

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

June 22, 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 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, Dr. Karafotis, Mrs. Amaral and Mr. Nunes.

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

At 6:47 p.m., Dr. Jenkins suggested a brief recess be taken in order to check on the technical difficulties in live streaming the meeting.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to take a brief recess to address the technical difficulties. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting resumed at 7:02 p.m. when Mr. Oliver stated that due to technical difficulties the meeting will not be streamed live but will be made available to the public as a recording.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 8, 2020, as written. On a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0: Mr. Oliver – Yea; Dr. Jenkins – abstained; Dr. Karafotis – Yea; Mrs. Amaral – Yea; John Nunes – Yea.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 8, 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 carried 4-0:

Mr. Oliver – Yea; Dr. Jenkins – abstained; Dr. Karafotis – Yea; Mrs. Amaral – Yea; John Nunes – Yea.

RECOGNITION

Dr. Gifford recognized Jeanne Sheridan, the District's Director of Nutrition, for all her hard work in organizing and running the successful "Grab and Go" Food Program for the past three months at the Quinn School as well as noting the efforts of other District staff.

Dr. Gifford invited Mrs. Sheridan to say a few words.

Mrs. Sheridan thanked Dr. Gifford and the Committee for this recognition and reported that approximately 60,000 meals were served noting a partnership with Blount Fine Foods who were "very generous in their donations."

Mrs. Sheridan stated with the assistance of the USDA *Farms to Families* program we were able to provide "produce boxes" to families in addition to the meal served: the Council on Aging will be continuing to hand out "produce boxes" every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Mrs. Sheridan commented that the program's success was due to the commitment of members from the cafeteria, secretarial and maintenance staff.

Dr. Gifford commented that Mrs. Sheridan is being too humble; this was a huge undertaking that benefited not only the families served but the community as well.

The Committee offered its thanks for facilitating a much needed service.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Gifford recommended the following request to the Committee for its consideration:

- Request for the DHS Marching Band and Color Guard to operate the food concession at the Dartmouth Living Memorial Stadium for the 2020 Football Season

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral, to approve the request of the DHS Marching Band and Color Guard to operate the food concession at the Dartmouth Living Memorial Stadium for the 2020 Football Season. On a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0: Mr. Oliver – Yea; Dr. Jenkins – Yea; Dr. Karafotis – Yea; Mrs. Amaral – Yea. John Nunes was unable to participate in the vote due to technical difficulties.

OLD BUSINESS

Summer Maintenance Projects: Mr. Kiely reported the District's capital improvement requests were "funded" at the recent Town Meeting and provided a brief explanation: including security camera improvements at all schools; bleacher replacement at the Middle and Quinn schools; "green" boiler project at the Middle School; art equipment replacement at the High School.

Mr. Kiely provided a list of summer maintenance projects to the Committee in their meeting packets highlighting some of the items on the list including locker renovations, classroom refurbishing as well as routine summer maintenance.

Mr. Kiely added that we are “down” staff and do not have part-time summer maintenance personnel which will make for a very busy summer.

Dr. Jenkins asked if the reason for not having part-time summer maintenance help was due to the Town’s hiring freeze.

Mr. Kiely responded the hiring freeze is part of the reason as well as previous employees are not available.

Superintendent’s Update on Matters Affected by COVID-19: Dr. Gifford provided updates relating to matters affected by COVID-19.

- Commissioner meeting last week provided various examples of teaching models ; it is our understanding that a draft guidance will be made available soon.
- Once this guidance is received we are going to set up task forces to address the models of what school could look like: i.e. full capacity; hybrid of in-school and remote learning; and fully remote learning.
- Survey parents providing a summary of the models with a series of questions: for example are you planning on sending your child back to school; will you be transporting your child to school.

Dr. Gifford stated that we know what needs to be addressed (curriculum, facilities, transportation); we are waiting on guidelines from the State in order to know the parameters within which our plan needs to be created.

Dr. Jenkins asked about transportation particularly as it relates to comments made at the recent Town Meeting.

Mr. Kiely responded indicating that transportation will be a major issue adding we do not have a capacity to social distance to any significant degree on school buses.

Mr. Kiely listed some of the difficulties the District will face: the need to increase the number of buses; the fact that we cannot legally add to the number of buses under our current contract and may need to go out to bid; the likelihood of being able to find more buses.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed School Committee Dates for Summer/Early Fall 2020: Dr. Gifford provided proposed summer/early fall 2020 meeting dates to the Committee in their packets: July 13th, August 3rd, August 24th, September 14th, and October 5th.

The Chair asked that a second meeting date be added in July to discuss matters affected by COVID-19.

The Committee agreed to all the other dates proposed with summer meeting dates starting at 4:00 p.m.

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

- Summer Institute: 63 participants are meeting to collaborate on curriculum issues.
- Extended School Year will be held virtually and will start on July 6th
- Financial Literacy Grant planning has been completed: financial literacy will be offered to high school juniors during the P.A.C.E. period.

Report of the Chair: Mr. Oliver reported on the following:

- To include 2 M.A.S.C. Resolutions on the next meeting's agenda: COVID-19 Expenses and The Response to Social Economic and Racial Justice in our Communities.
- Tonight is Dr. Karafotis' last meeting and is leaving the Committee with over 38 years of experience in the District: Committee members offered their best wishes and appreciation.
- Town Elections are being held tomorrow.

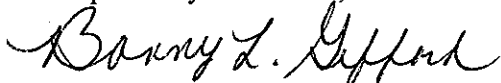
Other Matters that May Not have been anticipated at the time of the Agenda posting.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will be determined and will begin at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:46 p.m. for the purpose to strategize with respect to individual personnel contracts and not to return to Open Session. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent