

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

November 21, 2022

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Nunes at 6:30 p.m. in the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center. The Chair stated the meeting is streaming live on the Dartmouth High School Media YouTube channel and noted the meeting is being videotaped for future broadcast over DCTV Channels 9 and 18.

On a roll call the following members were present: Mr. Nunes, Mrs. Waite, Mrs. Amaral, Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Oliver.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jasmine Olean, Teacher at the Joseph DeMello Elementary School, made comments pertaining to collective bargaining.

Heidi Spicer and Kelley Steele, Pre-school Teachers at the Andrew B. Cushman School, made comments pertaining to collective bargaining.

Christine Coon, Nicole Bishop, Ericka DeFranco and Kate-Lynn Marquinhos, Teacher Assistants/Registered Behavior Technicians for the Dartmouth Public Schools, made comments pertaining to collective bargaining.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the Regular Session Minutes of November 7, 2022 as written. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Mrs. Waite moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Executive Session Minutes of November 7, 2022 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters for which the session was held are concluded. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS

Middle and High School administrators were invited to present their respective school improvement plan (SIP) for the 2022-2023 school year.

Dartmouth Middle School (DMS): In attendance were Darren Doane, Principal; Peter Rossi, Assistant Principal and incoming Principal as of March 1, 2023; Sarah Decas, Associate Principal and C. Marc Hayes, Assistant Principal.

Mr. Doane made brief remarks and invited Mr. Rossi to lead the presentation.

Mr. Rossi took the opportunity to introduce W. Sam Madden, who will become an Assistant Principal at DMS starting February 1, 2023 noting Mr. Madden has been an educator at DMS for 16 years.

Mr. Madden spoke briefly expressing his gratitude for this opportunity.

Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Decas and Mr. Hayes, while referring to a PowerPoint presentation, provided information regarding highlights and progress as they pertain to the middle school 2021-2022 SIP as well as the priorities for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mr. Rossi, Mrs. Decas and Mr. Hayes provided examples of the work being done at DMS as it pertains to the three categories noted within the SIP: Sense of Belonging; Grade Appropriate Instruction and Monitor Understanding.

Dartmouth High School (DHS): Ryan Shea, Principal, and Rachel Chavier, Associate Principal, while referring to a PowerPoint presentation, provided information regarding highlights and progress as they pertain to the high school 2021-2022 SIP as well as the priorities for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mr. Shea and Ms. Chavier provided examples of the work being done at DHS as it pertains to the three categories noted within the SIP: Sense of Belonging; Grade Appropriate Instruction and Monitor Understanding.

Mr. Shea explained Michael Martin and Graham Coogan, DHS Assistant Principals, were not present this evening as they are participating in the National Honor Society's volleyball fundraiser which is currently taking place in the high school gymnasium.

Mrs. Waite moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Dartmouth Middle School and Dartmouth High School 2022-2023 School Improvement Plans as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Search: Mr. Nunes asked Mr. Kiely if he was able to send out the request for quotes.

Mr. Kiely stated he prepared a request for quotes for a search consultant for the Superintendent position and issued the request to three organizations that commonly do this work in the Commonwealth with a due date of November 30th allowing enough time for responses to be submitted with the idea the Committee would make a decision at the next meeting.

Mr. Kiely stated he will organize the information as it concerns the quotes and provide the same to the Committee adding the Committee can decide if they would like to have the group it chooses at the next meeting on December 12th.

Mr. Nunes reminded the Committee they will need to decide, at the next meeting, whether or not we want to hire an interim superintendent; noting some discussion on the matter has been had previously.

Mr. Nunes reminded the Committee that we need to decide how we are going to organize the Superintendent search committee.

Mr. Oliver asked if Mr. Kiely had an opportunity to think about the interim superintendent position adding he or whoever the interim superintendent might be would want to know what the school committee's expectations are for this position; we should be prepared to have these conversations at the next meeting.

Mr. Kiely responded he is happy to help in whatever way the Committee deems best for the district.

NEW BUSINESS

FY24 Budget Timeline: Mr. Kiely explained the FY24 budget timeline which was provided to committee members in the meeting packet adding that dates are subject to change.

Mr. Kiely stated its the district's plan to be prepared to bring "some thoughts forward" to a budget sub-committee meeting and then bring forward a budget proposal to the school committee for its consideration in February 2023.

Mr. Kiely explained the unique challenges in preparing the FY24 budget.

Mr. Oliver asked for an additional budget-sub committee meeting to be held sometime in mid to late January 2023.

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Gifford provided information and updates of events and activities happening throughout the district.

- Fundraisers taking place at all the schools.
- Parent conferences are coming up; the schools will be sending out information.
- Quinn school had the name reveal today for its lion; Leo.
- DESE passed out COVID tests which have been sent to the schools and will be sent to parents tomorrow.
- Minding Your Mind* events happening at DHS and DMS; the event at DHS is for anyone interested in attending.
- Matilda* will be presented on December 1st, 2nd and 3rd.
- The Thanksgiving football game will be at Fairhaven on Thursday at 10:00 a.m.
- Rob Perrotti and DCTV are collaborating on a live tele-thon on December 10th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. from the Dartmouth Target store location: two DHS seniors, Hannah Lima and Ryan Arruda, will be hosting this event.

Report of the Chair: The Chair reported:

- Sports teams update.
- Music department update.

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

Mrs. Waite, School Committee representative to the Town Charter Committee, referred to and read from information she provided to School Committee members as it concerns the Town Charter Committee's review of charter language as it pertains to the school committee as well as its mode of election.

Select Board member Heidi Brooks and school committee representative to the Town Charter Committee, provided additional information as to the Charter committee's current discussions as it pertains to charter language; Mrs. Brooks added that we want to make sure in the Charter that we reflect the work of the school committee and the work of the school committee working with other boards.

Dr. Jenkins stated she would like to see the charter reflecting the Select Board and School Committee as co-equal branches of government allowing the school committee the right to call the Select Board into a joint session with the school committee setting the agenda of the meeting.

Mr. Oliver agreed it would be helpful that the school committee had the opportunity to call a joint session and set the agenda.

Mrs. Waite addressed the mode of election question adding the Charter Committee had discussion on whether or not to change the mode of election for the school committee to be in line with the select board and other groups.

Dr. Jenkins explained why she would be opposed to the proposed change of the mode of election for the school committee.

Mr. Nunes stated his thought is "to leave it as it is."

Mrs. Brooks stated she and Mrs. Waite will take this information back to the Committee but the process does not end there; any changes then go to Town meeting and then to the state legislature.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: Mr. Nunes asked members if they would be agreeable to an earlier start for the next meeting. The next regular session of the School Committee will take place in the Library Media Center at Dartmouth High School on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. into Executive Session for an update on collective bargaining with union personnel and to discuss potential litigation and not return to open session. On a roll call the motion passed: 5-0: Mr. Nunes – Yes; Mrs. Waite – Yes; Mrs. Amaral – Yes; Dr Jenkins - Yes and Mr. Oliver – Yes.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools