

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

April 10, 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 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. Amaral, Ms. Coughlin, Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Oliver.

Also present: Mr. Kiely and Mrs. Genthner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rachel Lassey, Physical and Health Education Teacher at Dartmouth Middle School and volleyball coach at Dartmouth High School, made comments pertaining to collective bargaining.

Jeffrey Reed, Lead Teacher of the Social Studies Department at Dartmouth High School, made comments pertaining to collective bargaining.

Tiffany Fredette, community member and parent of Dartmouth Public School students, made comments pertaining to school to parent/family communication.

Renee Vieira and Jody Parisi, Co-Presidents of the DEA, congratulated Kathleen Amaral on her reelection to the School Committee and welcomed Elizabeth Coughlin, recently elected member of the School Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of March 27, 2023 as written. The motion passed: 4-0. Ms. Coughlin abstained.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 27, 2023 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters under consideration are resolved. The motion passed: 4-0. Ms. Coughlin abstained.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Phoenix Dalla Costa, a senior at Dartmouth High School, was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

PRESENTATION

District Physical Education and Health Program: Mr. Kiely invited Andrew Crisafulli, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health and Wellness for the District, to make a presentation pertaining to the District's Physical and Health/Wellness Education programs (PreK-12).

Mr. Crisafulli provided a brief overview of the District's Elementary Physical and Health Education program including but not limited to the following: Physical Education - Introductory skills and "Lead-up" games for basketball, racket games, track and field and backyard games: Health Education – life skills, conflict resolution, nutrition, fitness: Program Strengths – demonstrate appropriate behaviors (confidence, respect, self-control) and modify activities to foster success: Next Steps – continue to revisit and revise current curriculum to meet needs of our students.

Rachel Lassey, a physical education teacher at DMS, provided a brief overview of the District's Middle School Physical and Health Education program including but not limited to the following: Health Education – addressing personal hygiene, substance abuse, healthy relationships, communications skills, cyber safety: Physical Education – archery, soccer, badminton, volleyball: Program Strengths – Focused inclusion, student choice and voice: Next Steps – Provide students with more opportunities to increase their own physical fitness levels.

Mark Gaffney, Lead Physical and Health Education Teacher at DHS, provided a brief overview of the District's High School Wellness program including but not limited to the following: Year 1 – Wellness Green (Physical and Health Education): Year 2 – Wellness White (Physical and Health Education): Years 3 and 4 Wellness Elective (Physical Education): Program Strengths – Consistent Common Planning Time (CPT) & Professional Development (PD) to adjust, modify, and implement new curriculum: Next Steps – US Lacrosse Grant (re-introduce soft stick lacrosse to Wellness Green curriculum).

Mr. Crisafulli provided a brief overview of the District's Adaptive Physical Education program including but not limited to the following: Program Strengths – support students who need modifications and specialized instruction to access the physical education curriculum and existing initiatives that celebrate inclusion: Next Steps – Continued exploration and networking of extracurricular activities for students and families and composing more functional IEP goals through weekly collaboration with staff.

It was noted Meagan Phillips, Christopher Tullson and Paul Pavao (program staff members) were in attendance

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE

Appointment of Chair:

Mr. Nunes invited Mr. Kiely to address the matter of the Committee's organization.

Mr. Kiely sought nominations for Chairperson of the Dartmouth School Committee.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to appoint Kathleen Amaral as the next Chair of the Dartmouth School Committee. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

No further nominations being offered, nominations were closed and Mrs. Amaral was appointed Chair of the School Committee.

Mrs. Amaral accepted the appointment of Chair of the School Committee.

Appointment of Vice Chair:

Mrs. Amaral sought nominations for Vice-Chair of the Dartmouth School Committee.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to appoint Chris Oliver as the next Chair of the Dartmouth School Committee. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

No further nominations being offered, nominations were closed and Mr. Oliver was appointed Vice-Chair of the Dartmouth School Committee.

Mr. Oliver accepted the appointment of Vice-Chair of the School Committee.

Appointment of Secretary:

Mr. Nunes, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to nominate Mr. James Kiely, Interim Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, to serve as Secretary for the School Committee. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Kiely accepted the appointment of Secretary for the School Committee.

It was noted this will need to be re-voted in July; Mr. Kiely's term as Interim Superintendent ends on June 30, 2023.

Chairperson Comments:

Mrs. Amaral commented it is her pleasure to serve as Chair.

School Committee Assignments:

Dartmouth Education Foundation	Ms. Coughlin
Southern MA Educational Collaborative	Mr. Oliver
MA Association of School Committees	Mr. Nunes
Negotiations Representative	Mr. Nunes
	(Mrs. Amaral and Dr. Jenkins - back-up)
Policy Committee	Mrs. Amaral; & Ms. Coughlin
Technology Committee	Mr. Oliver
Fields & Facilities Committee	Mr. Nunes & Mrs. Amaral
Budget Committee	Dr. Jenkins & Mr. Oliver
	(Mr. Nunes back-up)
Town Charter Committee	Mrs. Waite and Heidi Brooks
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee	no appointments were made at this time
Town Open Space and Recreation Plan Steering Committee	Mr. Nunes (Ms. Coughlin alternate)
Curriculum Council	Dr. Jenkins

School Assignments:

The Committee agreed to continue its current practice not to assign individual members a school and that members will actively engage with and be informed about all schools.

