

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

November 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 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 and Mr. Kiely.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lauren Belliveau, DEA Vice President for Teacher Assistants, made comments pertaining to matters to be discussed in Executive Session.

Roseann Amaral, Teacher Assistant at Quinn School, made comments pertaining to matters to be discussed in Executive Session.

Lynne Turner, Dartmouth resident, made comments pertaining to the Superintendent search.

Jeffrey Read, Social Students teacher and lead teacher at Dartmouth High School, made comments pertaining to matters to be discussed in Executive Session.

Kelly Stowell, Nurse and District Lead Nurse, made comments pertaining to matters to be discussed in Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Regular Session Minutes of October 17, 2022 as written. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Mrs. Waite moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 17, 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

- Elementary – School Improvement Plan: Quinn, DeMello, Potter and Cushman

Ross Thibault and Catherine Pavaio, Directors of Teaching and Learning/Secondary and Elementary Levels respectively, provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the development of the district's strategic goals and the next iteration.

Elementary level administrators were invited to present their respective school improvement plan (SIP) for the 2022-2023 school year.

Andrew B. Cushman School: Dr. Justine Dale, Director of Early Childhood, while referring to the aforementioned PowerPoint presentation, provided information regarding highlights and progress as they pertain to the Cushman School 2021-2022 SIP as well as the priorities for the 2022-2023 school year.

Dr. Dale provided examples of the work being done at Cushman as it pertains to the three categories noted within the SIP: Sense of Belonging; Grade Appropriate Instruction and Monitor Understanding.

Joseph DeMello Elementary School: Elizabeth Correia, Principal, and Adam Hill, Assistant Principal, while referring to the aforementioned PowerPoint presentation, provided information regarding highlights and progress as they pertain to the DeMello School 2021-2022 SIP as well as the priorities for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mrs. Correia and Ms. Hill provided examples of the work being done at DeMello as it pertains to the three categories noted within the SIP: Sense of Belonging; Grade Appropriate Instruction and Monitor Understanding.

George H. Potter Elementary School: Richard Porter, Principal, and Melissa McHenry, Assistant Principal, while referring to the aforementioned PowerPoint presentation, provided information regarding highlights and progress as they pertain to the Potter School 2021-2022 SIP as well as the priorities for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mr. Porter and Mrs. McHenry provided examples of the work being done at Potter as it pertains to the three categories noted within the SIP: Sense of Belonging; Grade Appropriate Instruction and Monitor Understanding.

James M. Quinn Elementary School: Kyle Grandfield, Principal, Audra Thomas and Stephanie Yermalovich, Assistant Principals, while referring to the aforementioned PowerPoint presentation, provided information regarding highlights and progress as they pertain to the Quinn School 2021-2022 SIP as well as the priorities for the 2022-2023 school year.

Mr. Grandfield, Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Yermalovich provided examples of the work being done at Quinn as it pertains to the three categories noted within the SIP: Sense of Belonging; Grade Appropriate Instruction and Monitor Understanding.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to accept the Cushman, DeMello, Potter and Quinn School Improvement Plans for the 2022-2023 school year as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

School Committee Policy – JF School Admissions – Second Reading and Vote: Dr. Gifford asked the Committee to vote on the proposed revisions to SC Policy JF - *School Admissions* to make the language conform more to state law per DESE.

Dr. Jenkins noted the request for a minor revision to remove gender references and thanked the administration for including the change.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the proposed changes to SC Policy JF – *School Admissions*, as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Superintendent’s Evaluation – Summative: Mr. Nunes brought the matter forward for a vote.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Superintendent’s Summative Evaluation as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Town Meeting Update: Mr. Nunes invited Dr. Gifford to provide an update on the October Town 2022 town meeting.

Mr. Kiely reported that Town Meeting approved all of the district’s requests totaling \$1,010,000.

Mr. Kiely reported the only bad news that was received relating to capital improvement plans was that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) decided to suspend its Accelerated Repair Program (ARP) which affects the high school roof project timeline.

Mr. Kiely added other projects may be affected by the ARP suspension as the high school roof is a priority.

Mr. Oliver asked if the district should ask for roof repair money at the Spring 2023 town meeting.

Mr. Kiely stated the district is preparing the FY24-FY28 Capital Improvement Plan to be brought forward for the Committee’s consideration either at the next meeting or the one after that which will include some monies to maintain an appropriate learning environment.

Mr. Kiely added if we felt we had such significant issues we needed immediate funds there are other options for us to think about including talking to the Town regarding emergency transfer funds.

Mr. Nunes asked that it be noted on the FY24-28 CIP those other projects affected by the suspension.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent Search: Mr. Nunes reported that he had a conversation with Tom Scott from Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.) last week with regards to posting for an interim superintendent adding he asked Dr. Gifford to work on “something” to “get up” to Mr. Scott.

Mr. Nunes noted he is looking to bring applications to December 12th meeting giving us time to review “them” and interview the top 3 candidates in January.

Mr. Nunes asked Committee members if what he proposes “works for them.”

Mr. Oliver stated his concern about bringing in a retired superintendent for four months who does not know the district and the amount of time it would take to bring them “up to speed.”

Mr. Oliver proposed and provided his reasoning for looking at an in-house person for the interim period suggesting Mr. Kiely and noting there are other viable candidates within the leadership team.

Dr. Jenkins stated she is not averse to Mr. Oliver’s suggestion and recommended we explore the idea and discuss it at the next school committee meeting.

Mrs. Amaral stated she is agreeable to “what was mentioned.”

Mrs. Waite agreed.

Mr. Nunes was not opposed to offering the interim position to Mr. Kiely but noted constraints on him since it is budget season.

Mr. Nunes referred to information received from the recent MASC/MASS conference he attended whereat a session on searching for a superintendent was offered noting that MASC, NESDEC (New England School Development Council) and the Collins Center were present; Mr. Nunes stated we need to do our best to get three “bids.”

Mr. Nunes suggested bringing “them” to the December meeting; we can put an RFP together.

Mr. Nunes stressed the need for discretion up until the finalists are chosen at which time the process becomes public.

Dr. Jenkins made comments regarding School Committee members serving on the search committee noting elections in the spring and the need for continuity.

Mr. Nunes recommended 9 to 11 members to serve on the search committee adding this can be finalized at the next meeting or December meeting.

Dr. Gifford confirmed the administration will put together the RFP.

Mr. Kiely clarified that due to the price threshold it will be a quote process and not an RFP which will help expediate our ability to get quotes and provide them to the Committee adding he will share information from the previous search with Mr. Nunes.

Proposed Meeting Dates (January 2023 – June 2023): Dr. Gifford proposed the following meeting dates: January 9th; January 23rd; February 13th; March 6th; March 20th; April 10th; April 24th; May 15th; June 6th and June 27th.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve meeting dates January 2023 through June 2023, as proposed. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

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

- Update on the continued success of the Baystate Textile Recycling Program.
- Cushman school received another \$5,000 grant from the Feinstein Institute.
- Minding Your Mind* program which addresses mental health will be presenting on December 7th and 8th at the middle and high school; a parent night will be offered on December 7th.
- Comprehensive District Review Report from DESE was received and provided to Committee members.
- Tier Focus Monitoring Visits: March 28th and 29th: focus on Special Education and Civil Rights.
- DHS will hold an A.L.I.C.E. drill tomorrow.
- Celebration of DHS being a Unified Banner School to be held on November 10th.
- Dr. Gifford reported Elizabeth Cabral-Townson will be resigning from the Pupil Support Services Administrator position at the end of the school year.

Report of the Chair: The Chair reported the following:

- Mr. Nunes read Ms. Cabral-Townson's resignation letter dated October 31, 2022.
- Ms. Cabral-Townson thanked the Committee for its support.

Mr. Oliver asked if there is a meeting "on the books" for a joint session with the Select Board noting he asks because the matter of health insurance is an ongoing problem.

Dr. Jenkins stated there is no reason we cannot convene a joint meeting with the Select Board and Finance Committee.

Mrs. Waite, the Committee's representative on the Town Charter Review Committee, read current Town Charter language that is being reviewed by that Committee and asked School Committee members for comments on said language; Mrs. Waite will forward the language to School Committee members to be discussed in open session at a later time.

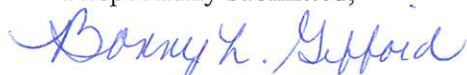
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting.

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, November 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Amaral moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. into Executive Session for an update on collective bargaining with union personnel 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