

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

May 17, 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 DHS 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.

RECOGNITION

Dr. Gifford explained the origins and criteria of the Certificate of Academic Excellence noting the Dartmouth High School Administration is asked to choose the students most deserving of the award and invited Dartmouth High School Principal Ross Thibault to come forward to make the presentations.

Mr. Thibault presented the Superintendent's Certificate of Academic Excellence to DHS Senior Grace George, who will attend the University of Virginia in the fall majoring in biology and to DHS Senior Miguel Pereira who will attend Fordham University in the fall majoring in neuroscience.

Mr. Thibault highlighted Miss George and Mr. Pereira's high school accomplishments.

The Committee offered their congratulation to the recipients and wished them much success in their future endeavors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

No public comments were received.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

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

- Music Department held several concerts recently in front of small audiences.
- Spring Sports season ongoing; track meets are taking place after 2 years.
- Testing season is currently underway: the sophomore class has taken English and Math MCAS and the freshman class will be taking the biology MCAS in the second week of June; AP exams are also taking place.
- 21 for 21 events are taking place to commemorate the senior class.
- Last Thursday 200 seniors participated in “A Night Under the Stars,” a prom-like event, at White’s of Westport.
- NHS Society will hold its induction ceremony this Thursday; attendance is limited to pre-registered guests and the ceremony will be streamed on DHS YouTube media page.
- Last Thursday the high school returned to full in-person learning.

PRESENTATION

Christian Gwordz-Silveira, Dartmouth high school senior class president, was invited to speak to the Committee about activities scheduled for the Class of 2021 as well as his thoughts on the 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. Gwordz-Silveira thanked the school administrators and teachers for their efforts to make the year as smooth as possible noting their responsiveness and understanding to students’ needs.

Mr. Oliver asked about the end of year activities.

Mr. Gwordz-Silveira responded explaining the 21 for 21 activities noting the success of the recent formal dinner held last Thursday.

Mr. Nunes asked about his personal plans.

Mr. Gwordz-Silveira responded.

Mr. Nunes asked how it felt to return to full in person learning.

Mr. Gwordz-Silveira responded “amazing.”

Dr. Jenkins asked Mr. Gwordz-Silveira if he would like to address any matters at this time.

Mr. Gwordz-Silveira asked the Committee to look more closely at the student parking pass fee.

Dr. Gifford asked for his perception on how students are handling their stress and what ideas “you” might have to better assist students.

Mr. Gwordz-Silveira responded that the school has been very supportive adding he didn’t know what more the school could do except to continue to let students know it is okay to talk about their issues.

Dr. Jenkins expressed her appreciation to Mr. Gwordz-Silveira for his comments.

Dr. Jenkins responded to Mr. Gwordz-Silveira's comments about the student parking pass fee.

Mr. Oliver asked if the parking pass fee could be brought forth at a later meeting or at a budget sub-committee meeting.

Mr. Gwordz-Silveira stated he would be available to meet on the matter at a later time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Waite moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Regular and Joint Session Minutes of April 26, 2021. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 26, 2021, as written, with the stipulation that they be held until such time as the matter or matters for which the session was held have concluded. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Gifford recommended the following requests to be approved by Committee members:

Judy Cronin, Dartmouth High School Unified Arts Lead Teacher, was in attendance.

- Request to run the 2021 Summer Arts Camp

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the 2021 Summer Arts Camp. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

- Request for the DHS Marching Band and Color Guard to operate the food concession at the Dartmouth Living Memorial Stadium for the 2021 Football Season

Ian Flint, Music Director for the Dartmouth Public Schools, was in attendance.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral, to approve the request of the DHS Marching Band and Color Guard to operate the food concession at the Dartmouth Living Memorial Stadium for the 2021 Football Season. The motion carried: 4-0. Mr. Nunes abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

Equality & Diversity Committee: Dr. Jenkins reported the Equality & Diversity Committee held its inaugural meeting on May 4th at which time the Committee agreed to request an increase in the number of student representatives to two.

Mr. Nunes stated that the minutes of August 3, 2020 indicates two high school members would be appointed to the Committee noting, at that time, the Committee would be comprised of ten members which was subsequently changed to eleven members when a third Dartmouth Public School faculty member to said Committee.

No vote was necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

SMEC Quarterly Report: Mr. Oliver reported the following information which addressed at the last board meeting of the Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC.)

- to increase its district based classroom leases by 3% for the FY22 year.
- to increase its teacher and “para” salary scale and non-scale positions by 2% for FY22 year.
- to end the extended COVID leave on April 30th for employees.
- to receive, accept and place on file 100% compliance letters from DESE which concerns the FY20 audit and annual report at SMEC.
- to renew the lease of the Tripp School in Fairhaven for another 5 years.
- to negotiate with the Town of Fairhaven for the rehab and potential lease of additional space at the former Rogers School.
- to recognize Juneteenth (June 19th) and to build it in to the SMEC FY22 calendar.

Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School - School Committee: Dr. Jenkins opened the discussion on appointing or reappointing a new member to the GNBRVTHS School Committee noting Dr. Cynthia Marland’s term expired on May 1, 2021.

Mr. Oliver stated Dr. Marland told him she would be like to continue as a Dartmouth representative to the GNBRVTHS School Committee adding he would support her reappointment.

Mr. Nunes asked if “we” have heard about the request for minutes of GNBRVTHS School Committee meetings.

Dr. Jenkins responded no and stated she would like to invite Michael Shea and Dr. Marland (Dartmouth representatives to the GNBRVTHS School Committee) to a Dartmouth School Committee, possibly in July, for a report on what the GNBRVTHS School Committee is doing.

Dr. Jenkins noted that the new Superintendent of GNBRVTHS (Michael Watson) has reached out to set up a meeting.

Mr. Oliver stated he reached out to Mr. Watson and he is hoping to set up something soon.

Mrs. Amaral moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to reappoint Dr. Cynthia Marland as a Dartmouth representative to the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Dr. Jenkins asked Dr. Gifford to communicate with the Select Board about tonight’s reappointment.

Name Proposal – Dartmouth High School Basketball Court: Dr. Gifford presented a proposal submitted by Michael Grandfield, current head coach of the Dartmouth High School boys’ basketball team, to name the Dartmouth high school basketball court after Steve Gaspar, a retired educator and basketball coach for Dartmouth.

Dr. Gifford referred to Mr. Grandfield’s letter which was provided to members in the meeting packet.

Dr. Gifford referred to school committee policy “FF – Naming New Facilities” which pertains to naming school buildings and recommended “going back to” the policy sub-committee to address the Committee’s policy before considering Mr. Grandfield’s proposal.

Dr. Jenkins opened the matter for discussion.

Mr. Nunes agreed with Dr. Gifford adding comments about how similar matters were done in the past recommending forming a committee to consider the matter once the policy is addressed.

Dr. Jenkins asked the Committee if they want to address the policy per Dr. Gifford’s recommendation.

The Committee agreed: the policy sub-committee will update the policy which will be brought to the full Committee for approval and then the full Committee will start the process to consider naming the basketball court.

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

- Elementary schools are preparing for Grade 5 “get togethers”.
- Potter PTO has been busy with fundraisers: dance-a-thons, bingo.
- Cushman School has received two \$2,000 checks as a “Feinstein School” for its work on “Kindness” a banner has been placed on the school.
- DMS planning for its 2 graduation events (June 15th and June 16th are the tentative dates.)
- DHS graduation is scheduled for June 6th (still looking at holding the ceremony on the turf field)
- Starting tomorrow students will not need masks outside.
- DHS senior parade plans are being worked out with the Police Department.
- Mr. Gallishaw and the tech team worked through the weekend to fix a major technology issue.

Report of the Chair: Dr. Jenkins thanked Central and District Administration for all their hard work.

Mr. Nunes asked if the district has looked at student vaccinations.

Dr. Gifford responded she spoke with Chris Michaud, the Town’s Director of Public Health, and the conversation is ongoing adding that information has been put on the district’s FaceBook page.

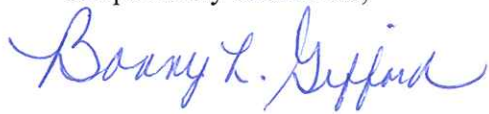
Mr. Oliver asked for a list of resignations/retirements for this year.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place at the Dartmouth High School Media Center on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.; the public will not be granted physical access to this meeting but will continue to have access to meetings via live stream at the DHS Media YouTube channel <https://youtube.com/dhstvmedia>.

Mrs. Waite moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. in order to provide an update with respect to negotiations with union personnel and not to return in to Open Session. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bonny L. Gifford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "G".

Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent