Chair: Mrs. Amaral reported that Summer School started today as well as Summer Sports Camp.

Mr. Nunes congratulated those Dartmouth High School spring sport athletes who were recognized recently by the *Standard Times*.

Mr. Nunes asked if there would be warrants to sign prior to the next scheduled school committee meeting.

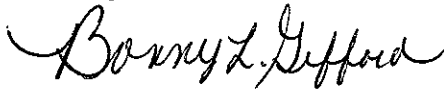
Mr. Kiely stated warrants would be available for signature prior to the next meeting and that he would let the Committee know when they are ready.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, August 19, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Quinn School Community Room.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to adjourn to Executive Session at 4:50 p.m. in order to discuss collective bargaining strategies 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