

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

April 5, 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. 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: Mr. Oliver, Dr. Jenkins, Mrs. Amaral, Mrs. Waite and Mr. Nunes.

Also present: Dr. Gifford and Mrs. Genthner. Mr. Kiely was not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

A comment was received from DHS student representatives regarding parking passes which was provided to Committee members.

No additional public comments were received.

The Committee clarified that public comment emails are received, considered and made part of the record.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the Regular Session Minutes of March 22, 2021. The motion carried: 5-0.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Oliver welcomed Student Representative Evan Garcia, a student in the 11th grade at Dartmouth High School, who provided an update of recent activities and events happening at the high school.

Mr. Garcia noted the following activities taking place at Dartmouth High Schools:
-DHS robotics team held virtual competition on March 18th; the competition can be viewed at

twitch.tv/dhsroboticsclubs

- AP students are preparing for upcoming exams; the math department has been conducting mock exams and mock exams will be conducted later this week for AP computer science students.
- Unified Basketball kicked off its season Thursday with a game against Middleboro and will continue tomorrow with a home game against Durfee.
- Spring Sports sign-ups have begun and will close on April 14th: DHS is offering cheerleading, baseball, softball, tennis, lacrosse, outdoor track and field, unified track and sailing.
- PSAT10 Exam is scheduled for April 15th and 16th.
- DHS *21 for 21 Campaign* kicks off this Friday with a variety show *Dartmouth's Finest*: the show will be streamed live on DHS TV's YouTube page.

PRESENTATIONS

Spotlight on the Joseph DeMello Elementary School: Dr. Gifford invited Catherine Pavao and Elizabeth Correia, Principal and Assistant Principal respectively, of the Joseph DeMello Elementary School to make their presentation.

Mrs. Pavao shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the adjustments made this year while adhering to guidelines and supporting student learning as well as the traditions that are uniquely DeMello which the school was able to maintain during the year.

Mrs. Pavao described the use of space within the school following guidelines as well as the adjustments made to accommodate the recently changed guidelines as elementary schools transition to full in person learning which started today.

Mrs. Pavao thanked Mr. Kiely and Rick Ferreira, Facilities Director, for making sure all students who came to school today had a desk.

Mrs. Pavao reported a large number of students are transported to school by parents and has asked for patience as the school tweaks its "Drop Off" and "Pick Up" procedures.

Mrs. Pavao provided information on procedures at the DeMello School: lunch, recess, changes due to inclement weather, mask breaks, physical distancing, outdoor recess 5-5-10-5-5 format, bathroom use, classroom design, nurse visits.

Mrs. Pavao commended the work of all DeMello staff members particularly teacher assistants.

Mrs. Pavao introduced a video wherein students were asked what their favorite thing is about everyone being back in school.

Ms. Correia spoke about keeping and growing DeMello traditions and cultivating new ones.

Ms. Correia stated from the onset of the *stay at home order* "we" understood the importance of remaining visibly present in our students' daily lives.

Ms. Correia noted the Mrs. Pavao's recording of daily *Morning Announcements* and *Closing Messages* which have been well received by students, staff and families.

Ms. Correia stated creative thinking and "tweaking" was done to continue the work regarding PBIS: "Caught Being Good Coins, Leaders of the Pack, Fun Zone."

Ms. Correia explained how the “Student of the Month” tradition was continued during this year via video.

Mrs. Pavao reported on how literacy programs at DeMello School worked this year: Breakfast, Blankets and Books, Bookmark Contest, Bingo for Books, Author Visits.

Ms. Correia spoke about diversity and inclusion initiatives like *Meet the Author*: author Saadia Faruqi spoke to students virtually.

Ms. Correia reported DeMello received a grant through the MA Cultural Council STARS Residency Program to fund an Artist Residency bringing Japanese storyteller, musician and visual artist Motoko to work virtually with third graders on learning grade level math and science concepts through the art of origami.

Ms. Correia stated through a grant from the Dartmouth Education Foundation DeMello has created a Diversity and Inclusion Library which has 70 kid friendly volumes.

The Committee thanked Mrs. Pavao and Ms. Correia for their presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

FY22 Budget - Vote: Dr. Gifford asked for the Committee’s vote on the proposed FY22 Budget.

Dr. Gifford presented information which was provided by Mr. Kiely in response to the DHS Parking Pass Committee’s comments regarding the fee charged for student parking.

Mr. Oliver asked if there were any comments or questions on the proposed FY22 Budget.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to amend the proposed FY22 Budget to adjust the administrative budget to retain the current district administrative structure that we have in place for the next fiscal year, to not fill the vacant assistant superintendent position and to retain the current director of teaching learning position.

Mr. Oliver asked if there was any discussion on the motion.

Mr. Nunes stated he cannot support the motion and provided reasons for filling the assistant superintendent position.

Mrs. Amaral stated she was under the impression that the Committee was going to revisit this matter when “we were back in.”

Mrs. Waite agreed with Mrs. Amaral understanding that we were going “to hold on this.”

Mr. Oliver asked Dr. Jenkins for clarification of her motion.

Dr. Jenkins responded stating her motion is to retain the current administrative structure which is to have “that” position vacant and to have a current director of teaching and learning.

Dr. Gifford clarified by stating the Committee agreed to “take up” the matter of the assistant superintendent position during the budget process adding leaving the position vacant would reduce the budget by \$140,000.00 reminding the Committee that the district, in its budget proposal, is asking to increase the current Director of Teaching and Learning’s salary by approximately \$8,000 to take on additional duties previously the responsibility of the assistant superintendent.

Dr. Gifford explained why the district feels the additional duties support the change in position.

Mr. Oliver asked how the district has been operating without having an assistant superintendent.

Dr. Gifford responded that duties have been delegated to administrators with most of them assigned to the Director of Teaching and Learning.

Dr. Jenkins asked for an analysis of administrative structures in other districts adding she is not comfortable approving the proposed change at this time adding this is not a “never” for me this is a not “now.”

Dr. Jenkins stated she understands the importance of the role of an assistant superintendent and feels that this position should be posted.

Dr. Gifford stated she does not know of many districts that do not have an Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning; Dr. Gifford reiterated her support to appoint Mrs. Oliveira to the position.

Mr. Nunes responded to Dr. Jenkins statement to post the position.

Mr. Oliver stated his concern on the “optics” of not posting positions adding he supports Dr. Jenkins recommendation to leave the position vacant.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to amend the proposed FY22 Budget to adjust the administrative budget to retain the current district administrative structure that we have in place for the next fiscal year, to not fill the vacant assistant superintendent position and to retain the current director of teaching learning position. The motion carried: 4-1 with Mr. Nunes opposing.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the FY22 budget appropriation for Potter School Classroom Teachers in the amount of \$1,784,314.00. The motion carried: 4-0 with Mr. Oliver abstaining.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the FY22 budget appropriation as amended and excluding those items voted individually in the previous motion, in the amount of \$45,396,234.44. The motion carried: 4-1 with Mr. Nunes opposing.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- Summer Reading Program will run this summer and parents will be receiving information.
- STEM Vacation camp will not run during the summer as the district has had difficulty obtaining Staff; the grant funds received for this program will likely be used for other summer programs.
- Rick Ferreira, Facilities Director, and his crew worked over the weekend to get desks assembled

- to get the middle school ready for expanded in-person learning.
- The High School continues to work on its expanded in-person learning plan noting DESE has not released any information full in person for the high school level.
- Full in person learning at the elementary schools went well today.

Report of the Chair: The Chair reported on the following:

- Request to invite the Senior Class Officers to a meeting to report.
- Contacted MASC for guidance on the Equality and Diversity Committee and asked School Committee member representatives for a date for the first meeting requesting that the chair be nominated and timelines and goals be set at the said meeting. Dr. Jenkins recommended Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to be held via zoom technology.
- Mr. Oliver asked that the parking pass matter be put on a future agenda and to invite a student representative from the DHS Parking Pass Committee.
- Parents' Rights in Special Education will take place next Monday. April 12th via Zoom.
- Dr. Jenkins asked for a "recap" or debriefing in June to discuss the struggles students and staff faced this year in order to be "laser focused" when bringing kids back in September.
- Mr. Oliver suggested a working session over the summer.

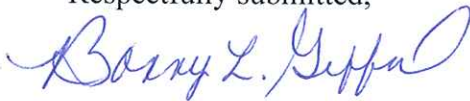
NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place at the via zoom on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 5:30 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>.

The Committee will meet in a joint session with the Select Board and Finance Committee on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.; the public will not be granted physical access to this meeting.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to adjourn from Open Session at 8:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent