

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

May 18, 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. 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: Mrs. Amaral, Mr. Oliver, Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Karafotis and Mr. Nunes.

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

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Gifford introduced Dr. Justine Dale the recently hired Early Childhood Director. Dr. Dale will be replacing Melissa McHenry who will be moving to the Potter School to replace Richard Porter as the Assistant Principal. The Committee was provided with Dr. Dale's resume prior to the meeting.

Dr. Dale spoke briefly about her professional experience and stated her goals.

The Committee welcomed Dr. Dale and wished her well in her new position.

PRESENTATION

Dr. Gifford stated the following students were recommended to her by the high school administration to receive the Superintendent's Certificate of Academic Excellence and presented the same to DHS Senior Sabrina Pires, who will be attending the Honors Program at Emmanuel College in the fall and to DHS Senior Victor Goncalves who will be attending Harvard University in the fall.

Dr. Gifford noted that Richard Gill, an Assistant Principal at Dartmouth High School, sponsored a \$1,000.00 scholarship from the Gill Family Charitable Trust to each of tonight's recipients.

Mr. Thibault highlighted Miss Pires and Mr. Goncalves's high school accomplishments.

Miss Pires and Mr. Goncalves expressed their gratitude for being chosen for this honor and spoke briefly about their high school careers.

The Committee congratulated and expressed their best wishes to Miss Pires and Mr. Goncalves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the Regular Session Minutes of April 27, 2020, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 27, 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 carried unanimously.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis to approve the Joint Session Minutes of May 11, 2020, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 11, 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 carried unanimously.

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE

Appointment of Chair:

Dr. Gifford, serving in her capacity as School Committee Secretary, sought nominations for the position of School Committee Chair.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis, to nominate Mr. Chris Oliver to serve as School Committee Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Oliver accepted the nomination of Chair of the Dartmouth School Committee.

Dr. Gifford declared that Mr. Oliver is now the Chair of the Dartmouth School Committee.

Appointment of Vice Chair:

Mr. Oliver sought nominations for the position of School Committee Vice-Chair.

Mrs. Amaral moved, seconded by Dr. Karafotis, to nominate Dr. Shannon Jenkins to the position of School Committee Vice-Chair. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Jenkins accepted the nomination of Vice-Chair of the Dartmouth School Committee.

Appointment of Secretary:

Mr. Oliver sought nominations for the position of Secretary to the School Committee.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to appoint Dr. Bonny L. Gifford to the position of Secretary to the School Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Gifford accepted the nomination of Secretary to the School Committee.

Chairperson Comments:

Mrs. Amaral thanked the Committee for supporting her in her tenure as Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Oliver offered comments about the role of the School Committee and thanked members for its collaborative relationship and expressed his hope to continue the good work that has been done.

School Committee Assignments:

Dartmouth Education Foundation	Dr. Jenkins
Southern MA Educational Collaborative	Mr. Oliver
MA Association of School Committees	Mr. Nunes
Negotiations Representative – Superintendent	Mr. Nunes & Mrs. Amaral (back-up)
Policy Sub-Committee	Mrs. Amaral & Dr. Jenkins
Technology Committee	Mr. Oliver
Fields & Facilities Committee	Mr. Nunes & Mrs. Amaral
Budget Committee	Mrs. Amaral & Dr. Jenkins (Mr. Nunes back-up)

The Committee agreed to “revisit” Committee Assignments once a new member is elected.

School Assignments:

The Committee agreed to continue its current practice not to assign individual members a school and that members will actively engage with and be informed about all schools.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of School Transportation Contract: Mr. Kiely stated he provides information regarding the District’s transportation contract tonight in response to a question pertaining to payment for school transportation that was posed by a member of the Select Board at the May 11, 2020 Joint Session.

Mr. Kiely informed the Committee that he and his “colleagues” throughout the State have been meeting to discuss transportation contracts since the first week of school closure.

Mr. Kiely informed the Committee the State does have matters pending in the legislature that address transportation as well as having asked school districts to form groups to discuss the matter; Mr. Kiely added that he and several other local districts are working together in an effort

to negotiate with respective transportation providers to come up with a proposal that districts could support: some districts are paying 80% of the cost.

Mr. Kiely reported “we” are in negotiations discussing a range of 50-60% of the cost being paid which would result in a significant savings to the Town.

Dr. Jenkins stated her concern about the unknown of next year and the possibility of a significant increase transportation costs.

Mr. Kiely responded that this is a legitimate concern and costs could increase significantly particularly if “social distancing” is required on buses.

Dr. Jenkins asked if we can request to “ earmark” transportation costs returned to the Town to guard the District against future increases.

Mr. Kiely offered to relay the Committee’s request to the Town.

Mr. Nunes asked if the money returned to the Town would go into the surplus revenue fund.

Mr. Kiely responded it would and suggested the Committee could request a commitment from the Town that they acknowledge the uncertainty of next year and recognize these monies are being returned by the School Department.

Dr. Karafotis asked Mr. Kiely who he was negotiating with the bus company or business managers.

Mr. Kiely responded that the business managers are sharing information amongst each other in an effort to provide districts with leverage when speaking with vendors; we have a wonderful relationship with our transportation provider and hope to come to an amicable resolution.

Dr. Karafotis asked when you come to an agreement with the bus company does that need the approval of the Town or the School Department.

Mr. Kiely responded the School Department but stated he intends to bring something to the Committee for its approval.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to have Mr. Kiely notify Town Hall the School Committee would like any funds that are returned in school transportation to be set aside, once they are certified, for potential shortfalls in the school transportation account for school year 2020-2021. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Jenkins reminded the Committee of the Select Board’s request to forward a copy of the school department’s transportation contract to the Anthony Savastano, the Town’s Counsel.

The Committee agreed not to provide a copy of the contract per the Select Board’s request.

Mr. Oliver asked about Special Education transportation.

Mr. Kiely stated that the District uses the same vendor for some special education transportation with the District providing the balance and contract matters are being handled similarly to general transportation.

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

- Remote Learning Continues.
- Schools are planning "virtual" events; Dr. Cynthia Marland from DCTV has offered to assist schools with their events.
- DMS will be holding events the first 2 weeks of June details will be posted and sent via email to families: 8th Grade promotion will be streamed live on June 11th at 6:00 p.m. more details to come.
- DHS newsletter contains details of senior events: including senior parade June 7th at 9:00 a.m. and graduation.
- Information and details for events will continue to be posted.
- Tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. the National Honor Society event will be aired.

Report of the Chair: Mr. Oliver asked about the opening of buildings and summer projects.

Dr. Gifford stated today the Governor announced 25% of workforce to return to work and we will be working on a schedule.

Mr. Kiely responded some projects that are funded will proceed but the major construction at Memorial Stadium will not be going forward this summer however planning will continue in order to have the ability to move forward in the future.

Mr. Kiely provided a brief explanation of what maintenance projects are being planned for this summer.

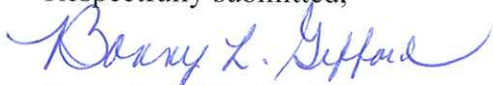
Other Matters that May Not have been anticipated at the time of the Agenda posting.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:54 p.m. in order to provide an update with respect to collective bargaining with union personnel and not to return to Open Session. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent