

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

October 19, 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 6:30 p.m. and was held in the Dartmouth High School Library 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 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@dartmouthschools.org.

Mrs. Genthner reported no public comment emails were received concerning tonight's agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of October 5, 2020. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent's Update on the Start of School: Dr. Gifford provided an update on the start of hybrid phase of the return to school plan.

Dr. Gifford reported the phasing in of the hybrid model concluded today with the first cohort of eighth grade and high school level students reporting.

Dr. Gifford stated Mr. Kiely continues to equip the school with air filters and other items to maintain safety and health protocols.

Dr. Gifford informed the Commissioner has "put out" that any snow days this year can be used as a remote day.

Dr. Gifford reported the school district has a capital improvement article in the amount of \$75,000 to be used for HVAC repairs on the October 27th Town Meeting warrant.

Dr. Gifford informed the Committee that a Grade 5 Teacher for the Virtual Elementary School has been hired and will begin next week.

Dr. Gifford stated adjustments have been made to the middle school virtual format adding that a special education teacher will be offering more time using Dartmouth curriculum to assist those students requiring additional support in the virtual format.

Mr. Kiely stated today was the first day transporting 13 grade levels and everything went very well.

Mr. Kiely commented that transportation is an evolving process; it will take a few weeks for parents to become more comfortable with sending their children on the bus and so changes will be made as necessary.

Mr. Kiely asked that staff and students dress in layers in the coming weeks as the temperature lowers as outside air continues to be drawn into the buildings; although this will lessen as the year proceeds.

Dr. Jenkins asked that a communication be made to the bus company not to arrive too early.

Mr. Kiely responded the bus company is aware and adjustments will be made.

Dr. Jenkins asked what the protocol is when someone tests positive.

Dr. Gifford responded providing a brief explanation of the more general protocols and added that parents will be receiving a chart to explain what the protocols are for someone who tests positive.

Dr. Gifford stated that school administrators are working with teachers about what to provide to a student who has to quarantine (i.e. at DMS maintaining google classroom, access during advisory periods.)

Dr. Gifford informed the Committee that a weekly check-in call has been set up with the Board of Health: participants include Chris Michaud - the Town's Director of Health; Dr. Gifford; Mr. Kiely; Lori Jodoin - the District's Assistant Pupil Support Services Administrator who supervises nurses; Kelly Stowell - the District's Lead Nurse.

Mr. Nunes asked how full the school buses are at this time.

Mr. Kiely responded that 22 students is the greatest number of students scheduled on a bus which is well within the guidelines.

Mrs. Waite asked how the school district will address parents who travel during the holidays.

Dr. Gifford responded that she hopes parents will follow the governor's regulations which are included in the chart to be provided to parents.

Dr. Gifford continued stating we cannot “police” this behavior but we do address it when it becomes known; telling parents to have their child tested before returning to school.

Mrs. Waite asked about substitute teachers for the virtual classrooms.

Dr. Gifford stated staffing itself is an issue; in general, particularly at the elementary level, teacher assistants who have trained alongside the teachers cover classrooms when teachers are absent and explained what is being done to provide appropriate coverage when teachers are absent.

Proposed Revision of School Committee Policy EBCFA (Face Coverings) – Vote: Ms. Roy provided a brief explanation of the proposed revision to School Committee Policy EBCFA (Face Coverings) including a statement to adhere to any future updates as implemented by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) so we do not have to revisit this policy in the future.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded Mrs. Amaral to approve the proposed revisions to School Committee Policy EBCFA (Face Coverings) as presented. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- A training session was scheduled with the MA Association School Committees (M.A.S.C.) for November 16th at 5:30 or 6:00 p.m.
- The district recently purchased a digital library for students K-5; this program was offered last year under a trial subscription.

Report of the Chair: The Chair commented that MASC will hold its Annual Meeting in November providing virtual sessions which have been very informative in the past.

Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) has scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, October 28th at 6:00 p.m.

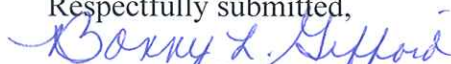
Other Matters that May Not have been anticipated at the time of the Agenda posting.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place at the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center on Monday, November 9, 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 Mrs. Waite to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:05 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