Mr. Nunes commented that the Assistant Superintendent used to facilitate the policy sub-committee meetings adding the Superintendent or designee should facilitate these meetings.

Mrs. Amaral asked if the change would need to be voted on.

Mr. Nunes responded no.

Dr. Jenkins reported Heidi Brooks stated she would remain the School Committee's representative to the Town Charter Committee; it will be confirmed Mrs. Waite is willing stay on as the Committee's other representative.

Dr. Jenkins suggested that an appointment to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee be "skipped" and "we" come back to "it" when we have had a discussion on the "recharge" of that committee.

The Committee agreed to not make an appointment to the DEI sub-committee at this time.

Mr. Kiely explained the Curriculum Council which is an addition to the list of sub-committees this year noting the make-up of the committee includes a school committee member.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Kiely reported on the recent Finance Committee meeting at which he answered many questions noting the meeting is available to view on Dartmouth Community media.

Mr. Kiely felt the meeting provided an opportunity for the School Department to express the excellent return on investment that "we" provide for the community and, hopefully, help "them" understand that money invested in the Dartmouth Public Schools is used wisely and produces results.

Mr. Kiely reminded the Committee the Town "has us" about \$588,000 less than this budget adding he has a meeting with the Town Administrator and Finance Director tomorrow.

Mr. Kiely stated he would appreciate the Committee's support for this budget which was lowered by \$361,000 at the last meeting: lowering the proposed budget increase to 4.4% from 5.1%.

Mr. Kiely continued stating further reductions beyond our efforts will be "more drastic" not taking away from the impact of the reductions already made.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the FY24 budget appropriation for Potter School Classroom Teachers in the amount of \$1,862,847.00. The motion passed: 4-0. Mr. Oliver abstained.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the FY24 budget appropriation for the total budget, excluding the item voted individually in the previous motion, in the amount of \$49,689,336. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Dr. Jenkins asked what happens if the School Committee votes for this budget but the Finance Committee doesn't.

Mr. Kiely stated there are a number of options adding the Finance Committee and the Select Board are recommending bodies and this Committee doesn't need to change its vote.

Dr. Jenkins asked what gets presented to Town Meeting, which votes to approve budgets, if the School Committee, Finance Committee and Select Board have different recommendations.

Mr. Kiely responded the Select Board's recommendation which can be changed at Town Meeting.

Mr. Nunes suggested we have the FY24 Budget on the agenda until June.

NEW BUSINESS

SMEC Quarterly Report: Mrs. Amaral invited Mr. Oliver to address the matter.

Mr. Oliver reported the following: FY24 rate scales for staff were approved; Director signed a Purchase & Sale agreement for a new school facility to house a behavior program which is expected to start in the new year; DESE grant awarded to upgrade HVAC in buildings.

Discussion of Select Board and Finance Committee's Request for a Joint Session on April 24, 2023:

Mrs. Amaral opened discussion noting that this date is a school committee meeting date.

Mr. Kiely reported at the last Town Department Head meeting the Town Administrator asked if the School Committee would be available for a joint meeting at Town Hall on April 24th noting we could reserve a space at Town Hall for the School Committee's meeting.

Mr. Nunes voiced his concerns about a joint meeting.

Dr. Jenkins voiced her concerns about a joint meeting.

Mr. Oliver voiced his concerns about a joint meeting.

Mrs. Amaral asked what time is being suggested.

Mr. Kiely responded he believes 6:30 p.m. is the start time and stated he will work with the Town regarding the Committee's concerns: agenda and materials are provided in advance, place to meet before and/or after and a defined time to be "there" and to keep the discussion focused on what's important for this Committee.

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

-MCAS continues this week.

-DHS NEASC visit has been postponed until 2027: work towards accreditation will start in September 2024.

-Spring sports well underway: approximately 370 students are participating.

-DHS Math Team Southeastern MA Conference Mathematics League Champions and finished in 5th place at State Championship (medium schools division)

-DHS Chess Team is in first place in their league.

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

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

-SEPAC Update

-DEF Spelling Bee is Wednesday, April 12th

-Athletics Update

-Music Update

-Dr. Jenkins asked for "Voke" Representatives to provide a report and a conversation about its minutes.

-Mr. Oliver asked for South Coast Education Collaborative (SCEC) report in the near future.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place at Town Hall on Monday, April 24, 2023.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. into Executive Session for an update on Union and Non-Union negotiations and not return to open session. On a roll call the motion passed unanimously; 5-0: Mr. Nunes – Yes; Mrs. Amaral – Yes; Ms. Coughlin – Yes; Dr. Jenkins - Yes and Mr. Oliver – Yes.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Kiely
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Open Session - Documents/Exhibits

Agenda

Brief

Regular Session Minutes for March 27, 2023

Executive Session Minutes for March 27, 2023

PPP Presentation – District Physical Education and Health Program

FY23 SC Sub-committee Assignments (reference for FY24 appointments)

FY23 SC Officers (reference for FY24 appointments)

Dartmouth Curriculum Council Information (handout at meeting)

FY24 Memo – Motions to Approve the FY24 Budget

Executive Session – Documents/Exhibits

Employment Contract Proposal (Superintendent)

Contract Negotiations Email Correspondence (PSSA)