

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

October 18, 2021

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Mary Waite 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: Mrs. Waite, Mrs. Amaral, Mr. Nunes and Mr. Oliver. Dr. Jenkins was not in attendance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mrs. Waite confirmed public comment that are received are provided to the Committee for its consideration.

One public comment email was received.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of September 13, 2021 as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mrs. Waite invited Student Representative Joshua Moniz, a senior at Dartmouth High School, to provide an update of recent activities and events happening at the high school.

- Post-secondary fair held on October 5th for 11th and 12th grade students featured more than 60 colleges and universities as well as all branches of the armed services.
- On October 7th, a club and activity expo was held during all lunches.
- On October 13th, PSAT/NMSQT exams were administered to 10th and 11th grade students.
- DHS unified basketball team hosted Durfee High School's Unified Basketball team last week.
- DHS hosted grade 9 elections last week; candidates delivered speeches during P.A.S.E. period prior to students casting electronic votes.
- DHS volleyball team hosted its annual Big Pink volleyball game this past Friday raising \$574.00 for a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing breast cancer awareness, equity research and patient support.

- DHS Band has done well in its recent competitions and this Saturday will host the NESBA Home Show at Memorial Stadium: DHS is scheduled to perform at 7:25 p.m.
- Class Officers and Advisors has been meeting with DHS Administrators to plan an outdoor homecoming dance currently scheduled for November 13th.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- **Potter PTO 2021-2022 Fundraising Request**

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

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Gifford reminded the Committee of the 3 priority areas which the high and middle schools addressed noting the Elementary School Improvement Plans will focus on the same areas. Dr. Gifford added that the elementary schools collaborated on their plans in order to maintain consistency across the district.

- Foster a sense of belonging and partnership among students and families
- Continuously monitor students' understanding
- Ensure strong grade-appropriate instruction with just-in-time scaffolds when they are needed

2021-2022 Elementary School Improvement Plans: The following elementary school administrators participated in the collaborative PowerPoint presentation providing school specific examples which addressed the three priority areas: Catherine Pavao and Elizabeth Correia, DeMello School Principal and Assistant Principal respectively; Kyle Grandfield, Audra Thomas, and Stephanie Yermalovich, Quinn School Principal and Assistant Principals respectively; Richard Porter and Melissa McHenry, Potter School Principal and Assistant Principal respectively; Justine Dale, Early Childhood Director.

Mr. Oliver asked the administrators if they are finding abnormally high skills gaps as they review data.

Mr. Grandfield responded that the data is very similar to most school years; there are expected gaps but students are making "quick gains" adding this year is closer to business as usual.

Mrs. Pavao concurred and added that she is encouraged by the new math program that will bring consistent "language."

Mr. Porter commented that credit must be given to instructional staff - teachers, teaching assistants, and interventionists - for the work they did last year which explains why we are not that surprised by the data.

Mrs. Amaral asked how the schools are doing with providing related services to students.

Dr. Dale responded being able to set routines this year has helped to provide the services more easily; "we are in a great place."

Mr. Grandfield responded that being in school every day has made providing compensatory services much easier than last year.

Mrs. Waite asked how the administrators are "podding" students.

Mrs. Pavao responded the teachers are very creative; using digital formats and keeping students physically spaced.

Mr. Porter added that “podding” has helped to keep students in school.

The Committee thanked the administrators for their presentation.

Dr. Gifford commented that elementary administrators are a collaborative group and have worked for years to get the elementary level curriculum “standard” across the district.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to accept the Elementary 2021-2022 School Improvement Plans as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

S.C.E.C. – Vote on New Membership: Dr. Gifford brought forth the South Coast Educational Collaborative (S.C.E.C.) New Membership for the Committee’s vote.

Mr. Oliver asked for an update on S.C.E.C. debt obligations and debt liabilities.

Dr. Gifford responded providing information she received from David Heimbecker, Executive Director of S.C.E.C.

Mr. Oliver asked Dr. Gifford to relay his concerns to the S.C.E.C. Board and for a follow up on S.C.E.C.’s debt liabilities outside of OPEB.

Mr. Oliver moved that the Fall River Public School District join the South Coast Educational Collaborative, as a member, with full benefits, privileges and responsibilities and subject to the terms and conditions of the Collaborative Agreement, approval by the Department of Education and subject to applicable Commonwealth rules and regulations.

Mr. Oliver further moved that the Chairwoman of this School Committee is authorized, on behalf of the Committee, to execute all appropriate documentation to consummate the Committee’s decision.

Mr. Oliver further moved that the Superintendent of Schools is appointed as the District’s representative on the Collaborative’s Board.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral, to approve Fall River’s request to join S.C.E.C. as submitted. The motion carried: 3-0. Mr. Nunes abstained.

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

- Dr. Gifford asked to meet with John Nunes and Kathleen Amaral to review her S.M.A.R.T. goals in preparation for the Superintendent Evaluation Timeline for the next meeting.
- Dr. Gifford stated she would like to start the process to formulate a committee to address the community request to name a subsection of a district facility noting the revision to the school committee policy in place has been approved by the Committee.
- Dr. Gifford reported the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (M.A.S.C.) has awarded John Nunes with a Lifetime Achievement Award noting a representative from M.A.S.C. will present this award to Mr. Nunes at a future meeting; Mr. Oliver gave the reasons why he nominated Mr. Nunes.

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

At this time, the Committee agreed to continue with not allowing physical access to their meetings.

Mrs. Waite asked Dr. Gifford for her thoughts regarding a non-voting student representative to the school committee.

Dr. Gifford commented that we need to look into the matter a little more.

Mr. Oliver asked that a discussion on vaccine mandates be an agenda item for the next meeting; specifically what authority does a school committee have in issuing a vaccine mandate for its staff.

Mr. Nunes asked if “we” have heard from the Greater New Bedford Voke School Committee regarding this Committee’s request for meeting minutes.

Mrs. Waite asked if Chris Michaud, the Director of the Town’s Board of Health, could be invited to the next school committee meeting to provide information to the Committee should a vote on a local mask mandate be necessary.

Mr. Oliver commented if Mr. Michaud is available to attend would be fine but asked the district to “reach out” to Mr. Michaud for his “thoughts.”

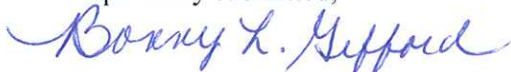
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place at the Dartmouth High School Media Center on Monday, November 1, 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 Mr. Oliver to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:36 p.m. to hear updates about pending litigation and not to return in to Open Session. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent