

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

July 25, 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 5:00 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 Dr. Jenkins. Mr. Oliver was not present.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment was offered

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Amaral moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 27, 2022 as written. The motion passed: 3-0. Dr. Jenkins abstained

Mrs. Waite moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 27, 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 complete. The motion passed: 3-0. Dr. Jenkins abstained.

The Chair asked for the Committee's indulgence in order to note that Dr. Gifford was recently awarded the 2022 Christos Daoulas Award by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.) This award is granted annually at the M.A.S.S. Summer Institute to that individual who makes a difference in the lives of students particularly through effective communication within their role as Superintendent.

OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent's Evaluation Presentation – Committee's Comments: Mr. Nunes opened the discussion on the matter and asked if anyone had any comments.

Dr. Gifford stated she uploaded the form into the drive last week.

Dr. Jenkins asked for the deadline.

Mr. Nunes stated a final deadline will be decided at the August 22nd meeting noting he and Mrs. Amaral can meet with Dr. Gifford and plan for a September meeting.

Update on Maintenance/Custodial Summer Projects: Mr. Kiely provided an update on summer maintenance and custodial projects noting those that are making the most progress: HVAC upgrades, DMS freezer replacement, hoping to start parking lot project at Potter next week including removal of underground storage tanks, grease trap replacement, stadium storage building foundation is in and noting the high school library was recently painted.

A member of the Select Board has requested a meeting of the committee working on the stadium renovations to discuss moving the project forward; Mr. Oliver was named the representative from the school committee.

Mrs. Waite asked about the tennis courts.

Mr. Kiely responded we should be on track once the source of funding is confirmed.

Dr. Jenkins asked about the impact of the state legislatures recent approval of extending free school meals on the district budget and operations.

Mr. Kiely responded “it is great for us” and more importantly for students and families adding it will have a positive result in terms of the cash flow into the cafeteria program for the year but it is a temporary benefit.

NEW BUSINESS

South Coast Educational Collaborative (S.C.E.C.) – Motion and Vote on Capital Reserve Fund: Dr. Gifford referenced the S.C.E.C. motion on its Capital Reserve Fund which was provided to Committee members in their meeting packet noting the matter passed unanimously by the Executive Board at the last meeting to bring the matter before their respective School Committees for a vote on the matter.

Mr. Nunes stated he will be voting no on the matter providing his reasons.

Dr. Jenkins explained why she was not inclined to support the motion as proposed and asked how decisions are made to expend from the capital fund.

Dr. Gifford responded S.C.E.C.’s Executive Board would make those decisions.

Before voting on the motion, the Committee asked if a representative from S.C.E.C. could attend the next meeting to explain the motion in more detail.

Dr. Gifford stated she would contact S.C.E.C. and get more information.

The matter was tabled to the next meeting of the Committee.

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

-New Transportation Parent App: Mr. Kiely explained the new “parent app” as it concerns bus transportation noting it allows for greater communication including sending “push” notifications to parents (ie weather, traffic, etc.) as well as allowing parents to request changes

through the app.

Mr. Kiely added the app is free and it is posted on the district website under the transportation tab.

Mrs. Amaral asked if the app will be available for out of district students.

Mr. Kiely stated we are attempting to get it on all vehicles; the app is currently for buses and not vans but we are working on solving that issue.

-District received a \$72,000 DESE Grant pertaining to the Acceleration Academy which the district will run for one week in August.

-Plans for the August 4th Administrators Retreat are underway where we will discuss allergy and safety protocols among other matters including the district's strategic plan; I will report back to this Committee at the August meeting regarding the allergy and security protocols.

-Dr. Gifford introduced Ryan Shea, Principal of Dartmouth High School, to provide a brief synopsis of the new cell phone practices to be implemented at the high school as information will be going out soon to parents. Dr. Gifford stated Mr. Shea will come back to provide more details at the August meeting.

Mr. Shea briefly highlighted the new high school cell phone practices adding this new practice is a collaborative approach to the issue.

Mrs. Waite asked if the district had to review the masking policy.

Dr. Gifford stated we do not however people are welcome to wear masks if they wish.

Report of the Chair: The Chair asked if there would be any warrants prior to the August meeting.

Mr. Kiely stated he will keep the Committee posted.

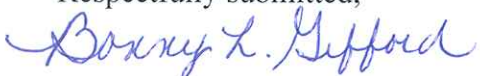
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting.

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, August 22, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Drs. Waite to adjourn from Open Session at 5:48 p.m. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



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