

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

June 27, 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 and Mr. Oliver. Dr. Jenkins was not present.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment was offered

INTRODUCTIONS – Recent Administrative Appointments

Dr. Gifford introduced the following newly appointed administrators and invited them to speak briefly about their new position.

Ross Thibault – Director of Teaching and Learning/Secondary Level
Catherine Pavao – Director of Teaching and Learning/Elementary Level
Ryan Shea – Principal, Dartmouth High School
Elizabeth Correia – Principal, Joseph DeMello Elementary School
Peter Rossi – Principal, Dartmouth Middle School (effective March 2023)

The Committee congratulated the new administrators.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Waite moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 6, 2022 as written. The motion passed: 4-0.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 6, 2022, as written, with the stipulation that they be held until such time as the matter or matters for which the session was held are completed. The motion passed: 4-0.

PRESENTATION

Superintendent's Evaluation: Dr. Gifford explained tonight's presentation highlights information provided in a shared "drive" sent to Committee members prior to this meeting noting the information in the "drive" addresses the goals, work and progress made by the district as a whole and by the individual schools.

Dr. Gifford shared her PowerPoint presentation entitled *Return to Normal: Embracing the Transition* providing an explanation of the work done over the last year through the presentation which was broken down into areas: *Resilience, Accelerating Learning, and Overarching Priorities*; as well as *Actions Taken* and its subcategories: *Instructional Leadership, Management and Operations, Family and Community Engagement* and *Professional Culture*.

Dr. Gifford pointed out the professional development that the district has and continues to provide to staff to continue *accelerating learning*: Acceleration Roadmap, Grade 8 Civics and humanitarianism studies; adoption of *Bridges* math program; units of study in phonics; training and implementation of the *Sondy* System.

Dr. Gifford noted the lessening of COVID regulations as the year moved on and the challenges that created as well as other management and operations matters including the updating of the District's Crisis Emergency Management Plan (CEMP.)

Dr. Gifford spoke about the virtual team meetings as well as the new partnership with the Cook Center for Human Connections and initial conversations with stakeholders (i.e. Indigenous people) as it concerns enhancing curriculum.

Dr. Gifford reminded the Committee that they would need to submit their "write ups" to Mr. Nunes and Mrs. Amaral by a date set by them to be ready for the July meeting.

Mr. Oliver recommended that "we" ask our questions at the July 25th meeting and the Committee report back at the August meeting.

Mrs. Amaral asked if there is a formal mechanism in place to field inquiries from parents and is there a way to make parents feel included in a more meaningful way.

Dr. Gifford stated she would confer with the principals to see what could be implemented noting parent surveys have been helpful in the past.

Mrs. Amaral asked if a presentation could be given regarding the CEMP.

Dr. Gifford responded that some information regarding updates could be shared with parents but the total plan cannot be made public.

The Committee agreed to wait until August/September meeting to submit its summative evaluation forms and to provide its formal evaluation.

NEW BUSINESS

Maintenance/Custodial Summer Projects: Mr. Kiely referred to the list of maintenance and custodial projects scheduled for the 2022 summer that was included in the meeting packet while

noting that a large part of the work done during the summer is routine, preventative maintenance and cleaning that make our buildings last longer and look better than they normally would due to their age.

Mr. Kiely highlighted specific projects: high school library renovation and upgrade; plans to move forward on the auditorium lighting and sound systems; continuing to improve HVAC systems; security assessments and improvements; installing energy saving appliances and lights; upgrade refrigeration systems at multiple schools; address sewer connection issues at the Cushman school.

Mr. Kiely noted the funding for some of these projects and thanked the Town for its continued support.

Mr. Oliver asked about previous staffing issues.

Mr. Kiely responded that we have a full staff right now.

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

- DESE offered and the District applied for a grant as it concerns accelerating learning; if the district receives the grant, we will advertise for the Acceleration Academy much like the one offered last year in August (approximately 120 students participated.)
- Curriculum Summit was held last week for Grades 6-12 with 58 participants.
- Credit Recovery and the Extended School Year (ESY) getting ready to start.
- The hiring of new staff continues to go well.
- Secretary training held last week.

Mr. Oliver asked if there are any plans to re-establish a curriculum advisory committee or some kind of sub-committee that includes different stakeholders.

Dr. Gifford responded that Mr. Thibault and Mrs. Pavao will look into that.

Mrs. Waite asked what the next steps are regarding curriculum as it relates to local Native American history.

Dr. Gifford responded she met recently with David Tatelbaum, Chair of the Town's Select Board, who would like to speak with the Committee about the Town's perspective going forward on the matter of local Native American history.

Dr. Gifford added once "we" get started we can put the matter on the agenda.

Report of the Chair: The Chair thanked Town Meeting for its support of "our" budget and capital items.

Mr. Oliver asked the Committee and Administration to consider a presentation on our nationally recognized marching band by Ian Flint, District Music Director.

Mr. Oliver asked that an agenda setting meeting be scheduled in August or September.

Mr. Nunes asked if this would be a "workshop" to be held at Bush Street.

The Committee agreed.

Mr. Oliver informed the Committee members that he and Dr. Jenkins, who sit on the budget sub-committee, asked that that committee meet more regularly; every other month.

Mr. Oliver noted a medical emergency in the district recently and asked that a discussion regarding practices as they pertain to allergies be placed on the next agenda.

Mrs. Waite asked that communication practices regarding accessibility to district facilities (including Memorial Stadium) be part of the discussion Mr. Oliver requested be placed on the next agenda.

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, July 25, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to adjourn at 6:05 p.m. into Executive Session for an update on negotiations with union personnel and not return to open session. On a roll call the motion passed: 4-0: Mr. Nunes – Yes; Mrs. Waite – Yes; Mrs. Amaral – Yes and Mr. Oliver – Yes.

Respectfully submitted,



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