

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

December 9, 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 Dartmouth High School Library Media Center. 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, Mr. Kiely, and Mrs. Genthner. Ms. Roy was not present.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments were not offered by the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the Regular Session Minutes of November 18, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Executive Session Minutes of November 18, 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.

- The Volleyball Tournament fundraiser raised \$1,000.00 for the Environmental Law Alliance.
- The DHS Football team defeated Fairhaven on Thanksgiving Day: 14-0.
- The Seniors defeated the Juniors in the recent Powder Puff tournament which was played to support the D.E.C.A. Club.
- Sophomores won the Spirit Week competition.
- Student Athletes just started the winter sports season.
- The DHS Theater Company recently performed *Charley Brown* and *A Christmas Carol*.
- 2nd Quarter midterms are scheduled for December 20th.
- Dartmouth PSAT scores were released today.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on the Superintendent Evaluation Process and Rubric: Dr. Gifford highlighted some of the updates reported at the Massachusetts Association School Superintendent forum held on November 25, 2019.

Dr. Gifford reported she met with Mrs. Amaral and Mr. Nunes last week to discuss her proposed SMART Goals which were provided to the Committee in their meeting packets.

Dr. Gifford noted one change to the superintendent evaluation rubric that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is requiring is the inclusion of four (4) goals: one addressing student learning, one addressing professional practice and two addressing district improvement.

Dr. Gifford continued her explanation of the rubric changes reporting that goals should include 6 to 9 “indicators” - similar to teacher evaluations - at the same time making sure to “cover” all four standards. Dr. Gifford noted that areas may be added or amended as required throughout the year to address any needs that may “come to light” throughout the process.

Dr. Gifford reported DESE proposed that superintendents who have been working for 3 or more years as a superintendent be evaluated every two years.

Mr. Nunes stated his support for any form of the evaluation; he added that what “we” are looking for is a rating of proficient.

Mr. Oliver agreed but stated his support for a rating of exemplary if the evidence supports it.

Dr. Jenkins stated she believes DESE does not want to discourage the granting of an exemplary rating but rather to emphasize the need for good evidence to support such a rating.

Dr. Gifford referenced her SMART Goals and explained that she did not record any evidence at this time pointing out that any presentation made at a school committee meeting by directors and administrators can be considered evidence that verifies alignment with goals and standards; Dr. Gifford proposed “we” should be more intentional and state the goal and/or standard the presentation aligns with or addresses at the time it is given.

Dr. Gifford stated she will be meeting again with Mrs. Amaral and Mr. Nunes to discuss the “indicators” and focus areas.

Mrs. Amaral asked the Committee about the one year versus two year evaluation timeline and how member term expirations or changes in committee membership would affect current evaluation.

Mr. Nunes stated new members would have to abstain from the evaluation or do we want to set a deadline for March to complete the evaluation.

Dr. Jenkins stated she did not think members could be made to abstain from evaluating the Superintendent.

Mr. Oliver clarified that the question is whether the Committee would like to move from a one year evaluation time line to a two year evaluation time line.; Mr. Oliver added he is fine with changing the timeline to every 2 years and to agree upon a time line by March or before the next election.

Dr. Jenkins clarified that if the Committee agrees to change to a Superintendent evaluation every two years one would not be done this year.

Dr. Karafotis agreed with a two year evaluation.

The Committee agreed to change the Superintendent evaluation to a two year cycle; this year will culminate in a mid-cycle review.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to approve the SMART Goals as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

FY21-FY25 Capital Improvement Plan (Draft): Mr. Kiely directed the Committee to the District's draft FY21-25 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which was provided to them in their meeting packets and "walked" the Committee through the first year of CIP requests which total \$1,995,000; Mr. Kiely offered to answer questions on any of the 38 items currently listed in the 5 year plan.

Mr. Kiely explained that FY21 items would be considered at the June or October 2020 Town meeting.

Mr. Kiely noted and thanked the Town for its past support of the District's capital improvement requests and hopes to be able to rely on this support now.

Mr. Oliver asked for an update on the District's security system in the next executive session.

Mr. Oliver asked if chrome books are still being funded through school choice; are they leased or owned by the District.

Mr. Kiely responded it's a combination of all the means mentioned.

Mr. Oliver asked Mr. Kiely to speak more about the high school track.

Mr. Kiely stated that outdoor tracks are not designed to last as long as this track which is used by the District and townspeople without improvements.

Mr. Kiely explained the track will not be suitable for track meets in the near future.

Dr. Jenkins asked how long the technology appropriation has been at \$200,000.

Mr. Kiely stated it has not increased in the nine years he has been in the District.

Dr. Jenkins asked about the furniture request and if we are going to incorporate "flexible seating."

Mr. Kiely stated that the FY21 request does not encompass "flexible seating" the request is \$150,000 and once cafeteria tables are purchased there will not be much left over; Mr. Kiely added that "flexible seating" may be considered as classroom furniture is being replaced.

Dr. Jenkins asked about the Facilities Master Plan (FMP) and suggested that place holders be put at the end of the CIP to remind the public that some of the school buildings will need to be replaced; Dr. Jenkins added that "this" Committee has not decided on a plan.

Mr. Kiely agreed with and responded to Dr. Jenkins stating he could revise the placement of FMP to the end of the CIP.

Mr. Oliver asked that FMP be put on a future agenda to revisit.

Dr. Karafotis asked if the security camera initiative is District wide.

Mr. Kiely stated that it is.

Dr. Karafotis asked what the life span would be on a track renovation.

Mr. Kiely stated approximately 15 years.

Mr. Nunes asked about the boiler retrofit and if State money for this project is available as it was for a similar project the District completed a couple of years ago.

Mr. Kiely stated that unfortunately there are no State “green” grants at this time but that he had heard – through the grapevine - of the possibility of Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funding.

Mr. Kiely stated that the boiler project would be dependent upon us “not doing it all ourselves;” we have worked with the utility companies over the years which has worked out well but we have to be ready to work with them which means we need the funding.

Mr. Nunes asked about the athletic field restoration line item in year three of the plan.

Mr. Kiely responded that there is much renovation to be done on the outside areas throughout the District and he is working with Andrew Crisafulli, the District’s Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics, to come up with a plan on how to address all the issues.

Mrs. Amaral agreed with Dr. Jenkins to have more specific language added to the FMP item on the CIP.

Mr. Kiely stated he would make the revision to the Master Facilities Plan item and that he would bring it back to the Committee for its consideration at the next regular session.

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

- Cushman Kindergarten students were recognized at an ST Math Conference for achieving one of its goals.
 - DeMello and Cushman had a van and bus driver appreciation breakfast just before Thanksgiving.
 - Tomorrow, DHS Counseling Department will host a breakfast during the PASE period for the 72 students who received the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship.
 - Holiday concerts will be starting soon.
 - Mr. Perrotti and his students from the media program have been selected to present at the Learn Launch Conference to be held at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston in January.
 - Many of the schools are involved in “giving tree” projects donating to families in need. There are still “tags” available on the Potter school tree if you are interested.
 - The North Branch Library with the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE) is hosting an Elementary Principals Networking Meeting on December 11th featuring the Bristol County Advocacy Center.
 - DCTV taped Mrs. Goodman and Ms. Henry-Baird’s fifth grade class’s PSA for the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Campaign to reduce plastics.
 - DMS 8th Grader Alexandria Adams won an essay contest and her essay is being sent to the State Level.
 - DMS Robotics team competed at UMASS/Dartmouth recently; they finished 4th in robotics performance and won the robot strategy and innovation award.
 - DMS supported 37 families over Thanksgiving with baskets and gift cards.
 - Students from the PASS and PALS programs made 200 PB&J sandwiches for various organizations.
 - We are proposing to hold all future school committee meetings in the DHS library media center.
- The School Committee agreed to hold all future school committee meetings in the DHS library media center.

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

- SEPAC meeting this coming Thursday has been postponed to a future date which has yet to be scheduled.
- The Committee would like to personally thank the Tremblay's employee who handled the recent bus incident when that person is available.

Mr. Kiely stated he would try to arrange this.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee with the Select Board and Finance Committee will take place on Monday, December 16, 2019 at 6:35 p.m. in Room 304 of the Dartmouth Town Hall. The Committee will meet in Executive Session on Monday, December 16, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 314 of the Dartmouth Town Hall.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes 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