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

July 26, 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 5:00 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 two public comments that were received and provided to the Committee for its consideration.

No further comments were received.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 28, 2021. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and Appointment of Committee Representative to the Town's Open Space Committee: Dr. Jenkins referenced a letter from the Town pertaining to the re-opening of the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee provided to members in their meeting packets.

Dr. Jenkins stated the School Committee needs to appoint a representative to the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee and asked members for their "thoughts."

Mr. Nunes stated he is willing “to sit on” the Town’s Committee noting his availability is limited to Tuesdays.

Mrs. Waite offered to be the backup representative at meetings if Mr. Nunes is not available to attend.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite, to nominate Mr. Nunes as the Committee’s representative and Mrs. Waite as its back up representative to the Town’s Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

Authorization to Release Executive Session Minutes: Dr. Gifford provided the following approved executive session minutes to the Committee in the meeting packets for their review and authorization to release: **2017** – 1/30/2017; 2/13/2017; 3/6/2017; 5/8/2017; 6/5/2017; 6/16/2017; 6/26/2017; 7/31/2017; 8/22/2017; 8/28/2017; 9/25/2017; **2018** – 2/2/2018; 3/12/2018; 4/30/2018; 6/4/2018; 10/15/2018; **2019** – 4/29/2019; 5/13/2019; 6/10/2019; 7/8/2019; 9/9/2019; 9/25/2019; 10/7/2019; 10/28/2019; 11/18/2019; 12/9/2019; 12/16/2019.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite, to authorize the release of the following **2017** executive session minutes: 1/30/2017; 2/13/2017; 3/6/2017; 6/5/2017; 6/16/2017; 6/26/2017; 8/28/2017; 9/25/2017. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Nunes stated he has concerns about the content of those minutes not approved for release and asked that they be discussed in executive session.

Dr. Jenkins stated those minutes not approved for release this evening will be added to the agenda of a future executive session.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite, to authorize the release of the following **2018** executive session minutes: 2/2/2018; 4/30/2018; 6/4/2018; 10/5/2018. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral, to authorize the release of the following **2019** executive session minutes: 5/13/2019; 6/10/2019; 7/8/2019; 9/9/2019; 9/25/2019; 10/7/2019; 11/18/2019; 12/16/2019.

Mr. Oliver asked that the approval of the release of executive session minutes for 2019 be deferred as he did not have an opportunity to review those minutes.

Mr. Nunes withdrew his motion.

Dr. Jenkins stated “we” will come back to the 2019 executive minutes at the next meeting.

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

- DHS Credit Recovery Program has concluded for the summer.
- Extended School Year (ESY) continues to run.
- Acceleration Academy will run at the end of August; this program is funded by grant monies from DESE to help districts with students who have experienced learning gaps.
- Bridges Math curriculum has been purchased for the elementary level and teachers are overwhelmingly interested in being “early adopters” of the curriculum this year; training will start this summer.

-Update of new hires noting most instructional posts has been filled however a few at the high school have not yet been filled.

Mr. Kiely provided an update of ESSER grants which the district has received or is applying for noting a total figure of \$4.5 million dollars of grant money the district will have to spend over the next three years as well as an explanation of where monies will be spent including how some new instructional positions will be funded.

Dr. Jenkins asked for a report of where these monies “are going” citing the budget is a fiduciary responsibility of the Committee.

Mr. Oliver reiterated Dr. Jenkins request.

Mr. Oliver noted the ESSER 3 grant requires that stakeholders be engaged and asked what the district’s plan is to engage stakeholders prior to the grant deadline.

Mr. Kiely confirmed the ESSER 3 grant deadline is October 4, 2021.

Dr. Gifford responded through public comment during school committee meetings as well as through school councils.

Mr. Oliver asked for an update regarding “what the fall will look like” noting the development of COVID variants and parent concerns.

In case a second school committee meeting needs to be scheduled in August, Dr. Jenkins asked committee members to forward dates they would not be available to meet in August to Mrs. Genthner.

Mrs. Amaral asked if there is a plan to use ESSER funds for compensatory services for students who have aged out.

Dr. Gifford stated she would check with the Pupil Support Services Administrator.

Mr. Nunes asked about federal grant deadlines.

Mr. Kiely responded there is some flexibility but information is sometimes provided retroactively.

Mrs. Waite asked what the plan is should a position not be filled and students have signed up for the course specifically referring to the Physics/Chemistry teacher position at the high school; Would students be able to sign up for an Edgenuity type format?

Dr. Gifford stated there may be shuffling of staff; considering an Edgenuity like format is a possibility.

Dr. Jenkins stated her concerns regarding “learning loss” and asked for information to be provided at the next meeting as to the district’s plans to assess needs and address the issue.

Dr. Gifford stated that all kindergarten students were invited to the Acceleration Academy and noted that middle school population is not responding as well as the elementary level.

Dr. Jenkins asked if some of the ESSER funds could be used to expand the middle school after school home work help program.

Mr. Kiely responded it is on “our list.”

Mr. Oliver asked about after school transportation at the middle school.

Mr. Kiely stated transportation is part of our discussion regarding after school programs.

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

Dr. Jenkins stated when Mr. Nunes brought the matter forward she was on board but is less sure with the current trend.

Mr. Nunes agreed with Dr. Jenkins adding the meetings should remain closed for the time being.

Mr. Oliver commented at some point we need to “take the lead” on “this” and open meetings; suggesting “we” ask people to wear a mask.

Dr. Jenkins responded she doesn’t know how we would enforce the mask request.

Mrs. Amaral agreed with Dr. Jenkins and asked if we can have public comment live streamed in to meetings.

Dr. Jenkins noted the challenges regarding “opening” the live stream.

Mrs. Waite stated we should make the return to school our priority and what until after school opens before addressing opening meetings.

Dr. Jenkins stated the issue could be revisited on a meeting by meeting basis and that the August meeting would remain a closed session.

Mr. Oliver agreed adding if keeping the meetings closed becomes more long term we need to look at better remote options for public participation.

Dr. Jenkins clarified that the Committee, as a public body, is not required to have public comment.

Dr. Jenkins confirmed the Committee agreed to keep meetings closed through August and that discussion on the matter will continue at future meetings.

Dr. Jenkins reported the Equality and Diversity Sub-committee agreed at its last meeting to allow for public comment pending the School Committee’s decision to allow for open meetings.

Dr. Jenkins continued stating the logistics of allowing for public comment on “this” issue is not possible virtually since the meeting is expected to be well attended adding the sub-committee will meet virtually on August 18th and will invite members of the Gay Head-Wampanoag and those who submitted letters to the committee to give a presentation at that meeting.

Dr. Jenkins stated future plans will be made at the August 18th meeting which will be reported back to the School Committee.

Dr. Jenkins acknowledged emails have been received from parents opposed to having students wear masks.

Mr. Nunes reported the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps from Allentown PA will be staying at the middle school starting Sunday, August 1st; the Corps will give a free performance at the high school stadium on Monday, the gates open at 6:30 p.m. and the concession stand will be open.

Mr. Nunes added the Corps will provide a clinic in the afternoon for Dartmouth students noting Tom Aungst, Dartmouth music department faculty member, will run the clinic.

Mrs. Amaral asked if any parents would be interested in serving on the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) or have questions about the council to please send an email to DartmouthSEPAC@gmail.com or to contact her directly at kathleenamaral@dartmouthschools.org.

Mrs. Waite noted band camp starts tomorrow.

Dr. Jenkins reminded committee members to email dates they would not be available to meet for a potential second meeting in August to Ms. Genthner.

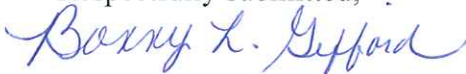
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place at the Dartmouth High School Media Center on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 5:00 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. Waite to adjourn from Open Session at 5:50 p.m. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent