

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

December 13, 2021

The warrants for bills payable were reviewed and signed by the School Committee.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Shannon Jenkins at 6:00 p.m. in the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center. The Chair stated the meeting is streaming live on the Dartmouth Community Media YouTube channel and noted the meeting is being videotaped for future broadcast over DCTV Channels 9 and 18.

On a roll call the following members were present: Dr. Jenkins, Mrs. Amaral, Mr. Nunes and Mr. Oliver. Mrs. Waite was not in attendance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Regular Session Minutes of November 15, 2021 as presented. The motion passed: 3-0. Mrs. Amaral abstained.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Evan Garcia, a senior at Dartmouth High School, provided an update of recent activities and events happening at the high school.

- Fall athletics concluded on Thanksgiving; DHS held its first pep rally in two years.
- Winter sports season has started: indoor track, basketball, cheerleading, ice hockey and unified bowling.
- DHS Theater Group held successful performances of "Christmas in New England" an original production.
- DHS will host its Holiday Pops concert on Wednesday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m.
- Poetry Out Loud Competition will be live streamed on Wednesday, December 22nd during the school day.
- DHS Counseling Department recently offered the optional ASFAB test which helps students to explore their college and career interests.
- 2 students in the DHS TV Media program were recognized by the MA Department of Transportation for their video submissions to the "Safe Streets Smart Trips" high school video contest: Natalie Gonsalves and JJ Esterlin.

OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Evaluation/Review and Approve S.M.A.R.T. Goals and Discuss Focus Indicators:

Dr. Jenkins invited Dr. Gifford to present her S.M.A.R.T. Goals.

Dr. Gifford reported she and Mr. Nunes met to discuss the S.M.A.R.T. goals and focus indicators in preparation for this meeting noting Mrs. Amaral was unable to attend the meeting.

Dr. Gifford provided a brief description of the four (4) goals: Student Learning (i.e. Bridges in Math program); District Improvement – Goals 1 and 2 (i.e. continuation of accelerated learning and DESE district review respectively), and Professional Practice (i.e. Master Teacher program.)

Dr. Gifford stated the S.M.A.R.T. goals will be placed in the “drive” as they were in the past noting action steps to facilitate the individual S.M.A.R.T. goals will be uploaded to the document.

Dr. Gifford explained the format of the S.M.A.R.T. goal document that was provided in the meeting packet.

Dr. Gifford stated she and Mr. Nunes discussed “focus indicators” at their meeting and decided to look at them as a whole and not to choose indicators from each of the “standards” as shown in the document provided in the meeting packet.

Dr. Gifford asked the Committee to vote for the S.M.A.R.T. goals and to discuss whether or not it is a good idea to avoid choosing from the indicators and to go ahead and look at the evaluation process with a “wholistic” approach.

Mr. Nunes agreed with Dr. Gifford.

Mr. Oliver stated he is agreeable either way; “wholistic” approach or choosing indicators.

Mr. Oliver asked Dr. Gifford for staff feedback on the implementation of the Bridges program.

Dr. Jenkins agreed with the “wholistic” approach adding that we all agree to approach the evaluation process in the same manner.

The Committee agreed.

Mrs. Amaral asked about the review of monitoring.

Dr. Gifford responded providing an explanation of DESE’s monitoring audits.

Dr. Jenkins commented she would reach out to local legislators about DESE’s random auditing.

Mr. Oliver stated he would draw up a resolution for the next meeting to be forwarded to MASC.

The Committee agreed to the resolution.

Mrs. Amaral moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to approve the S.M.A.R.T. Goals as presented by Dr. Gifford. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

Student Representation to the School Committee: Dr. Jenkins asked that this matter be held until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

FY23 Budget Timeline: Dr. Jenkins invited Mr. Kiely to present the FY23-FY27 Capital Improvement Plan (draft).

Mr. Kiely gave a brief explanation of the proposed five-year plan and reviewed the priorities for FY23 while referring to information provided in the meeting packet.

Mr. Kiely explained the funding for some projects.

Mr. Kiely explained the timeline for obtaining approval for the proposed plan.

Mr. Oliver asked about the cost of current repairs on the high school roof.

Mr. Kiely responded indicating the repairs are “small” and are short term solutions and will not continue to work noting poor quality materials used during the original build.

Mr. Oliver asked how likely is it that the district will receive MSBA funding for the roof.

Mr. Kiely responded he feels the district will receive MSBA funding but that he has one concern; the age of the roof.

Mr. Oliver asked if the telephone and PA upgrade would be system wide.

Mr. Kiely stated the goal is to bring the whole district up to a high standard.

Mr. Oliver asked about the upgrade to the DHS auditorium sound and lighting.

Mr. Kiely responded and gave an update of the project.

Mr. Nunes asked for clarification of high school track and athletic fields proposals (FY24 and FY25).

Mr. Kiely responded providing the district’s reasoning.

Mrs. Amaral asked about the proposals for playground equipment.

Mr. Kiely responded.

Dr. Jenkins asked what are “we” going to do about our aging schools; should we be making all the investments that are proposed on this plan.

Mr. Kiely suggested that “we” revisit the Facilities Master plan through a sub-committee format to understand where “we” might want to go with the plan adding the plan provides recommendations.

Dr. Jenkins asked that the facilities sub-committee meet after the new year and report back to the full Committee.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the FY23-27 CIP Plan as presented by the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

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

- The district has hired a Facilities Manager who will start on January 3rd
- The district has hired a nurse who will start on January 3rd
- Holiday concerts are happening and going well
- Virtual parent conferences were held recently
- Mr. Oliver and I met regarding the Naming Committee for the HS basketball court; we will be notifying appointees and hope to get that committee going after the holidays.
- MASSInsights has chosen 2 teachers at DHS to receive the Partners in Excellence Teaching Award for exemplary work in AP STEM and English: Arlyn Bottcher – AP Biology and Ann Fifield – AP English & Language Composition)

Mr. Oliver asked if the Committee would invite Mr. Ferreira to a meeting to be recognized for his years of service.

Mr. Oliver asked Dr. Gifford if there has been any talk about making any changes due to the increase in the Town's COVID positive rate.

Dr. Gifford stated the Town continues to supports what the district is doing.

Report of the Chair: Dr. Jenkins stated that Michael Shea and Cynthia Marland, Dartmouth's representatives to the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical ("Voke") School Committee, have been invited to the next meeting.

Dr. Jenkins asked the Committee what matters they would like to address with Mr. Shea and Dr. Marland.

Dr. Jenkins stated she would like to discuss Voke's new admissions policy.

Mr. Nunes commented on the difficulty understanding what occurs at Voke's meetings noting audio and minutes not effective.

Dr. Jenkins added more open communication between the Town's representatives to the Voke school committee and the Town - "us": we need regular communication.

Mr. Oliver stated he would like to hear what they are doing to represent Dartmouth and Dartmouth's interest at Voke high school.

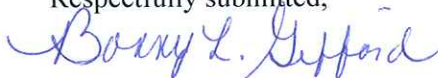
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place at the Dartmouth High School Media Center on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.; the public will be granted physical access to this meeting and will continue to have access to meetings via live stream at the DHS Media YouTube channel <https://youtube.com/dhstvmedia> and comments can be emailed to kathleengenthner@dartmouthschools.org.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to adjourn from Open Session at 7:04 p.m. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent