

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

November 15, 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 6:30 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. Waite, Mr. Nunes and Mr. Oliver. Mrs. Amaral was not in attendance.

Also present: Mr. Kiely and Mrs. Genthner. Dr. Gifford was not in attendance

RECOGNITION

Dr. Jenkins invited Mr. Nunes to say a few words regarding the DHS Band's recent USBands Group V Open National Championship victory.

Mr. Nunes provided information regarding the band's recent victory as well other accomplishments this past season.

Ian Flint, Director of Music for the Dartmouth Public Schools, commended students, staff and the parent organization for their dedication; it is why the band has consistently done well.

Drum majors Lauren Sullivan and Erin Thatcher were in attendance; Miss Thatcher said a few words.

The Committee and Administration congratulated the band on its accomplishments.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Kiely spoke on behalf of the Administration thanking Mr. Nunes for his service and dedication to the district.

Mr. Oliver spoke briefly regarding how he came to nominate Mr. Nunes for this award.

Jim Hardy of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (M.A.S.C.) presented John Nunes with the M.A.S.C. Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Nunes said a few words as he accepted his award; he thanked his family members who were in attendance.

Mr. Nunes thanked Committee members, past and present, with whom he has had the pleasure to serve; with a special thank you to Mr. Oliver, Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Gifford who nominated him for this award.

Mr. Nunes concluded by thanking the voters of Dartmouth.

Dr. Jenkins thanked Mr. Nunes not only his service but also his historical knowledge.

Mrs. Waite thanked Mr. Nunes for his mentorship.

Student Representative Joshua Moniz thanked Mr. Nunes for his work with the marching band and presented him with a gift from the group.

Mr. Kiely presented Mr. Nunes with a gift and a cake on behalf of the District.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

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

-All sports teams have concluded their successful fall season: girls' volleyball made it to the "Elite 8" losing to number 1 ranked Westborough on Friday; cross country had several runners compete in the Division 1 Cross Country meet this past Saturday in Wrentham; 2 *e-sports* teams qualified for the playoffs which started this afternoon

-Spirit Week "kicked off" today with "Pick Your Cause Day"

-Key Club is leading a "campus clean-up" this Thursday; all students are welcome to attend

-Seniors can order their yearbooks as well as caps and gowns and diplomas; information was included in the DHS Community Update and was shared during Advisory last week

-Senior Superlative Homecoming Dance was postponed to its "rain date" Saturday, November 20th from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

-DHS Robotics team will be hosting its first scrimmage on November 21st from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Moniz reported that tonight is the final meeting that he will be serving as the student representative and thanked the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christian Gwozdz-Silveira, recent DHS graduate, offered comments pertaining to the student parking pass fee at Dartmouth High School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Regular Session Minutes of November 1, 2021 as presented. The motion passed: 3-0. Dr. Jenkins abstained.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the Executive Session Minutes of November 1, 2021, as written, with the stipulation that they be held until such time as the matter or matters are completed. The motion passed: 3-0. Dr. Jenkins abstained.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following fundraising activities request was presented to the Committee for its approval.

- **Fundraising Activities – Quinn PTO**

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the Quinn PTO fundraising request as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Evaluation/Review and Approve S.M.A.R.T. Goals and Discuss Focus Indicators:
This matter was held until the next meeting of the Committee.

Proposed Meeting Dates (January 2022 – June 2022): The Committee agreed upon the following proposed meetings dates submitted by Dr. Gifford at the previous meeting: January 10th and January 24, 2022; February 14, 2022; March 7th and March 21, 2022; April 4th and April 25, 2022; May 16, 2022; June 6th and June 27, 2022.

Discussion on Staffing: Mr. Kiely noted his comments are a follow up on a discussion started at the last committee meeting.

Mr. Kiely noted the District increased the substitute teacher pay effective immediately following the last school committee meeting with the hope it would draw more applicants.

Mr. Kiely reported the District recommends the Committee give its authorization to hire a teacher assistant using school choice funds adding that if grant funding is possible those funds would be used first.

Mr. Nunes asked if one teacher assistant will take care of the staffing issue.

Mr. Kiely responded it does not however it does address a current need at the Quinn school.

Dr. Jenkins reiterated her concerns on using non-recurring funds for recurring expenses but gave her support for the recommendation.

Mr. Oliver agreed with Dr. Jenkins but agreed with the recommendation.

Mrs. Waite stated she is inclined to support the recommendation.

Mr. Nunes agreed with Dr. Jenkins' comments but commented on the current need to "take care of students."

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to authorize the Administration to use up to \$26,000 of school choice money for the hiring of one teaching assistant for school year 2021-2022. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

Discussion on DHS Student Parking Fee: Dr. Jenkins opened the discussion on the matter.

Mr. Kiely referred to the memo provided in the meeting packet highlighting where the funds collected go.

Mr. Kiely stated that the fee could be reduced or eliminated but that any reduction would need to be planned for in the budget.

Mr. Oliver stated he does not believe it is necessary to have an established student parking fee adding his reasons are "philosophical."

Mr. Nunes stated he has no objections to this fee and gave his reasons.

Mrs. Waite stated she is "torn" on the issue and asked how are athletic fees are used.

Mr. Kiely stated student athletic fees go to support coaching stipends.

Dr. Jenkins stated she is leaning towards Mr. Oliver's position but it will affect the budget next year.

The Committee did not vote on the matter but stated where members currently stand as a way to provide some direction as the FY23 budget is being prepared: Dr. Jenkins and Mrs. Waite stated they would favor a reduction of the fee; Mr. Nunes is fine as the fee stands and Mr. Oliver would like to see some “relief.”

NEW BUSINESS

FY23 Budget Timeline: Mr. Kiely referred to the FY23 budget timeline provided in the meeting packet timeline noting there is some flexibility to change some dates if necessary.

The Committee agreed with the proposed budget timeline.

Superintendent’s Update: Mr. Kiely reported on Dr. Gifford’s behalf that today was the deadline to submit a letter of interest to serve on the *High School Basketball Court Naming Committee* noting 13 community members submitted a request to participate.

Report of the Chair: Dr. Jenkins opened the discussion regarding student representation on the school committee.

Dr. Jenkins stated she would like more “authentic” student voices giving the reports as opposed to a recitation of all the good things that are going on which is important adding the student parking fee discussion is a good example of what issues are on students’ minds noting this is a legal requirement as well.

Dr. Jenkins stated she would like to direct the high school to have elections for a Student Advisory Committee as required by law.

Mr. Oliver agreed with Dr. Jenkins adding he would like to hear more from students.

Mr. Nunes stated we have a student representative to the school committee and students should bring their concerns to that representative to be reported to the School Committee.

Mrs. Waite commented we need a procedural discussion and training for students as well as to articulate to students the Committee’s expectations.

Mr. Nunes agreed with Mrs. Waite.

Mr. Oliver commented it appears “we” agree: we would like to see this happen, that students understand the commitment and what is expected of them and to make sure there is training.

Mr. Nunes asked about the status of the “Voke” minutes.

Dr. Jenkins asked that an email be sent to Voke requesting minutes of its School Committee meetings and to invite Dartmouth representatives to that committee to either the December 13th or January 10th meeting.

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

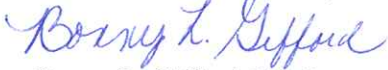
NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place at the Dartmouth High School Media Center on Monday, December 13, 2021 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.

Dr. Jenkins noted there is no need for an executive session this evening.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to adjourn from Open Session at 7:58 p.m. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously: 4-0. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent