

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

March 9, 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 reminded everyone that the meeting is live streaming on the DHS Media YouTube channel.

Present were the following members: Mrs. Amaral, Mr. Oliver, Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Nunes. Dr. Karafotis was not present.

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

Visitors present: Mrs. Oliveira, Mr. Gallishaw, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Pavao, Ms. Correia, Mrs. McHenry, Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Porter and members of the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Renee Vieira, President of the Dartmouth Educators Association (DEA), Dartmouth teacher and parent addressed the Committee on the matter to be discussed during the Executive Session and thanked them for their continued support in the negotiations process.

Ms. Vieira commented on the matter of the proposed FY21 Budget and stated the DEA appreciates the efforts of Central Administration in its discussions with the Town and the DEA is ready to assist in any way it can.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to approve the Regular Session Minutes of February 10, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 10, 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.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Brendan Rego provided an update of recent activities and events happening at the high school.

- DHS DECA Club did an outstanding job at the recent State Competition with many students placing including Colin Zhu who placed first overall in restaurant management qualifying for international competition in Tennessee.
- DHS hockey team lost a close game to Hanover at yesterday's Division III South Sectional Championship: the team had a great season and tournament run.
- DHS Theatre Company recently traveled to Duxbury High School to participate in the MATG Theatre Festival.
- DHS Robotics Team placed 6th and 12th out of 36 teams at the recent State Championships.
- Last Week the DHS World Language Department celebrated National Foreign Language Week with the theme "with languages you are at home anywhere."
- The Class of 2022 will host a Spike Ball Competition on Wednesday starting at 3:00 p.m.
- The Music Department will host the Annual Pops Concert on Thursday evening.
- The DHS Debate Team competed in an MSDL Tournament this past Saturday in Shrewsbury with DHS student members receiving a "bid" to compete at the State Tournament in April.

PRESENTATIONS

Spotlight on Kids – George H. Potter Elementary School

Principal Heidi Brooks presented the Potter School *Spotlight on Kids* highlighting the school's programs. Mrs. Brooks noted she would be presenting an abridged version of the presentation provided to the Committee in its meeting packet.

Mrs. Brooks began by stating that Potter School houses seven years of learners who are being prepared with a foundation on which to expand their future learning experiences.

Mrs. Brooks chronicled a PowerPoint presentation which provided a pictorial narrative of the Potter School's programs and activities especially field trips which expose students to places that they might not ever come to know.

Mrs. Brooks added that the Potter Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) help to fund most of the arts enrichment activities as well as other expenses that benefit our students.

Mrs. Brooks noted the Potter School garden which was started nearly 10 years ago with a DEF grant has expanded to include a 30 by 30 enclosed garden and a tree farm celebrating our work with UMASS/Dartmouth's Jane Goodall's "Roots and Shoots" program. Our Grade 5 Teacher and "Earth Mother," Anne Goodman, will be recognized by the Dartmouth Grange in April with the Educator of the Year award.

Mrs. Brooks continued highlighting the many events, programs and activities that all support learning and personal growth at Potter School: Peace Pole, Geography Play, STEM Lab, Giving Tree; Soup-er Bowl Challenge, MCAS Rally; iSTEM Shark Tank, Wall Art, People's Promenade, Potter's Polar Plunges, Booster Fun Run and the North Branch Library.

Mrs. Brooks concluded that the success of Potter School has much to do with consistent leadership but more so from the Potter Family.

The Committee thanked Mrs. Brooks for her thoughtful presentation and for all the work being done at the Potter School.

OLD BUSINESS

FY21 Budget: Mr. Kiely stated that Dr. Gifford and he continue to work with the Town side of government and, at this time, “we” would not recommend making any changes to the proposed FY21 Budget as it was presented at the February 10, 2020 school committee meeting

Mr. Kiely stated he would be happy to answer any questions Committee Members may have.

Mr. Nunes asked if there were any change in the “Town” numbers since Friday afternoon.

Mr. Kiely responded no.

Mr. Oliver asked if there is any expectation that the “Town’s” numbers will change before the budget hearing meeting which takes place in two weeks.

Mr. Kiely stated he believes there is “potentially” some opportunity adding that he and Dr. Gifford met recently with Town government. The vote on the budget is scheduled to take place in a month.

Mr. Oliver asked if “we” want to talk about some of the changes or proposals that were discussed at the recent budget sub-committee meeting.

Mr. Kiely stated that – at this point- the Administration is not recommending making any changes to the proposed budget.

Mr. Oliver stated we are leaving the proposed budget the “way it is” and we can have a conversation in the coming weeks.

Mr. Kiely stated it is possible the budget could change by March 23rd.

Mr. Oliver stated the Committee is going to look for an answer from Central Administration; are “we” going to vote on this budget as it is.

Mr. Kiely reiterated that Central Administration is not recommending making any changes to the proposed budget.

Dr. Jenkins stated she is inclined to put the budget forward as it is and not recommend “cutting.”

Mrs. Amaral stated she is not inclined to vote for a reduction.

Mr. Oliver stated his dismay over the Select Board’s response to the override request.

Mr. Nunes stated the override is a Town override and not a School Department override and added; “As far as I’m concerned, our budget going forward is the budget we have right now.”

Proposed Revisions of School Committee Policies (Second Reading and Vote): Assistant Superintendent Michelle Roy presented the following School Committee policies for a second reading and vote indicating the only change from the first reading was a spelling correction in Policy JFABD.

- **School Committee Policy – JB – Equal Educational Opportunities (First Reading)**
- **School Committee Policy – JFABD – Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services (First Reading)**
- **School Committee Policy – JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care (PreK-12) (First Reading)**

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the revision to School Committee Policy JFABD – Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services - as noted and to approve all three policies. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- School Choice Applications acceptance letters are going out soon; approximately 70 applications were received.
- DSMA recognized Eddie Goncalo and Jose Freitas for their custodial support and Brittney Medeiros for her assistance in the cafeteria during the recent NESBA Indoor Percussion Show held at DHS. I will be sending a thank you note to them.
- Strategic Planning will begin tomorrow at the Quinn School; approximately 30 people will be participating.
- DHS Principal Ross Thibault and DHS Instructional Technology Specialist Jen Thomas did a fabulous job presenting at the recent MASSCUE event.
- Administration has met with the local Board of Health and will continue to provide information regarding the Coronavirus: the international field trips scheduled for April have been postponed and additional cleaning of the facilities has been implemented.

Dr. Jenkins asked what DESE is saying about school closures.

Dr. Gifford stated, at this time, DESE has not released any information regarding school closures.

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

- Mr. Nunes wished spring sports good luck.
- Thursday night Pops Concert will be honoring Bill Kingsland who will be retiring this June.

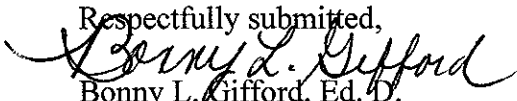
Other Matter that May Not have been anticipated at the time of the Agenda posting.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place on Monday, March 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center. The public hearing on the FY21 Budget will be held at this meeting.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:16 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