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

May 9, 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 5:30 p.m. in the Planning Board Meeting Room (Room 315) at Dartmouth Town Hall. 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: Mr. Nunes, Mrs. Waite, Dr. Jenkins, Mrs. Amaral and Mr. Oliver.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the Regular Session Minutes of April 25, 2022 as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Personnel Update: Dr. Gifford stated a comprehensive list of 2021-2022 retirements and resignations will be provided at a future meeting and provided the following brief personnel update.

- Darren Doane, Principal of Dartmouth Middle School, will be retiring in March 2023.
- Dartmouth High School principal posting deadline was extended to May 18th; Tracy Oliveira is leading the screening committee which is being formed.
- DeMello principal posting recently closed.

Last Day of School for 2021-2022: Dr. Gifford stated the last day of school for the 2021-2022 school year will be June 17, 2022 noting this date accounts for the 3 days school was cancelled over the past year due to inclement weather.

Mr. Nunes called for a vote on the last day of school for the 2021-2022 school year as it has changed from the original date included in the voted upon 2021-2022 school year calendar barring any further unforeseen changes.

Mrs. Waite moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve June 17, 2022 as the last day of school for 2021-2022. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

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

- DHS recent student Art Show
- DHTC production of *Shrek* was performed over the past weekend
- Cook Center Kick-off event is being replayed on the district's Facebook page.
- Negotiations with Union leadership are on-going with a session scheduled for this week

Report of the Chair: The Chair had nothing further to report.

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 in the Library Media Center at Dartmouth High School on Monday, May 23, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to adjourn at 5:41 p.m. into Executive Session for an update on negotiations with non-union personnel and to reconvene into Open Session for a Joint Meeting with the Select Board. On a roll call the motion passed unanimously: 5-0: Mr. Nunes – Yes; Mrs. Waite – Yes; Dr. Jenkins – Yes; Mrs. Amaral – Yes; Mr. Oliver – Yes.

CALL TO ORDER of JOINT SESSION

The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chairperson David Tatelbaum at 6:35 p.m. in the Select Board Meeting Room (Room 304) at Dartmouth Town Hall with Select Board members as well as all members of the School Committee being present. Also present, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gifford; Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations James Kiely and Town Administrator Shawn MacInnes.

Mr. Tatelbaum opened discussion on a review of the non-binding referendum vote as it concerned the Indian logo.

Mr. Nunes offered comments on the vote results adding the School Committee voted at its April 25th meeting to maintain the logo for the Dartmouth Public Schools as it was designed by Clyde Andrews in 1973 and we now move on to do other things that need to be done.

Select Board member Heidi Silva-Brooks referenced a communication on the matter.

Mr. Nunes confirmed that was Dr. Jenkins' motion.

Dr. Jenkins reiterated the School Committee's agreement to request that the Town engage in some work to inform and educate the community as it pertains to "our indigenous neighbors" which are beyond the purview of the school committee and provided examples.

Select Board Member Mr. McDonald offered comments on the matter.

Mr. Oliver commented the school department is working on curriculum; we have an opportunity to do something special in the community referencing Dr. Gifford's example of a non-official committee along the lines of "Healthy Dartmouth" made up of interested stakeholders adding more needs to be done than just affirming the logo.

Select Board Member Mrs. Silva Brooks agreed Mr. Oliver and offered comments on the matter of curriculum.

Mrs. Waite offered comments in response to Mrs. Silva Brooks comments as it pertains to curriculum.

Mr. Tatelbaum proposed a formal committee comprised of a school committee member; a faculty member; a select board member, a tribal member(s) and to approach the Town's Historical Commission adding this committee would be charged with coordinating this effort and to come up with a plan.

Dr. Jenkins stated she is open to the concept but that she would not be comfortable voting on this matter tonight and would like the matter to be posted on an agenda.

Mr. Tatelbaum agreed with Dr. Jenkins noting the Select Board could have a discussion at its next meeting.

Dr. Gifford confirmed that the work of the school department will work in parallel with the proposed committee.

Mr. Tatelbaum confirmed curriculum is a school committee and school administration issue the proposed committee would support that work.

As Chairs of the School Committee and Select Board respectively, Mr. Nunes and Mr. Tatelbaum agreed to put the discussion of a formal town committee on their next meeting agenda.

Mr. Tatelbaum introduced the next item on the agenda: a review of the School Budget.

Mr. MacInnes asked Mr. Kiely to provide a brief overview of the school budget proposal.

Mr. Kiely thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the overview and noted a similar information was provided to the Finance Committee in March.

Mr. Kiely highlighted items in the proposed FY23 school budget: overall budget \$49,383,406 and described the breakdown of how the budget is allocated noting it is fairly consistent with last year's budget.

Mr. Kiely provided a brief overview of budget decisions as well as indicating what was not able to be funded.

Mr. Tatelbaum asked about the need for behavioral specialists and social workers.

Mr. Kiely responded that the need for those positions is significant.

Dr. Jenkins stated the need for teen mental health services was increasing pre-pandemic.

Mr. Tatelbaum asked if the district was able to gauge the number of successes due to these services.

Dr. Gifford stated there is data on student successes due to these services.

School Committee Member Kathleen Amaral added this skill set is critical for students.

Mrs. Silva Brooks commented on the benefit of seeing those items that were not funded in the budget.

A discussion was had on the need to replace school and town buildings.

Mr. Tatelbaum proposed a meeting of the Select Board and School Committee to focus on school buildings.

The Joint Session adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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