

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

June 28, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

One public comment was received and provided to the Committee for its consideration.

RECOGNITION

Dr. Gifford invited Chris Michaud, Town of Dartmouth Public Health Director, to provide a “wrap up” of the past year and to offer the District’s thanks and appreciation for his and the Town’s assistance during the COVID pandemic.

Mr. Michaud provided comments about the past year as well as thanking the District for its support and collaboration.

Mr. Michaud stated he has two concerns at this time: the stress the pandemic has placed on individuals and the coming school year and asked that we remain aware and to continue to make the best decisions for the district.

Dr. Gifford recognized Mr. Michaud and his efforts and presented him with a plaque commemorating the District’s appreciation.

The Committee thanked Mr. Michaud for his service.

Dr. Jenkins asked members to be prepared to meet a second time in August should matters arise to necessitate a second meeting.

The Committee discussed holding a working discussion sometime in the summer to discuss future agenda.

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 said minutes: **2015** – 2/10/2015; 3/30/2015; 4/13/2015; 5/11/2015; 6/8/2015; 12/14/2015; **2016** – 3/28/2016; 8/22/2016; 11/7/2016; 12/12/2016.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to authorize the release of the listed 2015 and 2016 executive session minutes. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

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

- Sports Camp has started and we received double the registrations this year.
- Credit Recovery is running at the high school and ESY will start after July 4th.
- Food "Box" Program will start on July 9th between 3:00 p.m and 5:00 p.m.
- Tracy Oliveira wrote 2 grants which were awarded to the district: Summer Acceleration Academy grant to run Math and Literacy camps which will target students where "gaps" were created due to the pandemic and an Accelerating Math grant which will help to pay for the supplemental math program which the district currently uses.
- Dr. Gifford explained the district's plan to use a current instructional technology specialist (ITS) for a one year position to assist with embedding technology within the district's curriculum and to post internally for a one year substitute to replace the ITS adding it is hoped that a current staff member who has an interest in instructional technology will apply for this position and then post for a one year substitute teacher to fill the classroom position.

Mr. Oliver asked what does the district "envision at the end of the day" in relation to the need for this one year position.

Dr. Gifford responded to conduct a deeper study of embedding technology standards into the curriculum areas.

Report of the Chair: The Chair asked the Committee to consider a working session for August or September to talk about the coming year's agenda.

The Committee agreed to meet.

The Chair asked the Committee if they want to address the student parking pass fee now or in the fall.

Mr. Nunes stated a discussion in the fall not be best as students would have already paid the fee.

Mr. Kiely stated any time before the budget process would be a good time for the discussion but not in "mid-cycle;" reducing the parking fee was not planned for in the current budget.

Mrs. Waite commented she feels she has a sense of student feeling about the matter after hearing the senior class representative speak at a previous meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 7, 2021. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 7, 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.

OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent's Evaluation Presentation – Committee's Comments: Dr. Jenkins opened the discussion for comments or recommendations from the Committee.

The Committee thanked Dr. Gifford for her thorough presentation and no further comments were offered.

Dr. Jenkins commented that the information in the presentation was provided previously and no new information was presented, there were no surprises.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Proposed Food Service Position: Mr. Kiely sought the Committee's approval to post for a new food service position.

Mr. Kiely referred the Committee to the job description for a school nutrition operations supervisor which was provided in the meeting packet.

Mr. Kiely provided an explanation as to why the district is requesting the addition of the proposed position while complimenting Jeanne Sheridan, Director of School Nutrition, for her exemplary work in moving the district's food service program to the "next level."

Mr. Kiely indicated that Ms. Sheridan works part time which creates a need for more day to day supervision adding that Ms. Sheridan will likely retire in the next few years and we want to consider succession and how to maintain the high level of service the program currently provides.

Mr. Kiely added this is a school year position with some "extra days," approximately 35 hours per week noting the salary has not been set at this time: the level of experience of applicants will be considered to determine the salary.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral, to authorize the creation of a new food service position. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

Proposed School Committee Meeting Dates: Dr. Gifford proposed the following meeting dates for July through September 2021: July 12th and August 23rd with a 5:00 p.m. start time; September 13th and September 27th with a 6:30 p.m. start time.

The Committee agreed on the aforementioned dates with one exception, July 12th; the July meeting date was changed to July 26th with a 5:00 p.m. start time.

Dr. Jenkins disagreed and would like more students to have the opportunity to express their feelings and said she would like to wait on addressing the matter.

Mr. Oliver agreed about waiting and asked Mr. Kiely for data as to what other districts are charging for a student parking fee.

Mr. Kiely responded that this topic has been addressed several times and the fees at the high school were reduced several years ago from \$100 to \$60 adding he does not have current data for other districts but will get this information.

Dr. Jenkins stated the Equality and Diversity Sub-committee met last week reporting there were 2 presentations made and encouraged Committee members and the general public to watch the meeting video which is available on the high school YouTube media page since that sub-committee will be bringing its recommendation to the School Committee noting the sub-committee is meeting again on July 13th.

Mr. Oliver asked that at the next meeting a discussion be had on what the plan is for re-opening meetings.

Dr. Jenkins asked that this topic be posted on the next meeting's agenda.

Mr. Nunes asked about minutes from "Voke" school committee meetings.

Dr. Jenkins stated she will look in to this and reiterated having Dartmouth representatives to the Voke school committee give a report to this school committee at a meeting this fall.

Mr. Oliver stated he met with new Voke Superintendent Michael Watson reporting that he asked for more communication from Voke to the Dartmouth School Committee which Mr. Watson stated he supports; Mr. Oliver added he asked Mr. Watson if he would come to a school committee meeting with Town of Dartmouth Voke-Tech "reps" to which he agreed.

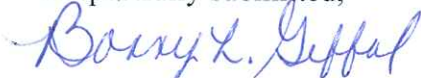
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting:

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place at the Dartmouth High School Media Center on Monday, July 26, 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 6:05 p.m. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent