

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

January 27, 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 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. Additionally, Mrs. Amaral announced that the meeting was live streaming on the DHS Media YouTube channel and will continue in this format for future meetings.

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

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

Visitors present: Mrs. Oliveira, Mr. Gallishaw, Mr. Thibault, Ms. Chavier, Mr. Martin, Mr. Grandfield, Mrs. Yermalovich, Mrs. Thomas, Ms. Correia, Mrs. McHenry, Mr. Porter and members of the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Renee Vieira, DEA President, thanked the School Committee and the School Administration for its support in the negotiating process particularly as it concerns health insurance costs and that it appreciates the dialogue with the Town.

PUBLIC HEARING

School Choice – 2020-2021

Mrs. Amaral opened the Public Hearing on School Choice for the 2020-2021 School Year at 6:57 p.m. inviting those who wish to speak on the matter to come to the podium and to state their name for the record.

Renee Vieira, Dartmouth Educators Association President and Dartmouth high school teacher, asked the Committee to consider the large class sizes particularly in “MCAS” and co-taught classes when deciding on School Choice later this evening.

Mr. Amaral asked if anyone had any further comments to make on school choice; hearing none.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to close the Public Hearing on School Choice for 2020-2021 the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Amaral closed the public hearing on school choice at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the Regular Session Minutes of January 13, 2020. The motion carried with Dr. Jenkins abstaining.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 13, 2020, 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 completed. The motion carried with Dr. Jenkins abstaining.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Brendan Rego, the student representative for the second half of the 2019-2020 school year, introduced himself and provided an update of recent activities and events happening at the high school.

-Term 3 officially began last Friday.

-100 AP students sat for a mock exam on January 25th.

-Approximately 40 DHS students will be pursuing the seal of bi-literacy by sitting for the AAPPL exam in April; this is the first time it is being offered to DHS students.

-The Multi-Cultural Club will be presenting a Chinese New Year Celebration after school tomorrow, Tuesday, January 28th.

-Next month students grades 9 through 11 will be participating in the course selection process for the 2020-2021 school year.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Gifford recommended the following field trip/competition requests to the Committee for their approval:

- DHS Indoor Percussion/Dance Team requests permission to attend and compete in the WGI East Power Regionals in Toms River, New Jersey from March 14th until March 15, 2020.
- DHS Varsity Color Guard requests permission to attend the WGI East Power Regional Competition in Bethlehem, PA from March 21st through March 22, 2020.
- DHS Color Guard requests permission to attend and compete in the WGI Indoor Color Guard World Championships in Dayton, OH from April 1st through April 4, 2020.
- DHS Indoor Percussion/Dance Team requests permission to attend and compete in the WGI Indoor Percussion World Finals in Dayton, Ohio from April 15th until April 20, 2020.

Dr. Karafotis moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to approve the above-named requests as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION

Spotlight on Kids – James M. Quinn Elementary School

Principal Kyle Grandfield presented the Quinn school *Spotlight on Kids* highlighting the school's enrichment activities.

Mr. Grandfield stated that many students take advantage of enrichment opportunities and added that they do so on a voluntary basis: a video was shown wherein students could be seen participating in the various activities.

Mr. Grandfield reported that the Quinn School won the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge for the 5th consecutive year.

Mr. Grandfield recognized Kate Powers, the Quinn School Librarian, for all her work during the school year as well as her efforts with the summer reading challenge.

Ms. Powers explained what was being shown in the video: *Letters about Literature* a program for 4th and 5th grade students to write letters to authors who inspire and iSTEM centers.

The following students were in attendance and described their enrichment experiences: Addison Thomas (Gr 3), Quinn Racette (Gr 1), Reagan Racette (Gr 4).

NEW BUSINESS

School Choice – Vote to Participate in the 2020-2021 School Year: Mrs. Amaral invited Committee members to discuss school choice for the 2021-2020 school year prior to taking a vote on the matter.

Dr. Karafotis asked that the district continue its mindfulness regarding class size.

Mr. Oliver asked Dr. Gifford or Mr. Kiely for their thoughts on school choice.

Dr. Gifford stated the district has “looked” to accept 30 students each year; currently there are 103 school choice students: Grade 9 – 28 students, Gr 10 – 23 students, Grade 11 – 24 students and Gr 12 – 28 students.

Dr. Gifford reported there is a continued, “slight” decline in enrollment.

Dr. Gifford directed the Committee to the financial accounting of school choice funds.

Dr. Gifford recommended the District add 30 - 40 school choice seats at the high school in 2020-2021.

Mr. Oliver asked what the enrollment is for grades 8 and 9.

Dr. Gifford reported there are 236 students enrolled in grade 9 and 317 students enrolled in grade 8.

Dr. Jenkins noted there are 28 school choice students graduating this year.

Mr. Oliver noted school choice has “brought in” approximately \$1.5 million to the school district which has helped to fund programs and purchase equipment particularly the one-to-one computer program and the stadium project.

Dr. Jenkins commented that voting in favor of school choice is mainly to provide students what they want.

Mr. Nunes commented that he understands the benefit conferred by the funds received for participating in school choice but he is philosophically opposed to it.

Mrs. Amaral asked for clarification on the class enrollment numbers provided in the information given in the meeting packet.

Mr. Oliver commented that the benefits of participating in school choice are hard to dismiss and if circumstances were different there would be “different considerations.”

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins, to make Dartmouth Public Schools a school choice district for 2020-2021. The motion carried 4-1 with Mr. Nunes opposing.

School Committee Policy Update: The matter was tabled for a future meeting.

2019 Annual Report: Dr. Gifford submitted the 2019 Annual Report for the Committee's approval.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis, to approve the 2019 Annual Report as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

S.C.E.C. New Membership Vote: Mrs. Amaral brought forth the South Coast Educational Collaborative (S.C.E.C.) New Membership for the Committee's vote.

Dr. Jenkins moved that the New Bedford School District join the South Coast Educational Collaborative, as a member, with full benefits, privileges and responsibilities and subject to the terms and conditions of the Collaborative Agreement, approval by the Department of Education and subject to applicable Commonwealth rules and regulations.

Dr. Jenkins further moved that the Chairman of this School Committee is authorized, on behalf of the Committee, to execute all appropriate documentation to consummate the Committee's decision.

Dr. Jenkins further moved that the Superintendent of Schools is appointed as the District's representative on the Collaborative's Board.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to approve New Bedford's request to join S.C.E.C. as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Oliver moved that the Westport School District join the South Coast Educational Collaborative, as a member, with full benefits, privileges and responsibilities and subject to the terms and conditions of the Collaborative Agreement, approval by the Department of Education and subject to applicable Commonwealth rules and regulations.

Mr. Oliver further moved that the Chairman of this School Committee is authorized, on behalf of the Committee, to execute all appropriate documentation to consummate the Committee's decision.

Mr. Oliver further moved that the Superintendent of Schools is appointed as the District's representative on the Collaborative's Board.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis, to approve Westport's request to join S.C.E.C. as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- PD Strands have been approved and the curriculum office will get "those out" soon.
- Curriculum Instruction Assessment Group met recently to discuss the social studies standards and will be completing our K-12 alignment in that area.
- Planning for Summer Reading has started.
- Preschool and Kindergarten Registration has started and information is posted on the district website.
- Administrators attended the mid-winter conference last week: Jeff Lawrence was the keynote speaker.

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

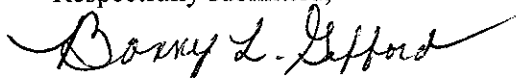
- Mr. Oliver recognized Mr. Perrotti for the television production program at Dartmouth High School and mentioned an article that was published recently in *Dartmouth Week*.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:40 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bonny L. Gifford".

Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent