

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

November 1, 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.

There were no public comments received.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of October 18, 2021 as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 18, 2021, as written, with the stipulation that they be held until such time as the matter or matters are completed. 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.

- Athletic teams had a successful fall season with many qualifying for post-season play: girls' soccer earned a southeastern conference co-championship, field hockey and volleyball each earned the SES championship.
- DHS Football earned the 11th seed in the Division III championship and will travel to Milton HS for a game this Friday at 6:30 pm.
- DHS Marching Band and Color Guard had a strong performance earning a score of 99.2 at a NESBA

Division 5 competition this past weekend.

- DHS Marching Band and Color Guard will travel to Connecticut to compete this Wednesday before traveling to New Jersey for the National Competition this weekend.
- Members of the DHS Orchestra have participated in the *Love of Music* program where select students arrive early on Fridays to perform as students and staff arrive at school.
- This past Friday evening the Orchestra and Chorus gave a Halloween concert playing spooky classics while dressed in costume.
- Key Club wrapped up *Socktober* collecting 451 pairs of new socks to be donated to the New Bedford Women's Shelter.
- Key Club is planning a "Campus Cleanup" on November 15th after school; all DHS students are welcome to attend.
- Due to the cancellation of school last week the end of Term 1 was moved to November 5th at 2:15 p.m.
- Senior Class Officers, Class Advisors and the DHS Administrative Team have been meeting to plan a safe outdoor Homecoming Dance as well as spirit week activities and themes; more information is expected this week.
- DSMA is holding a mattress fundraiser in the DHS Cafeteria on Saturday, November 13th from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Evaluation Timeline and Process: Dr. Gifford referred to and highlighted the evaluation process and timeline which was provided in the meeting packet.

Dr. Gifford stated she would be meeting with Mrs. Amaral and Mr. Nunes on November 10th to go over S.M.A.R.T. goals which will be brought to the Committee for approval on the 15th.

Dr. Gifford continued stating a discussion on "indicators" and "focus areas" should be opened at that meeting adding that a decision is not necessary at that time.

The Committee agreed to the evaluation timeline as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Meeting Dates (January 2022 – June 2022): Dr. Gifford proposed the following meetings dates for the Committee's consideration: January 10th and January 24, 2022; February 14, 2022; March 7th and March 21, 2022; April 4th and April 25, 2022; May 16, 2022; June 6th and June 27, 2022.

Mrs. Waite asked if "we" could hold our decision to wait for Dr. Jenkins to be present.

The Committee agreed to wait until the next meeting to approve the dates.

Discussion on the formation of a committee in order to address a public request to name a subsection of a facility pursuant to School Committee Policy FF – Naming of Facilities or Subsection of Facilities: Dr. Gifford referred to the memo provided in the meeting packet.

Dr. Gifford proposed how members of the naming committee would be chosen.

Dr. Gifford reminded the Committee that a request was received to name the basketball court in the Carlin Lynch Activity Center which contributed to the recent revision of the policy and to create a *naming committee* to consider the request.

Dr. Gifford noted that past naming committees were composed of approximately 6 or 7 members from the following areas: School Committee, Superintendent, community representatives.

Dr. Gifford proposed comprising the committee of members from each of the following groups: school committee, school administration, faculty, athletic director, students and community.

The Committee agreed to a nine-member committee with members coming from the groups suggested by Dr. Gifford.

Dr. Gifford proposed using the same process that was used for the Equality and Diversity Committee; send out a request for people interested in being on the naming committee.

Mr. Nunes added that persons interested in serving should state what they could contribute to the committee.

Mrs. Amaral asked that a seat be set aside for a representative from the alumni.

The Committee agreed.

Dr. Gifford stated once the members of the committee are named meetings will be scheduled to consider requests submitted; noting there will be criteria to follow.

Dr. Gifford concluded stating a “broadcast” will go out looking for people interested in being on the *naming committee*.

Mr. Oliver stated his interest in serving on this committee as a member of the school committee.

The Committee agreed to name Mr. Oliver as the school committee representative to the Naming Committee with Mr. Nunes as the alternate.

Discussion on Staffing: Dr. Gifford stated she spoke with Mr. Oliver about staffing issues and reported it has been a problem finding substitutes noting a recent tally shows 33 active substitutes adding “we” usually function with around 100.

Dr. Gifford stated we have advertised for substitutes.

Mr. Kiely provided information about the minimum wage increase effective January 1, 2022 and explained how it impacts the rate for substitute positions; Mr. Kiely stated the district pays \$120 per day for a certified substitute teacher adding it would make sense to increase to \$130 per day as of January 1, 2022 noting it may not result in more “subs.”

Mr. Kiely reported “we” are employing approximately 20 substitutes per day meaning approximately 13 jobs go unfilled on any given day; these vacancies are typically supported by teacher assistants.

Mr. Oliver commented that increasing the substitute wage would be a start in addressing the issue.

Mrs. Amaral asked if there is a “plan” or are “things” okay regarding positions that pertain to related services.

Dr. Gifford responded we have used some “contracted services.”

Dr. Gifford commented that “we” have been looking into using some of our school choice funds to pay for needed positions.

Mr. Oliver asked if all of ESSER III has been committed at this point.

Mr. Kiely responded it is a little early to say because it has been planned for 3 years; we will need to adjust for changes.

Mr. Oliver asked Dr. Gifford for a proposal.

The Committee asked that the discussion on staffing be placed on the next agenda.

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

- Spotlight on Kids segments will be put on the agenda after the new year.
- M.A.S.C. conference is taking place this week
- Virtual Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in December.
- Conversation with Wampanoag Chairwoman Cheryl Maltais-Andrews regarding the District logo

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

The Committee agreed to allow physical access to their meetings starting at the next scheduled meeting. The Committee stated masks will be required to be worn by all attendees.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to reopen School Committee meetings on November 15, 2021 to the general public. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

The Vice-Chair opened the discussion on student representation to the School Committee noting Dr. Jenkins "is leading the "investigation" on this matter.

Dr. Gifford provided information from her conversation with DHS Principal Ross Thibault on the matter.

Mr. Oliver stated he would like to hear from Glen Koocher from M.A.S.C. on the matter and what its recommendation would be.

Mrs. Waite asked that a discussion on the high school parking pass fee be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

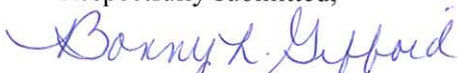
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting.

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 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.; the public will 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 7:27 p.m. to hear updates on collective bargaining and a pending legal matter and not to return in to Open Session. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously: 4-0. Mrs. Waite – Yes; Mrs. Amaral – Yes; Mr. Nunes – Yes and Mr. Oliver – Yes.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent