

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

September 14, 2020

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Chris Oliver at 5:30 p.m. and was held remotely via Zoom Technology. 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 comments can be emailed to the recording secretary at kathleengenthner@dartmouthschools.org to be read during Public Comment.

Present were the following members: Mr. Oliver, Dr. Jenkins, Mrs. Amaral, Mrs. Waite and Mr. Nunes.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Oliver stated public comments can be emailed to the recording secretary at kathleengenthner@dartmouthschols.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.

Mrs. Genthner reported two public comment emails were received and shared with the Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Regular Session Minutes of September 1, 2020. On a roll call vote the motion passed: 4-0. Mr. Oliver – abstained; Dr. Jenkins – Yea, Kathleen Amaral – Yea, Mary Waite – Yea, and John Nunes – Yea.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 1, 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. On a roll call vote the motion passed: 4-0. Mr. Oliver – abstained; Dr. Jenkins – Yea, Kathleen Amaral – Yea, Mary Waite – Yea, and John Nunes – Yea.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- **Fundraising Activities – Dartmouth School Music Association (DSMA)**

Mr. Oliver welcomed Ian Flint, Director of Music for the Dartmouth Public Schools, and Russ Benoit, President of the Dartmouth Schools Music Association, to the meeting.

Mr. Oliver noted the fundraising request was provided to Committee members in their meeting packets and asked if there were any questions.

Dr. Jenkins thanked Mr. Flint and Mr. Benoit for the detailed financial report that was included with the fundraising request and asked for an explanation of the role of consultants in the program.

Mr. Flint provided an explanation of the role of consultants and how they are paid.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Amaral to approve the DSMA fundraising request as presented. On a roll call vote the motion passed: 4-0. Mr. Oliver – Yea; Dr. Jenkins – Yea, Mrs. Amaral – Yea, Mrs. Waite – Yea, and Mr. Nunes – abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Dr. Gifford stated tomorrow is the first day of school for students noting school is being conducted remotely for most students at this time; students in Pre-K with an individualized educational plan (IEP) requiring the student to be enrolled in the integrated Pre-K program as well as students enrolled in the PATHS, PASS and PALS programs will be physically returning to school tomorrow.

Dr. Gifford reported that Dr. Erin Brommage was invited back to the District this past week; the meeting was held in the high school auditorium, nurses as well as other personnel who will be working directly with children were invited to attend.

Dr. Gifford stated a posting will be placed on the district Facebook page to update parents on TECCA information which is the virtual option for middle school students.

Dr. Gifford iterated the district's decision making process regarding virtual learning options for all grade levels: Dartmouth personnel will continue to monitor students who opted for the virtual model adding these students are not unenrolled from Dartmouth Public Schools.

Dr. Gifford reported the middle school administration plans to welcome students in the virtual model who are interested in participating in any after school program or club that will be offered virtually.

Dr. Gifford reported, with the help of grant funding, five new teachers were hired to staff Dartmouth's elementary virtual school; a reallocation of current staff was done to fill the last position adding a coordinator (stipend) position was created in order to assist staff and parents.

Dr. Gifford stated there is a new teacher in all virtual grade levels except for grade 5 which will be filled with and shared by 2 current DPS elementary coaches who are certified teachers.

Dr. Gifford provided enrollment data for the virtual learning models: DHS – Edgenuity (50), DMS – TECCA (75) and elementary level (148).

Mr. Kiely provided an update on personal protection equipment (PPE) reporting 27,000 pieces of PPE have been distributed throughout the district and more orders are expected to arrive soon including HEPA filters.

Mr. Kiely reported the USDA has approved the continuation of free food similar to what was provided during the spring; we will have food for students in the schools starting tomorrow and starting October 1st we will have food in school as well as for students to take home for the day they will be learning remotely.

Mr. Kiely added students who will not be returning to school will be provided food; distribution of meals to students learning remotely has not been finalized at this time.

Mr. Kiely stated the USDA is funding this food program through December 31, 2020; food will be provided to all students for free until that time.

Dr. Gifford asked the Committee for a consensus on whether or not to allow students learning under the virtual model to participate in athletics and other extracurricular activities.

The Committee's consensus, albeit not unanimous, was to allow students learning under the virtual model access to all extracurricular activities including athletics.

NEW BUSINESS

School Committee Policy EBCFA (Face Coverings) – Vote: Ms. Roy explained the policy process and policy sub-committee function.

Ms. Roy read excerpts of the proposed policy for clarification: masks must cover the nose and mouth; mask exemptions require medical documentation and building administrator approval.

Ms. Roy stated staff and students should provide their own masks.

Ms. Roy stated masks will be provided to staff as needed and requested that the second (2nd) sentence in the fifth (5th) paragraph be stricken from the policy to better reflect what the district will be doing.

Ms. Roy reviewed policy violations and consequences.

Dr. Jenkins commented it needs to be clear to parents that providing a note concerning mask exemption initiates the process of review and does not guarantee exemption.

Mr. Nunes confirmed that students participating in after school activities will need to wear a “regular” mask and will not be allowed to wear a gaiter or bandana.

Ms. Roy stated that was correct: gaiters and bandanas are not typically multi-layered which is a requirement for a face covering.

Dr. Jenkins added that gaiters/bandanas are proven not to provide efficient protection.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve School Committee Policy EBCFA (Face Coverings) with the removal of the second sentence in the fifth paragraph as agreed. On a roll call vote the motion passed: 5-0. Mr. Oliver – Yea; Dr. Jenkins – Yea, Mrs. Amaral – Yea, Mrs. Waite – Yea, and Mr. Nunes – Yea.

Superintendent’s Update: Dr. Gifford provided the following:

- Negotiations continue with the union.
- The Board of Health will hold a flu clinic at Dartmouth High School on September 18th from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

Report of the Chair: Mr. Oliver confirmed the Joint Session with the Select Board and Finance Committee is scheduled for Monday, September 21st.

Dr. Jenkins stated the Dartmouth Education Fund (DEF) will not be holding its annual spelling bee fundraiser this fall but is hoping to hold something in the spring.

Mr. Nunes stated the DHS Band, Percussion and Color Guard will be starting their virtual shows with US Bands this weekend at Memorial Stadium.

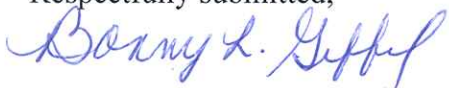
Other Matters that May Not have been anticipated at the time of the Agenda posting.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, October 5, 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 moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. in order to provide an update with respect to collective bargaining with 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