

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

May 15, 2023

The warrants for bills payable were reviewed and signed by the School Committee.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kathleen Amaral 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: Mrs. Amaral, Mr. Oliver, Ms. Coughlin, Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Nunes.

Also present: Mr. Kiely and Mrs. Genthner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Gamache, Third Grade Teacher at the DeMello School, made comments pertaining to collective bargaining.

Donna Costa, full year secretary at Dartmouth Middle School, made comments pertaining to collective bargaining. Standing with Ms. Costa were Donna Lamontagne, Kimberly Peach and Angela English.

Jillian Barnes, community member and parent of Dartmouth Public School students, made comments pertaining to collective bargaining.

Jody Parisi, Co-President of the DEA and teacher at the Quinn School, made comments pertaining to collective bargaining.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Regular and Joint Session Minutes of April 24, 2023 as written. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 24, 2023 and of May 2, 2023 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters for which they were intended are complete. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Phoenix Dalla Costa, a senior at Dartmouth High School, provided an update on the gathering of student feedback adding he plans to create a "constant comment box" through Google instead of a survey with the hope of gathering more meaningful comments from his peers to report back to the School Committee.

Mr. Dalla Costa stated he will attend the next meeting of the School Committee which will be his last as the Student Representative.

PRESENTATION

Spotlight on Kids – James M. Quinn Elementary School: Mr. Kiely invited Kyle Grandfield, Audra Thomas and Stephanie Yermalovich, Principal and Assistant Principals of Quinn School respectively, to present its school spotlight segment.

Mr. Grandfield stated tonight's presentation will be about the new Quinn School mascot and indicated that four 5th Grade Peer Leaders will present the administrator's PowerPoint Presentation (PPP): Olivia Sorensen, Emma Delgado, Tristan Michael Mears and Dustin Cabral.

Mrs. Thomas stated Miss Sorensen, Miss Delgado, Mr. Mears and Mr. Cabral will explain, in their own words and with their own PPP, what R.O.A.R. (Responsible, Organized, Accepting and Respectful) means to them.

The students handed out "brag tags" to School Committee members.

The Committee thanked the students and administrators for their presentation.

Spotlight on Kids – George H. Potter Elementary School: Mr. Kiely invited Richard Porter and Melissa McHenry, Principal and Assistant Principal of the Potter School respectively, to present its school spotlight segment.

Mr. Potter stated tonight's presentation will be six Grade 5 students telling us why Potters School is special to them.

The following students read essays highlighting why Potter School is special to them: Cameron Leverett, Khloe Tripp, Raphael Girgis, Olivia Barry, Kathryn Desmarais and Alec Cuff.

The Committee thanked the students and administrators for their presentation.

RECOGNITION

Superintendent's Certificate of Excellence Award: Mr. Kiely asked Dartmouth High School Principal Ryan Shea to come forward to make the presentations.

Mr. Shea informed the Committee that the recipients of the Superintendent's Certificate of Academic Excellence are DHS senior Serena Carnes who will attend the University of Massachusetts/Amherst in the fall to pursue studies for a career in medicine and DHS senior Sean Martin who will attend Harvard University in the fall to study Finance.

Mr. Shea highlighted Miss Carnes and Mr. Martin's many accomplishments while students at DHS.

Miss Carnes and Mr. Martin spoke briefly expressing their appreciation for their teachers.

The Committee offered congratulations to the recipients and wished them success in their future endeavors.

OLD BUSINESS

Town's Indigenous People, History and Culture Committee: Mrs. Amaral invited Mr. Kiely to address the matter.

Mr. Kiely stated the Select Board voted a “charge” for the Indigenous People, History and Culture Committee and have forwarded the same to this Committee for its consideration: the charge was included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Kiely noted steps the School Committee could take: vote on the charge in its current format; discuss membership of the voting members; consider revisions and forward those to the Select Board for its consideration.

Mr. Kiely added Mary Waite, former school committee member, who has represented this Committee on the Town’s Indigenous People, History and Culture Committee, is present this evening and could provide more information on the matter.

Mrs. Waite provided a brief overview of what the Indigenous People, History and Culture Committee have been doing noting she and David Tatelbaum, chair of the Select Board, met to discuss the “charge” of the committee then Shawn MacInnes, Town Administrator, Heidi Silva-Brooks, current Select Board member, and Sally Aldrich, Town Historical Society member, joined the meetings as well as members of the School Department including the Directors of Teaching and Learning, Ross Thibault and Katie Pavao, DHS Assistant Principal Mike Martin and DHS World Language Teacher, Lili Chamberlain and Potter School Art Teacher Elizabeth Neto adding Dr. Gifford attended initial meetings.

Mrs. Waite stated as a group the mission was to support the school department on the educational side noting the curriculum is not within the purview of the committee; ‘on the other side’ the mission is to educate the Town the “at large.”

Mrs. Waite stated the committee did reach out to and David Tatelbaum met with representatives of the Aquinnah to get their input and involvement; we also met with representatives from the Wampanoag Experience and with members of the Pocasset.

Mrs. Waite talked about the committee’s next steps including but not limited to a 3-year commitment for committee members; the installation of “kiosks” around Dartmouth; opening Town committee meetings with a land acknowledgment.

Mrs. Waite briefly spoke about the Select Board’s recommendations for committee membership.

Dr. Jenkins expressed her concerns about the first “bullet” of the proposed charge adding she does not have a problem with all of the other “things”.

Dr. Jenkins stated her recollection of “our” discussion of “this” was “this” was “going to be the Town side” and the schools were going to develop something internal that would be comprised of teachers and curriculum “people”: members of the community could join that group to provide input.

Mr. Kiely clarified what he believed to be the intent of the first “bullet” of the charge.

Dr. Jenkins reiterated she was uncomfortable with certain language.

Mr. Oliver explained how he sees “this” differently adding he doesn’t have a problem removing language; I see this as an opportunity for “them” to meet with representatives from the school department.

Dr. Jenkins stated she is happy with the committee providing ideas as well as input but she would like to see the language regarding instruction removed from the charge.

Mr. Oliver stated he is agreeable to removing instruction language from the charge.

Mrs. Amaral agreed.

Mr. Nunes agreed with Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Oliver and added his concerns about the membership, what is the limit.

Mr. Oliver recommended we add “the Select Board and the School Committee” to the language under “membership.”

Dr. Jenkins agreed the School Committee should have a say in the membership.

Mrs. Amaral stated her thought is to have Mrs. Waite continue as the school committee’s representative; do we have to reword membership language.

At 7:42 p.m. Mr. Oliver left the meeting; at 7:46 p.m. Mr. Oliver returned to the meeting.

Mrs. Waite clarified her understanding of the charge’s intent is to support schools and not to instruct.

Dr. Jenkins proposed the Select Board and the School Committee each propose a community member and any additional voting members would have to be approved by the Select Board and School Committee.

Mr. Kiely asked if the Committee might consider the following revision to the first “bullet” of the charge proposed by the Select Board: “.... and act in an advisory capacity to the schools on the culture, history and diversity of indigenous peoples.”

The Committee agreed to forward the proposed revisions to the Select Board for its consideration.

FY24 Budget: Mrs. Amaral invited Mr. Kiely to speak on the proposed FY24 Budget.

Mr. Kiely stated he appreciates the support from the Select Board and Finance Committee for voting in favor of the budget that was presented to them as well as noting his appreciation to Mr. MacInnes and Mr. Carreiro for speaking with him and adjusting their proposal.

Mr. Kiely thanked staff for their support in the budget process.

Mr. Kiely reported there is still a deficit; the budget that was voted by the Select Board and Finance Committee is \$99,275 less than the budget this Committee voted for.

Mr. Kiely provided some explanation how the deficit came to be and provided options offered by the Town Finance Director to address it.

Mr. Kiely provided an explanation on how the budget gap was resolved adding he is a little concerned about the current situation but it did help to avoid “sending out pink slips” this year.

Mr. Kiely provided options to the Committee for its consideration to bridge the deficit “gap.”

Mr. Oliver stated he would be in favor of “tapping” the Full Day Kindergarten fund to address this budget gap and added comments about his concern for the “direction” the Town as it concerns the school department.

Dr. Jenkins, in response to a statement made earlier in the meeting about a lack of transparency, asked Mr. Kiely for clarification as it concerns an increase in classroom staff.

Mr. Kiely provided clarification as it concerns the classroom staff lines in the proposed FY24 budget.

Dr. Jenkins agreed with Mr. Oliver’s comments about the Town’s direction with the school department adding her concerns with using the Full Day Kindergarten funds or non-recurring revenue to close the “gap” and to try to address this matter at Town Meeting.

Mr. Nunes stated “we” are short \$660,000 if you take in to account this Committee’s vote on a reduced proposed budget, the gap discussed tonight as well as the \$200,000 technology funds.

Mr. Nunes gave his “game plan” for Town Meeting.

Mrs. Amaral provided comments about what she sees as a lack of “valuing” public education and what it brings to a community.

NEW BUSINESS

SEPAC Parent Survey Results: Mrs. Amaral invited Elizabeth Townson, the District’s Pupil Support Services Administrator, and Debra August, officer of the SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Committee) to address the matter.

Mrs. Townson provided a brief overview of SEPAC.

Mrs. August, reviewed the results of the 2023 SEPAC survey through a PowerPoint Presentation which was provided to Committee members in their meeting packets adding that 65 people responded to the survey.

Mrs. Townson and Mrs. August recognized the 2023 Nominations from the Parent Survey: **Students** – DHS Evan Moniz, DHS Piper Harrison, DHS Jillian Hughes. **Staff** – DHS Peter Bangs, Sandy Fernandes, Melissa Fitzgerald, Sherri Houle, Kristen Johnson, Ashley Kocur-Pierpont, Jessica Lassey; DMS Rachel Lassey; QUINN Lindsay Perry, Michael Capello, Kim Carreiro, Ashley Couture-Raposo, Ana Paula Lauzon, Maryann Sorensen, Melissa Sullivan, Lindsay Vafides; POTTER Tricia Weaver, Melissa McHenry; DeMELLO Heather Noyes-Fredette; CUSHMAN Elizabeth de Barros.

Mrs. August reported on funds raised at the recently held SEPAC Resource Fair and provided a \$400 donation from SEPAC to the new A.T.L.A.S. program as well as donations to the Unified Bowling Club and Best Buddies Program from the fundraising proceeds.

Mrs. August also recognized a \$100 donation to SEPAC from Phoenix on the Fly, the food truck at the resource fair.

As representatives of and on behalf of SEPAC, Mrs. Amaral and Mrs. August recognized Mrs. Townson for her support of SEPAC over the years as this will be her last meeting before resigning from the District.

Mrs. Townson spoke briefly thanking SEPAC, Mrs. Amaral and Mrs. August.

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

- Last week was Teacher Appreciation and expressed his gratitude to staff for their work.
- School Lunch Super Hero Day happened since the last meeting and thanked the cafeteria staff for their work.
- Athletic update.
- Unified Outside Track update.
- Special Olympics happening at DHS on May 19th with a rain date of May 22nd; with another event on May 25th at Memorial Stadium with a rain date of May 26th.
- National Honor Society induction is Thursday, May 18th at 6:00 p.m. at DHS.
- Senior Prom is next week and graduation is June 4th.

Report of the Chair: The Chair did not have anything further to report.

-DHS Day of No Hate held last week.

-DHS Art Show.

-DHTC production of *Mamma Mia*.

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, June 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. into Executive Session for an update pertaining to Collective Bargaining with union personnel and non-union personnel and not return to open session. On a roll call the motion passed unanimously; 5-0: Mrs. Amaral – Yes; Mr. Oliver – Yes; Ms. Coughlin – Yes; Dr. Jenkins - Yes and Mr. Nunes – Yes.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Kiehl
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Open Session - Documents/Exhibits

Agenda

Brief

Regular and Joint Session Minutes for April 24, 2023

Executive Session Minutes for April 24, 2023 and May 2, 2023

PPP Presentation – Quinn Elementary School Spotlight on Kids

SEPAC Annual Survey Results and Nominations

Memo – Town's Proposed Charge for its Indigenous People, History and Culture Committee

Executive Session – Documents/Exhibits

None