

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

February 8, 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 Chris Oliver at 6:30 p.m. The Chair reported a decision was made to hold this meeting remotely via zoom technology due to weather conditions; 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: Mr. Oliver, Dr. Jenkins, Mrs. Amaral, Mrs. Waite and Mr. Nunes.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Public Comment regarding the discussion pertaining to the Athletic Program Update was received via email from 2 individuals as well as follow-up emails – one from each of the 2 original commenters.

All emails were provided to Committee members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the Regular Session Minutes of January 25, 2021. On a roll call vote, the motion carried: 4-0. Mr. Oliver – Yes; Mrs. Amaral – Yes; Mrs. Waite – Yes and Mr. Nunes - Yes. Dr. Jenkins abstained.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 25, 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 been completed. On a roll call vote, the motion carried: 4-0. Mr. Oliver – Yes; Mrs. Amaral – Yes; Mrs. Waite – Yes and Mr. Nunes - Yes. Dr. Jenkins abstained.

RESOLUTION

Resolution 20-02 – Request for Unpaid Leave: Dr. Gifford presented the unpaid leave request received by Nicole Bishop, a Teacher Assistant at Quinn School, which was unable to be approved by the District as it is not provided for in the contract; Dr. Gifford added the District would be in favor of approving the requested leave.

Mr. Oliver invited discussion on the request for unpaid leave by said Teacher Assistant sent to the Committee in their meeting packets.

“WHEREAS, Nicole Bishop, Teacher Assistant at the James M. Quinn Elementary School, forwarded a request for unpaid leave for a portion of the 2020-2021 school year as explained in said request dated January 27, 2021 pursuant to Article IX, Section H of the DEA (Assistants) Contract;”

BE IT RESOLVED, that said Nicole Bishop, Teacher Assistant at the James M. Quinn Elementary School, be granted an unpaid leave of absence for “the remainder” of the 2020-2021 school year as requested and in accordance with Article IX, Section H of the DEA (Assistants) Contract. “

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve Resolution 21-02 granting a temporary unpaid leave of absence to Ms. Bishop for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year as requested and in accordance with the DEA (Assistants) contract. On a roll call vote, the motion carried: 5-0. Mr. Oliver – Yes; Dr. Jenkins – Yes; Mrs. Amaral – Yes; Mrs. Waite – Yes and Mr. Nunes - Yes.

PRESENTATIONS

South Coast Educational Collaborative - Francis W. Gallishaw Memorial Scholarship

Award: Mr. Oliver reported he and Dr. Gifford decided, due to inclement weather, to move this matter to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee so that the award recipient would be able to attend in person.

Spotlight on the Andrew B. Cushman School: Dr. Gifford introduced Dr. Justine Dale, Early Childhood Director, at the Cushman School.

Dr. Dale shared a video showcasing a day in the life of a Cushman student.

Dr. Dale explained what the Committee members will be looking at in the video: from making sure pre-kindergarten students maintain COVID guidelines (i.e. handwashing and social distancing) to observing a hybrid kindergarten class.

Mrs. Amaral asked about Early Intervention.

Dr. Dale responded noting virtually held meetings provide more time to meet with families.

Dr. Dale stated the preschool information night is taking place on February 23rd and, with the help of local TV, an information video will be shown to parents.

Mr. Oliver asked if there are “a lot” of students participating on their remote days.

Dr. Dale responded in the affirmative.

The Committee thanked Dr. Dale for her informative and enjoyable presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

Athletic Program Update: Dr. Gifford invited Athletic Director Andrew Crisafulli to provide an update on the Athletic Program.

Dr. Gifford reminded the Committee that the District ran a successful Fall Athletic Program.

Mr. Crisafulli restated that the fall and winter athletic seasons ran successfully and provided information about winter playoffs.

Mr. Crisafulli stated the Fall 2 season is scheduled to begin on Monday, February 22nd which will consist of Unified Basketball, Football, Fall Cheerleading, and Boys and Girls Winter Track adding that track will take place outside.

Mr. Crisafulli addressed the fan policy which has not allowed for in person spectators except for senior night noting DCTV and the DHS Media team lead by Rob Perrotti have live streamed some athletic events.

Mr. Crisafulli proposed implementing a pilot program allowing 2 parents/guardians per participating student athlete going forward; modeling the approach taken for senior night.

Mr. Crisafulli stated he feels this number is an appropriate starting point and one that he feels is “safe and manageable” which could be revisited prior to the start of the Fall 2 season.

Mr. Crisafulli noted fans were not allowed during the first two seasons; as we move to outdoor events we would like to put protocols in place “to comb through” some of the challenges in order to do this safe and appropriately.

Mr. Oliver asked for an explanation of the senior night protocols.

Mr. Crisafulli responded that parents/guardians of senior student athletes were invited to one event; they would receive an email from the department with the protocols/guidelines.

Mr. Oliver asked if those nights required additional personnel.

Mr. Crisafulli responded in the affirmative; one to two staff members.

Dr. Jenkins voiced her concern but would not vote against “it” if “this is what the administration wants to do.”

Mr. Nunes agreed with Dr. Jenkins.

Mrs. Amaral asked how the “2” will be defined as not all families have 2 parents/guardians.

Mr. Crisafulli stated in this situation it would be very clear; parents or guardians.

Dr. Gifford asked how many homes games are left in the current season.

Mr. Crisafulli responded there are two games.

Dr. Gifford proposed implementing the pilot with strict guidelines for the last one or two games of the current season; any “push back” we can always “pull it back.”

Mrs. Waite commented she would agree to “move” on the pilot then revisit the matter before allowing limited fans during the Fall 2 season.

Mr. Oliver commented that he is reluctant and suggested “we” proceed cautiously by allowing an additional game but not every game.

Mr. Crisafulli stated that he is proposing two games.

Mrs. Waite asked what Mr. Crisafulli for his thoughts on just allowing parents/guardians of seniors.

Mr. Crisafulli responded he proposes 2 per individual player because it is manageable.

Mr. Oliver asked if the proposal is for visiting team spectators.

Mr. Crisafulli confirmed that visiting team spectators are not included in the proposal.

Dr. Jenkins acknowledged the public comment emails as they concern the topic and the unfairness to the Fall I and Winter sports families.

Mr. Nunes suggested the Committee allow the administration and Mr. Crisafulli to make the decision.

Dr. Gifford stated, after listening to the Committee’s concerns, she would like to have more conversations with Mr. Kiely and Mr. Crisafulli; once a decision is made about piloting the program for one or two games, she would notify the Committee.

Mr. Oliver stated “we” will allow the administration to “tease this out” and to report back to the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent’s Update: Dr. Gifford provided the following:

- Vocational and Bristol Agricultural Enrollment as requested by Mrs. Waite at the last meeting.
- Project Time, new teacher program, still being run by Tracy Oliveira, Director of Teaching and Learning.
- Waiting on the second round of the Project Lead the Way engineering grant.
- 7th and 8th Grade Teachers have been working with UMASS/Dartmouth and WPI to integrate computer science into our curriculum and are hoping to get a grant from the National Science Foundation. (Dr. Jenkins was instrumental in setting up the collaboration.)
- Jeanne Sheridan, Director of Nutrition, received another grant (\$10,000) for food services at the Quinn School.
- Dr. Gifford acknowledged and referred the Committee to an email from DHS teacher Patty

Kane wherein the winners of the DECA competition are noted.

- Second edition of the *Elementary Curriculum Chronicle* put together by the C.I.A. team which provides resources and updates on the elementary curriculum will be going out this week.
- The vaccination clinic was held last Saturday at DHS.
- Mr. Kiely reported he will provide the proposed FY22 Budgets to Committee members this week in preparation for the budget presentation at the next school committee meeting.

Mr. Nunes asked about the Potter school boilers and how they will be paid for.

Mr. Kiely explained 2 Potter boilers “went down” and were repaired within a day due greatly to the efforts of Facilities Director, Rick Ferreira.

Mr. Kiely added that until he knows the final cost of the boiler replacement he is not sure which direction he will take to cover the cost.

Mr. Oliver asked about the high school food service staffing matter.

Mr. Kiely explained there were staffing issues at the high school as well as the Quinn school; “we” ended up bringing in food from Jersey Mike’s and Domino’s Pizza at the high school and Jeanne Sheridan was able to staff the cafeterias with volunteers to keep the students fed.

Report of the Chair: Mr. Oliver noted the following:

DHS service dog, Augie, has received a lot of media attention and hopefully the program can be brought to the lower grades.

Mr. Oliver expressed the Committee’s condolences and asked for a moment of silence for Deidre Tavares a former DHS and SMEC student who passed away unexpectedly.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place at the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center on Monday, February 22, 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>.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:57 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: 5-0. Mr. Oliver – Yes; Dr. Jenkins – Yes; Mrs. Amaral – Yes; Mrs. Waite – Yes and Mr. Nunes - Yes.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent