

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

October 28, 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 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, Mr. Thibault, Ms. Chavier, Mr. Martin, Mr. Gill, Mrs. DaSilva, 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 support all staff and to continue speaking to the Town regarding health insurance costs and to consider fair cost of living increases. Mrs. Vieira added that the Union looks forward to positive future bargaining sessions and reiterated the Union's invitation to school committee members to attend said sessions.

Chris Pereira, Dartmouth resident and current Chair of the Dartmouth Veteran's Advisory Board, addressed the Committee in support of the current Dartmouth name and logo. Mr. Pereira referenced a letter from Jacob Ventura in support of keeping the logo (a copy of the letter was provided to the Committee.)

Lasella Hall, President of the New Bedford branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (N.A.A.C.P.), addressed the Committee in support of creating an inclusive commission or task force to investigate the history of the Dartmouth Indian mascot and to discuss its future use.

Eric Andrade, parent of a Dartmouth Public School student, addressed the Committee in support of changing the current logo and to no longer use the name "The Tribe."

Megan, a local native Pocasset Wampanoag and council member, stated she was asked to address the Committee to give "voice" to local Native Americans; the Pocasset Wampanoags ask that you open a discussion in order to know the concerns of the tribe and to educate students about the history of the local Native Americans and to discuss the use of the Indian logo.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Regular Session Minutes of October 7, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 7, 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.

- Athletics Report: the field hockey team earned 11th seed in the upcoming State Tournament and will travel to Plymouth North on November 2nd to compete; the volleyball team is currently 19-0 and likely to have the top seed in the upcoming State Tournament; boys and girls soccer have qualified for the State Tournament; the varsity Cheer Team recently competed coming in 8th; the marching band earned first place this past weekend as well as receiving best music, overall effects and percussion.
- Wednesday junior and sophomore students will be taking the PSATs.

Mr. Nunes acknowledged that Tyler Ferreira from the Boy Scouts of America Troop 74 was in attendance and is working on his preliminary report for “AmeriBadge.”

PRESENTATIONS

Dartmouth High School Improvement Plan for 2019-2020

Principal Ross Thibault gave a power-point presentation highlighting the Dartmouth High School Improvement Plan for the 2019-2020 focusing on the following areas: *Teaching and Learning*, *Access and Equity* and *Community Engagement*. Mr. Thibault stated that the plan for this year continues to build on the work established last year. It was added that the plan is in alignment with the District’s Improvement Plan.

Teaching and Learning:

- Expanding the use of blended, personalized and project-based learning as a core instructional strategy.
- 2nd cohort of DHS Teachers partnered with building-based administration and the Highlander Institute completing Lesson Study model.

Access and Equity:

- Working to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our Student Support Team in order to ensure ALL students’ academic and social-emotional wellness needs are met.

Community Engagement:

- In an effort to increase community engagement and streamline communication efforts, a parent survey will be conducted and adjustments to our engagement practices will be made based upon the response to that survey.

Dr. Jenkins commented that there have been studies in education news questioning some models of personalized and blended learning particularly those that rely heavily on technology to deliver instruction.

Dr. Jenkins asked Mr. Thibault to explain the blended and personalized learning model the high school is using and how the efficacy of this model is assessed.

Mr. Thibault stated instructors are told you can implement blended and personalized learning without the use of technology: the high school has implemented the lesson study protocol which is the major part of the work being done with the Highlander Group focusing on the objective or learning outcomes and design implementation.

Mr. Thibault stated assessment depends on the lesson: a product needs to be produced or students provide feedback which indicates the information was learned from the specific lesson.

Ms. Roy added a large component of the model is collaboration.

Mr. Oliver asked how the 1 to 1 technology program is working at DHS.

Mr. Thibault responded that last year (the first year) went well and, with the addition of an instructional technology specialist, this year “we” should see greater improvement of the integration of technology into lesson plans.

Dr. Karafotis asked how the first cohort was determined.

Mr. Thibault stated a survey of faculty was conducted: this year teachers volunteered to be part of the second cohort and new departments have been included.

Dr. Karafotis asked if they are not included in the cohort can a teacher participate in the blended and personalized learning model.

Mr. Thibault stated that non-cohort teachers may participate.

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

2019 State Assessment Data – Michelle Roy, Assistant Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Roy provided the Committee with a power-point presentation of the 2019 State Assessment Data for the District noting that “we” are almost completely computer based.

Ms. Roy provided a review of the results noting that the State will maintain the same graduation requirements for the class of 2021 and 2022.

Ms. Roy explained the grading for Next-Generation MCAS which is the current system as well as pointed out the reporting of growth and the variables of reporting for the different grade levels.

Ms. Roy noted that this will be the last year for the “composite scale” of scores and the State will move to the scale score next year.

Ms. Roy reported the District’s ELA/Math/Science & Technology scores as they compare to the State’s.

Ms. Roy explained the District’s growth as it compares to the State’s.

Ms. Roy stated “we” have been improving steadily on our growth.

Ms. Roy provided information to address improving test scores: including mini lessons, use of the work shop model, improving interventions at the middle school and inclusion of the PACE block at the high school.

Ms. Roy briefly mentioned some of the work being done - as described in the School Improvement Plans - to improve teaching and learning which will help to improve scores and growth as assessed by the State.

Dr. Karafotis asked if Math struggles are statewide.

Ms. Roy responded that ELA historically is higher than Math scores.

Mr. Nunes asked for further explanation of the scoring process.

Ms. Roy responded.

Mr. Nunes asked if we can “track” what questions students get wrong.

Ms. Roy responded we can and we can’t: it varies at each grade level.

Mr. Oliver asked about chronic absenteeism and advanced course work completion and are we doing anything to target those students who are chronically absent.

Ms. Roy explained that schools are addressing this issue.

Dr. Jenkins commented we do not have data for grades 1 and 2 which, if we did, may indicate that students at the Grade 3 level improved more than can be shown with current State data.

Mrs. Amaral asked for information regarding MCAS-Alt.

Ms. Roy stated she did not have that information at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

School Committee Policy – First Readings: Assistant Superintendent Michelle Roy presented the following School Committee policy for a 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.

Committee members will review the proposed policy revision. A second reading on the policy will be held at the next School Committee meeting and, if recommended, a vote to approve will be taken.

Proposed School Committee Meeting Dates: Dr. Gifford proposed the following meeting dates from January through March 2020 for the Committee’s consideration: January 13th, January 27th, February 10th, March 9th, and March 23th including proposed dates for the School Choice (1/27/2020) and FY21 Budget (3/23/2020) public hearings.

Dr. Gifford noted budget sub-committee meetings will be scheduled during this time.

The Committee was in agreement on all proposed dates.

Discussion – Dartmouth Logo: Mrs. Amaral explained why this matter is on the meeting’s agenda.

Dr. Jenkins stated her support of creating a commission to hear and put on public record the opinion of local Native Americans in order to help this Committee make an informed decision on the matter: Dr. Jenkins stated she would be in support of changing the current logo.

Mr. Nunes thanked the public for their emails concerning this matter: Mr. Nunes stated his support of not changing the current logo.

Dr. Karafotis commented on the many emails and correspondence she received on the matter in support of the current logo and noted at the elementary level the curriculum includes Native American history: Dr. Karafotis agreed with Dr. Jenkins to establish a commission to listen to the entire community on the matter to be sure the Committee makes the right decision.

Mr. Oliver thanked those members of the community for addressing the Committee at the September working session as well as via email: Mr. Oliver stated, at this time, he is not in favor of establishing a committee but supports dialogue with the local Native Americans on the matter.

Mrs. Amaral noted the rules as they pertain to the school logo in the student handbook and the State legislature's current bills on the matter: Mrs. Amaral was not in support of creating a committee in advance of the legislature's vote.

No motion was offered.

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

- Administration met with Principals to discuss MCAS data.
- Many staff attended MASS CUE last week: a report on what was learned will be composed and shared with staff.
- Many staff attended a Legal Summit given by Attorney Cat Lyons who works closely with the District on special education matters.
- Students are in the process of making Veteran's Day cards.
- Russells Mills program is in "full force" with grade 3 students visiting the program with Polly Guilbeault's high school students.
- November 25th DESE will be holding a "drive-in session" on the new Superintendent Evaluation rubric.

Report of the Chair: In lieu of a report, Mrs. Amaral asked Mr. Nunes to provide an update of his recent meeting with Senator Mark Montigny and whether we should try again to meet with Representative Markey. Mrs. Amaral asked for members to forward dates they would be available.

Dr. Jenkins asked that Mr. Nunes wait on his update and to put the matter on a future meeting agenda.

Mr. Nunes noted the band is competing in New Jersey on November 9th.

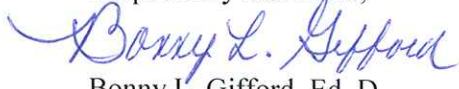
It was reported the girls' volleyball team won its match this evening and completed its season undefeated.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, November 18, 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 8:15 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bonny L. Gifford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent