

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

September 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 6:30 p.m. and was held in the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center; the public was not allowed to physically access the meeting. 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. The Chair informed viewers that public comments can be emailed to the recording secretary at kathleengenthner@dartmouthschools.org to be read during Public Comment.

On a roll call the following members were present: Dr. Jenkins, Mrs. Waite, Mrs. Amaral, Mr. Nunes and Mr. Oliver.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Jenkins stated public comments can be emailed to the recording secretary at kathleengenthner@dartmouthschools.org.

Dr. Jenkins confirmed and acknowledged the public comment that was received and provided to the Committee for its consideration.

No further comments were received.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Regular Session Minutes of August 23, 2021. The motion passed: 4-0. Mr. Oliver abstained.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Dr. Jenkins invited Student Representative Joshua Moniz, a 12th grade student at Dartmouth High School, to provide an update of recent activities and events happening at the high school.

- The school year “kicked off” on September 1st with an extended advisory and class assemblies focusing on building relationships and getting to know one another
- DHS football team had its first game and victory last Friday against Bishop Stang which featured a back to school “bash.”
- September 10th at 8:46 a.m. DHS observed a moment of silence to remember those who lost their lives during the 9/11 attacks; Mr. Thibault shared the story of DHS graduate Leah Oliver

who died during the attack.

- Summer reading book talks will take place during PASE period on Wednesday September 15th; students will meet with their book sponsors to discuss their books. For the first time, students sponsored books.
- A clubs and activities expo will be held soon; students who have questions about clubs or activities should contact the club/activity advisor or Mr. Shea.
- PSAT/NMSQT will be administered to juniors and sophomores on Wednesday, October 13th; this is an opportunity for juniors to qualify for national merit scholarships.

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Gifford introduced Project TIME Coordinators Janine Tavares (Elementary Level) and Kelly Duarte (Secondary Level), who introduced the Dartmouth Public Schools' 2021-2022 new instructional hires and their mentors.

Biographical information regarding the new hires was provided to the members in the meeting packet.

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Elizabeth de Barros	Occupational Therapist	Cushman/District	Lori O'Neil
Kristen Greene	SPED /Team Facilitator	Cushman/District	Lori O'Neil
Meagan Phillips	.5 Phys. Ed./Wellness Teacher	Cushman/District	Paul Pavao
Hannah Renker	Speech Language Pathologist	Cushman/District	Laurie Dionisio
Kerry Walsh	Speech Language Pathologist	Cushman/District	Laurie Dionisio
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Danielle Caron	Grade 3 Teacher	DeMello	Leslie Gamache
Jennifer Fitton	Math Coach	DeMello	Jennifer Clune
Deborah McGillick	Math Specialist	DeMello	Liz Voci
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Caitlin Durand	Grade 5 Teacher	Potter	Michelle Dias
Rachel Farmer	Grade 4 Teacher	Potter	Lorrie Murphy
Kayley Stevenson	Gr 3 Spec. Education Teacher	Potter	Michelle Dias
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Bethany Dumont	Gr 4 Teacher	Quinn	Paul Pavao
Keisha Julian	Gr 5 Teacher	Quinn	Wendy Candeias
Ashley Couture- Raposo	PALS Teacher	Quinn	Lindsay Vafides
Taylor Saltmarsh	Gr 5 Teacher	Quinn	Wendy Candeias
Veronica Smith	Gr 5 Teacher	Quinn	Paul Pavao
Brian Wildeman	Gr 5 Spec Ed. Teacher	Quinn	Shannon Salvador
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Matthew Doane	Gr 6 English Teacher	DMS	Joseph Silva
William Garcia	Social Worker	DMS	Daniel Lefebvre
Frances Gauthier	Gr 6 Spec Ed. Teacher	DMS	Lisa Katz-Turgeon
Linda Medeiros-DaSilva	Gr 7 Spec Ed. Teacher	DMS	Lisa Katz-Turgeon

