

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

September 1, 2020

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Shannon Jenkins at 6:30 p.m. and was held in the Dartmouth High School Media Center; the public was not allowed to physically access the meeting. The Chair stated the meeting is streaming live on the DHS Media YouTube channel and noted the meeting was being videotaped for future broadcast over DCTV. The Chair advised viewers that public comment can be emailed to the recording secretary at kathleengenthner@dartmouthschools.org.

Present were the following members: Dr. Jenkins, Mrs. Amaral, Mrs. Waite and Mr. Nunes. Mr. Oliver was not present.

Also present: Dr. Gifford, Ms. Roy, Mr. Kiely, and Mrs. Genthner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Jenkins stated public comments can be emailed to the recording secretary at kathleengenthner@dartmouthschools.org. Emailed public comments are shared with Committee members and will be made part of the public record once tonight's meeting minutes are approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of August 18, 2020 and August 24, 2020. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Executive Session Minutes of August 18, 2020 and August 24, 2020 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 completed. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Gifford introduced a PowerPoint presentation narrated by Tracy Oliveira, Director of Teaching and Learning, which included information about Dartmouth Public Schools' 2020-2021 new instructional hires.

Dr. Gifford reminded the Committee of administrative new hires who are not part of tonight's presentation: Ian Flint, Director of Music; Dr. Justine Dale, Early Childhood Director, and Marc Hayes, Assistant Principal at DMS noting Mr. Hayes had been a teacher at DMS.

The PowerPoint presentation was shared with the Committee and streamed via zoom.

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Karlie Thatcher	Grade 4 Teacher	DeMello	Jennifer Clune
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Rebecca Condon	Long Term Substitute - Kindergarten	Potter	Dana Doucette
Craig Dutra	Grade 5 Teacher	Potter	Darren Fleurent
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Casey Allaire	Grade 3 Teacher	Quinn	Janine Tavares
Jaclyn Bryant	Long Term Gr 3 Substitute Teacher	Quinn	Janine Tavares
Elle Canessa	Grade 1 Teacher	Quinn	Michelle Gioiosa
Kimberly Carreiro	Special Education Teacher	Quinn	Lindsay Vafides
Desiree Metta	Grade 5 Special Education Teacher	Quinn	Shannon Salvador
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Kaitlyn Kocur	Gr 7 Special Education Teacher	DMS	Lisa Katz-Turgeon
Mary Klecan	Grade 6 Math & Science Teacher	DMS	Anne Brown
Stephanie Monteiro	Grade 8 Math Teacher	DMS	Lisa Keene
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Eric Bosworth	Computer Science Teacher	DHS	Doug Smith
Marissa Hill	Math & Computer Science Teacher	DHS	Patricia Fletcher
Julie Newman	Math Teacher	DHS	Debra August

PRESENTATION

Dr. Gifford explained that school districts starting the year under a remote learning model are required to have a school committee vote to approve an athletic program.

Dr. Gifford requested that the Committee vote this evening on whether or not to approve the proposed 2020-2021 athletic season after listening to the presentation of Andrew Crisafulli, Dartmouth's Athletic Director.

Mr. Crisafulli joined the meeting via zoom technology and shared his PowerPoint presentation (*DHS 2020-2021 Athletic Season*) with the Committee which was also live streamed via zoom.

Mr. Crisafulli explained the proposal was developed under the guidance and requirements of DESE, DPH, EEA, and MIAA.

Mr. Crisafulli pointed out that the traditional 3 season model will be changed to a 4 season model for this year and provided the reasoning for the change and what the changes would be.

Mr. Crisafulli stated the fall season would start Friday, September 18th and run through mid-November; the winter season would start at the end of November and run through February vacation; fall II season would start at the end of the February and run through April vacation and the spring season would run from the end of April through June.

Mr. Crisafulli listed the questions behind Dartmouth's school based decisions as they pertain to athletics noting the challenges and concerns but stated the focus is always what is in the best interest of students.

Mr. Crisafulli explained the protocols around matters involving COVID-19 symptoms, diagnoses and/or exposure and highlighted safety precaution.

Mr. Crisafulli highlighted common safety precautions that would be followed including "pod" practices: the same 5-10 students working together in drills.

Mr. Crisafulli explained the 4 "keys" to move forward: communication, transparency, responsibility and "buy in."

Mr. Crisafulli stated that the user fee will not be collected until final rosters are set.

Mr. Crisafulli stated coaches will be required to take the NFHS COVID-19 on-line course.

Mr. Crisafulli stated there will be no locker room use allowed: student athletes must arrive with all gear and ready to play/practice.

Mr. Crisafulli stated there will be no fan attendance allowed at athletic events: it is hoped varsity games will be streamed live or recorded.

Mr. Crisafulli reported students have been registering for teams noting the numbers are lower than normal at this time.

Mr. Crisafulli highlighted the work that remains to be done particularly as it concerns the league in which Dartmouth will compete and creating schedules.

Mr. Crisafulli concluded his presentation by circling back to the primary focus of running an athletic program; what is in the best interest of students and provided 6 reasons to support his proposal.

Mr. Nunes asked about the status of multiple sport athletes.

Mr. Crisafulli responded that MIAA is allowing for a 4 season athlete this year.

Mr. Nunes asked if there will be games scheduled with schools in Rhode Island.

Mr. Crisafulli responded there would not be.

Mr. Nunes asked if the vote is for the proposed athletic plan only and not which students would be allowed to participate due to hybrid or virtual learning status.

Mr. Crisafulli stated that that is correct.

Mrs. Waite asked if parents will be allowed to drive their children to competitions.

Mr. Crisafulli stated in a regular year the answer would be no but it is a topic that has been discussed and is being considered.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the 2020-2021 athletic program as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent's Update on the Start of School: Dr. Gifford provided an update on the start of school.

Dr. Gifford stated yesterday was opening day for teachers and the start of the extended professional development period.

Dr. Gifford stated the administration continues its work on the virtual academies for each of the grade levels; the elementary level will be provided by the District in the DPS Virtual Academy noting teachers will be hired to teach under this format and will work from the Quinn Elementary School.

Dr. Gifford stated Mrs. Oliveira, the Director of Teaching and Learning, will oversee the program and that a stipend position will be posted for a program coordinator to assist her with the daily administration of the program as well as to assist the instructors.

Dr. Gifford added that grade level mentors will be assigned to these new teachers who will be teaching "our" curriculum.

Dr. Gifford stated the District's high school virtual school option will be Edgenuity.

Dr. Gifford informed the Committee that it was determined Edgenuity would not work at the middle school level and that the District is looking at the TECCA platform for its middle school option.

Dr. Gifford added that if parents have questions about the virtual learning option to please call their child's school.

Dr. Gifford referred to the 2020-2021 school calendar – provided to Committee members in their meeting packets - which was updated to reflect the cohorts that students have been placed in; noting it has been posted to the District website.

Dr. Gifford stated the question and answer program regarding COVID-19 with Dr. Brommage was very informative and well received and has been posted on the District website.

Mr. Kiely provided an update on what safety measures are being taken in the schools.

Mr. Kiely took the opportunity to thank Rick Ferreira, Facilities Director, as well as maintenance and custodial staff for their commitment to readying the district buildings for the start of school.

Mr. Kiely provided details of what has been done and purchased: HVAC maintenance, window maintenance and installation; adjustment of custodial hours in order to provide time for continued cleaning of high touch areas; purchasing of electro-static sprayers for disinfecting; configure classrooms and other areas to allow for social distancing; purchasing additional student supplies to reduce sharing; installation of signage in schools to develop safe traffic patterns; created isolation places for symptomatic students; the purchase of large quantities of hand sanitizer as well as personal protective equipment (PPE) including face masks and desk shields as well as specialized PPE for staff that it is recommended to use: gloves, gowns, safety glasses, face shields and clear masks.

Dr. Gifford reported that some staff have submitted for leave predominantly for child care reasons; central and building administrators will be meeting to discuss coverage for their positions.

Dr. Gifford commented that the District is putting together 3 separate education systems within a short period of time which is expensive and has posed many scheduling challenges particularly for the Special Education Department adding that this issue will be the focus of discussions for the coming week.

Mrs. Waite asked if parents who did not opt for virtual learning could make the change to that option when the district has moved to its hybrid phase.

Dr. Gifford responded that requests would be taken individually.

Mr. Nunes asked how long it would take to reconfigure the schools back to full capacity.

Mr. Kiely responded at least several days.

Mrs. Amaral had a suggestion to add the cohort information on the website electronic calendar.

Mrs. Roy stated we could check with the technology department.

Mrs. Amaral asked if there is PPE in the classrooms now.

Mr. Kiely stated PPE has not been distributed to the classrooms but will be before students arrive.

Mrs. Amaral asked if PPE will be available in every classroom or just at the nurses' office, for instance.

Mr. Kiely stated it would depend on what the need is within a specific classroom adding PPE will be readily available.

Dr. Jenkins asked if can be clearly published what the remote learning options are, who should parents contact with questions about remote learning and what the deadline date is for signing up for the remote learning option.

Dr. Jenkins asked what the plan is to get materials to students when they are working from home; either in hybrid or remote.

Dr. Gifford responded that the schools will be handling those matters adding that Chrome Books are being disseminated by the schools who are contacting parents.

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Gifford had nothing further to report.

Report of the Chair: Dr. Jenkins had nothing further to report.

Other Matters that May Not have been anticipated at the time of the Agenda posting.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.; the public will not be granted physical access to this meeting but will have continued access to meetings via live stream at the DHS Media YouTube channel <https://youtube.com/dhstvmedia>.

Mr. Nunes asked to include "non-union" personnel to the purpose for going in to Executive Session.

Dr. Jenkins accepted Mr. Nunes' request as an amendment to the purpose for entering in to Executive Session.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite 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 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