

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

March 7, 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 Shannon Jenkins at 6:30 p.m. in the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center. 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 Channels 9 and 18.

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

No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of February 14, 2022 as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Evan Garcia, a senior at Dartmouth High School, provided an update of recent activities and events happening at the high school. It was noted that tonight will be Mr. Garcia's last report to the Committee.

- DHS staff and students are successfully adjusting to the new optional masking policy.
- DHS extremely successful winter sports season is wrapping up: track athletes competed at State Level including James Marden who broke the 55 meter race record twice; Mia Carter, Kate Smith, Madison Stott and Sorelle Lawton beat the 4 x 200 relay record; the Girls basketball team qualified for the MIAA tournament and ended their season with a loss to top seeded Norwood high school; Boys hockey team ended its regular season by winning the Spartan cup qualifying for the MIAA tournament and will face Duxbury high school on Wednesday in Kingston MA.
- DHS TV Media last week hosted WPRI 12's Kate Walsh who spoke with students about a career in media; students traveled to Harvard University on Saturday to watch the production of the Harvard vs. Dartmouth basketball game.
- DECA team hard a work preparing for the State Conference to be held this Thursday.
- Lumineers robotics team placed 7th out of 20 teams at a qualifying competition and the Consistently Inconsistent robotics team placed 3rd in the competition and they placed 7th out of 32 teams at state level competition.
- TEDx DHS is returning to DHS and is currently scheduled to start on March 25th.
- Students can now sign up for spring athletics: unified track, spring track, tennis, softball, baseball,

lacrosse and sailing.

-DHS will host DMS 8th graders tomorrow providing student led tours.

-*Dartmouth's Finest* will be held on March 18th

-DHS National Honor Society Volleyball Tournament will be held on March 15th

-DEF Spelling Bee will be held on March 24th

The Committee thanked Mr. Garcia for his service.

PRESENTATION

Spotlight on Dartmouth Middle School: Dr. Gifford introduced Peter Rossi, Assistant Principal, of Dartmouth Middle School.

Mr. Rossi thanked the Committee for the opportunity to put the spotlight on the engineering and technology program at the middle school.

Mr. Rossi introduced DMS faculty Adam Desjardins and Jamie Guile and students participating in the presentation: 8th graders - Kelsey Reilly, Seth Vasconcelos and Brian Wei; 7th graders – Lillian Screponi and Ahmed Rahmi.

Mr. Desjardins spoke about the program's partnership with the U.S. Navy/Naval Undersea Warfare Center Education Division with the Newport RI branch reporting the partnership has brought in more than \$40,000 in terms of educational materials, technology and tools as well as engineers who have come in to assist with the afterschool program.

Mr. Desjardins added that the partnership with the Navy has helped with the middle school's partnership with First Robotics that operates at DHS; we (DMS) help run a "feeding" program to prepare students for when they advance to the high school.

Mr. Guile thanked all those groups who have been supportive of the program: administration, DEF and the Navy.

Mr. Rahmi spoke about forces that act on bridges; torsion, tension, shear and compression.

Miss Reilly spoke about designing a multi-tool and explaining its purpose.

Miss Screponi spoke about designing a phone and what components would be required for its specific purpose adding part of the project will be to create a commercial to sell the phone.

Mr. Vasconcelos spoke about the construction of a house describing the components of that structure and the roles of those constructing the structure.

Miss Reilly spoke about the afterschool program where students are building under water robots with the assistance of engineers through the partnership with the Navy.

Mr. Wei stated the annual FLL competition was cancelled this year adding the middle school hosted a competition this past fall inviting regional teams: the middle school team placed second:

Mr. Wei noted the fall task was based on transporting cargo; Mr. Wei and Mr. Guile demonstrated one of the tasks produced.

The Committee thanked the staff and students for their presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

FY23 Budget: Mr. Kiely reported information that was requested during the budget discussion at the last school committee meeting was provided to committee members: enrollment trends going back 20 years; a breakdown of ESSER funding and health insurance adding the increase for next year will be 2.2%.

Mr. Kiely added Dr. Gifford provided job descriptions for the proposed director of teaching and learning positions which was also requested at the last meeting.

Mr. Nunes asked if the administration heard from Capital Improvement Projects committee (CIP).

M. Kiely responded he has not adding the Town contacted him to meet with the finance committee on the budget.

Mr. Oliver asked about the salary range for the 2 new director positions in the proposed budget.

Dr. Gifford stated the salaries are estimates.

Mr. Oliver asked where the additional funding would come from.

Mr. Kiely explained the funding of the director position and offered to provide a breakdown.

Mr. Oliver asked if a salary survey has been done for curriculum director.

Dr. Gifford responded not in preparation for this proposal.

Mr. Oliver asked for that information.

Mr. Oliver stated he would like to see these positions be based out of the schools.

Dr. Gifford responded explaining why the positions would make more sense being housed in the central office.

Mr. Oliver asked at what point is this committee going to set parameters on the salary for these two new positions.

Dr. Gifford voiced her concern.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to approve the two new position descriptions for the primary and the secondary director of curriculum, instruction and assessment. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Dr. Jenkins asked if there is approximately \$1 million in salaries funded by ESSER grant money and is that about where we are staying (16 FTE.)

Mr. Kiely confirmed that is correct.

Mr. Kiely recapped the budget timeline: the next meeting - March 21st - is the public hearing on the FY23 budget, the joint meeting with the Town will not happen in April but that is the meeting this Committee could vote on the FY23 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

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

-The 8th Grade is "coming" to the high school tomorrow; and guidance counselors will go to the middle

- school to discuss classes; Mr. Thibault is planning an 8th grade parent night
- K-12 Summer Reading is in the planning stages
- S.A.I.L. program second session started last week with new offerings
- CAMP Invention will happen this summer at the high school: June 27th through July 1st
- I attended the AASA conference recently: many sessions focused on social emotional learning.
- The February Acceleration Math Academy had approximately 100 students who attended and the academy will run during the April vacation
- Project TIME recently met in person to discuss best practices for teaching after a pandemic
- Quinn school shared "Read Across America" where students came to school dressed as their favorite characters
- Potter will be having its "Fun Run" next week hoping to match the \$20,000 raised previously
- Team Chair training begins next week
- In preparing for tomorrow night's joint meeting it came up that the current appointments to the Equality and Diversity sub-committee membership expired in December 2021.

Report of the Chair: Dr. Jenkins reminded the Committee about its agreement to sponsor a team for the DEF Spelling Bee.

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

Dr. Jenkins clarified information regarding the meeting of the Equality and Diversity sub-committee scheduled for tomorrow night.

Dr. Jenkins confirmed the Aquinnah Wampanoag, the Pocasset Wampanoag and the Mashpee Wampanoag were invited to tomorrow night's meeting and meeting parameters were provided to the invitees.

Dr. Jenkins stated she was informed that the Aquinnah Wampanoag have not voted on the Indian logo matter and that there is no official standing; an individual tribal member who asked to speak at the meeting will do so as an individual member and not an official representative of the tribe.

Dr. Jenkins stated the Mashpee Wampanoag and the Pocasset Wampanoag have confirmed their attendance at tomorrow's meeting.

Dr. Jenkins stated it is this Committee's prerogative if they do not want to allow Mr. Lopes to speak (the individual Aquinnah Wampanoag member who asked to speak.)

Dr. Jenkins added the National Congress of American Indians did not respond; the North American Indian Center of Boston who represents several tribes asked to speak; Dr. Jenkins agreed to its attendance since it represents multiple tribes.

Dr. Jenkins opened a discussion on the Equality and Diversity sub-committee appointments.

Mr. Nunes voiced his concerns noting they are procedural and not personal.

Dr. Jenkins asked that a discussion of the terms and re-appointments of the Equality and Diversity Sub-committee be put on the agenda for the next school committee meeting.

Dr. Jenkins stated at tomorrow night's meeting of the sub-committee members of that committee could be asked to forward their interest in remaining on the committee in writing to the recording secretary noting it does not guarantee reappointment.

Mr. Oliver voiced his concerns.

Mrs. Waite moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to extend the terms of the current members of the Equality and Diversity Sub-committee until the next school committee meeting. The motion passed: 3-2.

Dr. Jenkins opened discussion on tomorrow's joint meeting between the School Committee and the Equality and Diversity Sub-committee.

Dr. Jenkins asked the Committee if it would like to schedule an additional meeting for the Aquinnah Wampanoag to come and speak if they cannot make tomorrow night's meeting.

Mrs. Waite asked the Committee if it wanted to invite Mr. Ventura, Aquinnah Wampanoag tribal member, to speak tomorrow night noting a letter Mr. Ventura recently sent to the Committee members.

Dr. Jenkins asked the Committee to confirm the format for the meeting scheduled for tomorrow as well as for March 22nd adding whether the Committee would like to invite Mr. Ventura and Mr. Pereira to tomorrow's meeting and/or the meeting on March 22nd to state their position.

The Committee agreed to a time limit of 2 or 3 minutes during public comment at March 22nd meeting.

The Committee agreed to hold the meeting on the 22nd in the DHS Auditorium and that opening statements providing the 2 views on the matter would be given.

Mrs. Waite asked what the expectation of this Committee is on this matter.

Dr. Jenkins confirmed the presenters at tomorrow night's meeting.

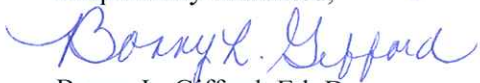
NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next session of the School Committee will be a joint meeting with the Equality and Diversity Sub-committee on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Dartmouth High School Media Center; only scheduled presenters will be granted physical access to this meeting; general access to the meeting will be via live stream at the DHS Media YouTube channel <https://youtube.com/dhstvmedia>. If necessary, a livestream will be set up in the DHS auditorium.

The next regular session of the School Committee will take place at the Dartmouth High School Media Center on Monday, March 21, 2022 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>.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. On a roll call, the motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,


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