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Samuel Bianco	Chorus Teacher	DHS	Debra August
Jason Borges	World Language Teacher	DHS	Hilaria Sousa
Jarrett Brown	Physics/Chemistry Teacher	DHS	Douglas Smith
Nathan Carvalho	World Language Teacher	DHS	Hilaria Sousa
Aimee Correia	Step Up Teacher	DHS	Lili Chamberlain
Amy Gleicher	Social Worker	DHS	Catherine Thomas
Andrea Holmes	Social Worker	DHS	Catherine Thomas
Michael Jeghers	Guidance Counselor	DHS	Nicole Heath
Laura Long	School Psychologist	DHS	Katelyn Kaulback
Nicole Simas	Phys. Ed./Wellness Teacher	DHS	Debra August

RESOLUTION

Resolution 22-01 – Dartmouth Memorial Stadium Renovation – Phase II: Mr. Kiely read the resolution as it concerns awarding the contract pertaining to the Dartmouth Memorial Stadium Storage Building Project.

“WHEREAS: Bids for the Dartmouth Memorial Stadium Storage Building Project were duly advertised and bids received were opened at 2:00 P.M. Thursday, August 12, 2021 and

WHEREAS: The bid from JJ Cardosi, Inc, 150 Amaral Street, Riverside RI, 02915, was reviewed and deemed to have met the published specifications; Therefore be it

RESOLVED: That a contract for the Dartmouth Memorial Stadium Storage Building be awarded to JJ Cardosi, Inc., 150 Amaral Street, Riverside, RI, 02915 based on Dartmouth Public Schools specifications dated Wednesday, June 23, 2021 for the amount of \$1,675,000.

Mr. Oliver commented; although the figure is higher than was anticipated, he is comfortable with the bid and happy to get the project “back on track.”

Dr. Jenkins asked for a reminder of the scope of Phase II and what Town Meeting allocated for the project.

Mr. Kiely stated Town Meeting allocated \$3.6 million dollars for the next phase of the project.

Mr. Kiely stated the next phase encompasses repairs to structures: the stands, the bathrooms, the concessions, the storage component as well as the concourse in and around the stadium.

Mr. Kiely added the storage component is a small piece of Phase II and there will be future bids as the project moves forward.

Mr. Nunes asked if there is a start date.

Mr. Kiely responded after the fall season; lead time on materials is a factor but the hope is to start the foundation fairly soon.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve Resolution 22-01 as presented. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Oliver stated Mr. Mickelson and Mr. Tatelbaum asked that he provide a reminder about the fundraising committee that was established pre-pandemic which will start making phone calls to corporations as well as local businesses and individuals in an effort to supplement the project cost.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Gifford recommended the following fundraising activities request to the Committee for its approval.

- **Fundraising Activities – Dartmouth School Music Association (DSMA)**

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the DSMA fundraising request as presented. The motion passed: 4-0. Dr. Jenkins – Yes; Mrs. Waite – Yes, Mrs. Amaral – Yes and Mr. Oliver – Yes. Mr. Nunes – abstained.

NEW BUSINESS

School Committee Policy – First Reading: Dr. Gifford presented the following School Committee policies for a first reading noting the policy sub-committee met on September 8th to review the following proposal/revisions.

- SC Policy ACA – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex (proposed new policy)
- SC Policy ACAB – Sexual Harassment (proposed revisions)
- SC Policy FF – Naming New Facilities (proposed revisions)
- SC Policy KF – Community Use of Facilities (proposed revisions)

Dr. Gifford proposed a new policy **ACA Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex** noting this policy was advised and created by Attorney Cat Lyons.

Dr. Gifford proposed the following revisions for **SC Policy ACAB Sexual Harassment**: to replace the current ACAB Sexual Harassment policy with the proposed Harassment policy upon the advice of Attorney Lyons as well as proposed procedures to implement this policy (not proposed to become part of the policy) which will be posted and included in the handbook.

Dr. Gifford stated Attorney Lyons provided a thorough training to administrators this past summer as well as addressing staff on opening day.

Dr. Gifford reported Mr. Kiely and Beth Townson are the district Title IX coordinators: Mr. Kiely assisting with staff/adult issues and Ms. Townson assisting with student issues.

Mr. Oliver asked if the proposed ACAB policy provides for “staff on staff” issues.

Dr. Gifford stated yes.

Dr. Jenkins asked; since proposed policy ACA does not provide for race, gender identity, creed, if these matters covered elsewhere.

Dr. Gifford stated yes; SC Policy AC Non-discrimination.

Dr. Jenkins stated she does not understand why ACA is necessary if non-discrimination based on sex is covered elsewhere and Title IX covers more than just one topic.

Dr. Gifford proposed the following revisions for SC Policy FF Naming New Facilities: enhance the policy to include the naming of sub-sections of a facility which is not included in the current policy and to rename the policy “Naming Facilities or Sub-sections of Facilities as well as create a sub-committee.

Mr. Nunes asked about what guidelines would be set for name change submissions specifically the “why” factor.

Dr. Gifford stated that would be set by the Committee.

Dr. Jenkins read from the current policy specifically “whenever possible the wishes of the community including parents and students should be considered in naming new facilities” noting it is not included in the proposed revision adding she thinks some public engagement is useful and it should remain in the policy.

Mr. Oliver agreed with Dr. Jenkins that there should be some type of language in the policy and asked if the Massachusetts Association School Committee model policy language was reviewed.

Mr. Kiely explained the proposed revisions to SC Policy KF Community Use of School: Mr. Kiely noted that Policy KF is not being proposed for revision but for context; revisions to SC Policy KF-R Regulations and Fee Schedule Concerning Use of Dartmouth School Facilities (Including Grounds) Pertaining to Dartmouth School Committee Policy are being proposed.

Mr. Kiely stated the primary changes are mostly “housekeeping” and changes in process.

Mr. Kiely explained some of the more important changes including a person “on-site” at memorial stadium when the field is being used by outside groups which is not included in the current policy.

Mr. Nunes asked if “or designee” could be added after Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations.

Dr. Jenkins asked about the rates.

Mr. Kiely responded noting the last time use of facility fees were looked at was 2013 adding that the fees are reasonable in comparison to surrounding communities.

Mr. Nunes asked about item 4.3 pertaining food and beverage sales and asked if language could be added requiring a certificate from the board of health or other food safety certificate.

Committee members will review the proposed policy revision. A second reading on the policy will be held at the next School Committee meeting and, if recommended, a vote to approve will be taken.

Use of School Space by Outside Groups: Dr. Jenkins opened the discussion about allowing outside groups using school facilities.

Mr. Kiely stated currently there is no gathering restriction in the Commonwealth; so as not to be contrary to state guidelines, language can be included in our use of facility approval letters stating organizations are subject to current guidelines and any changes that may be implemented by the Governor or the MA Department of Health and that the district has the right to cancel or alter an approval and that there is a mask advisory in place and we would encourage groups to self-monitor as it relates to COVID like symptoms.

Dr. Jenkins stated some events are held on week nights when students and staff are in the building; since there is a mask mandate for schools, outside groups should have to wear a mask.

Mr. Oliver commented outside groups should be allowed to use school facilities but they must be masked inside buildings; the question is enforcement.

Dr. Jenkins suggested organizers sign a COVID Agreement stating they are responsible to enforce masking and non-enforcement may affect the group's future use of school facilities.

Dr. Waite commented DYSA teams assigned COVID coordinators.

Mrs. Amaral noted the cancellation of school activities specifically open house events as well as not having physical access to "our school committee meetings" which is concerning when we talk about allowing outside groups to use school buildings.

Mr. Nunes stated his concern about enforcing a mask requirement and agreed the onus of enforcement falls to the group.

The Committee agreed that outside groups can continue to use school facilities; that there be a form acknowledging the mask requirement; the organization must provide a contact name for the person responsible for enforcing the mask requirement and that non-compliance may have a negative effect on future use of school facilities.

Dr. Jenkins asked that a discussion regarding field trips be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Discussion regarding nut products in school buildings: Dr. Jenkins invited Ms. Waite to start the discussion.

Mrs. Waite stated last year the district was "nut free" and parents were not aware that this would not be the policy this year especially as the district continues to mask and some students continue to eat in classrooms.

Mrs. Waite asked that the district remain "nut free" until the mask mandate is lifted and students go back to the cafeterias.

Dr. Jenkins asked Dr. Gifford to state which school students are eating in classrooms and what the protocols are for cleaning desks.

Dr. Gifford responded indicating what cleaning protocols the schools have implemented.

Dr. Jenkins asked if blocks with kids that have allergies at DMS are "nut free."

Dr. Gifford stated she is not aware that a whole block is “nut free.”

Dr. Jenkins stated that not being “entirely normal” right now we need to re-evaluate this matter particularly at the middle school.

Mr. Oliver stated the matter is concerning and would be in favor of not allowing nut products at the middle school right now.

Mr. Nunes agreed that the district should be “nut free” at this time.

Dr. Jenkins asked Dr. Gifford to notify the middle school about being “nut free.”

Mr. Nunes commented it should be system-wide.

The Committee agreed to ban nut products at the middle school and left the decision about banning nut products in other schools to the Administration.

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

- Update on Positive COVID cases throughout the district since 9/1/2021: 42 including staff and Students. As of today, 89 students were determined to be close contacts
- Protocols are in place for students who have to quarantine; teachers have been asked to maintain their google classrooms: at the elementary level stipend positions were created - Student Support Liaisons - to collaborate with classroom teachers to support students who are quarantining.
- Beth Townson will be sending information as it concerns related services to be provided Virtually to students who have to quarantine.
- Administrative assistants and guidance personnel as well as the Student Support Service Center are all working to assist middle school students who have to quarantine.
- The high school has the PASE period when students who have to quarantine can “schedule in” for assistance.
- Test and Stay program has been a challenge to get operational but we continue to prepare for its implementation; difficulties include the vendor primarily as well as logistics and personnel.

Mr. Oliver asked if there are specific training requirements.

Dr. Gifford stated there are 10 nurses in the district but it was determined that additional support was needed for the school nurse offices adding with ESSER grant monies the district has posted two TA/LPN positions.

Dr. Gifford stated the training is easy and the administering of the Test and Stay program does not require nursing staff.

Mr. Oliver asked the percentage of parents who consented to the Test and Stay program.

Dr. Gifford did not have a percentage but stated the response was very good.

Dr. Gifford provided an explanation for the district’s reasoning for starting the program at the high and middle schools.

Dr. Jenkins asked if a vaccinated student who is deemed a close contact has to participate in Test and Stay.

Dr. Gifford responded the student would be exempt.

Mrs. Waite asked how student vaccination information is being conveyed to the district and how that information will be recorded.

Dr. Gifford stated the nurses believe they have access to a state database.

Dr. Gifford stated DESE has changed its rule and cases have to be reported.

Report of the Chair: The Chair opened the discussion regarding physical access to committee meetings.

The Committee agreed to continue with not allowing physical access to their meetings.

Dr. Jenkins informed Committee members that the Select Board has invited them to a joint meeting on Monday, September 27th noting the Committee's next meeting is scheduled for that day.

Mrs. Amaral asked for the purpose of the meeting.

Mr. Kiely stated it was relayed to him to discuss the Town's financial policies, the upcoming budget cycle and the upcoming Town meeting.

Mr. Kiely stated he and Dr. Gifford attended the Town Department Head meeting this morning at which there was a brief discussion of the Town Meeting agenda which includes expanding the Reserve Fund as a percentage of the overall town budget.

The Committee respectfully declined the invitation for a joint session.

Mr. Nunes reported the band will host a USBands competition on October 2nd as well as a NESBA competition on October 23rd at Memorial Stadium.

Mrs. Waite asked that a discussion on field trips be included on the next agenda.

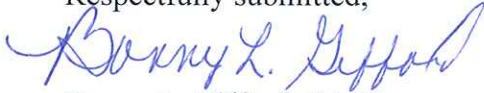
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place at the Dartmouth High School Media Center on Monday, September 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.; at this time the public will not 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 8:29 p.m. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bonny L. Gifford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent