

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

March 27, 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 5:30 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: Mr. Kiely and Mrs. Genthner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the Regular Session Minutes of March 6, 2023 as written. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 6, 2023 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters under consideration are finalized. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the Regular Session Minutes of March 20, 2023 and March 22, 2023 as written. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Phoenix Dalla Costa, a senior at Dartmouth High School, provided comments on matters pertaining to the high school:

- Senior Prom is scheduled for June 1st.
- Senior Week is approaching.
- Student Advisory Council has been busy with preparing for AP tests which are coming up in May; it is expected by the next meeting we will have more robust student feedback about meeting agenda items.

PRESENTATIONS

Spotlight on Kids – Dartmouth Public School: Mr. Kiely invited Peter Rossi, Principal of Dartmouth Middle School (DMS), to make his presentation.

Mr. Rossi began the presentation with a “shameless” plug for DMS’s musical *Newsies, Jr.* which will run this Thursday and Friday in the middle school auditorium.

Mr. Rossi began this evening's *Spotlight* segment reading the mission statement of DMS' *Kindness Café* which was provided in the meeting packets.

Mr. Rossi introduced Elizabeth Dufault, a special education teacher at DMS and the facilitator of the *Kindness Café*.

Ms. Dufault provided a brief history of the program as well as the program's instructional purpose including math and interpersonal skills.

Ms. Dufault introduced students participating in tonight's presentation: Hayden Barriteau, DMS eighth grader, and Halina Silvia, DMS seventh grader.

A video was presented to provide a visual of students engaging in the work of the *Kindness Café*.

Miss Barriteau and Miss Silvia handed out mugs filled with treats to the Committee and others.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Kiely recommended the following requests to the Committee for its consideration and approval. The request was included in the meeting packet.

- **DMS PTO 2022-2023 Fundraising Requests**

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the DMS PTO 2022-2023 fundraising request as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Search Update – Vote and Announcement: Mr. Nunes opened discussion on the matter of voting and announcing the new Superintendent of Schools.

The Committee discussed the three finalists who were interviewed in open session last week: Dr. Robert Gerardi, Jr., Dr. June Saba-Maguire and Dr. Andrea Schwamb.

It was acknowledged the Committee was provided with the results of the survey that was conducted last week pertaining to the superintendent finalists.

The Committee agreed that all candidates represented their strengths well during the interviewing process as well as on the site visits; however, it was further agreed Dr. Gerardi and Dr. Saba-Maguire are the finalists they will consider at this time.

The Committee briefly discussed Dr. Gerardi and Dr. Saba-Maguire's candidacies.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to appoint Dr. June Saba-Maguire as the next Superintendent of Schools for Dartmouth pending contract negotiations.

The Committee recessed at 6:16 p.m. and reconvened at 6:28 p.m.

Mr. Oliver reported that Dr. Saba-Maguire accepted the appointment to be Dartmouth's next Superintendent of Schools and looks forward to the next steps.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Reserve Fund Transfer from Town to Fund the Cost of the Superintendent Search: Mr. Nunes explained his reasoning as to why he would like to make this request.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to request a Reserve Fund Transfer to cover the cost of the superintendent search as written. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

FY24 Budget

Mr. Nunes opened the Public Hearing on the proposed FY24 Budget at 6:35 p.m. inviting those who wish to speak on the matter to come to forward.

Mr. Kiely stated the meeting was advertised appropriately and we are prepared for any comments the public may have.

No public comment was offered.

The Public Hearing on the proposed FY24 Budget was closed at 6:37 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Kiely acknowledged the memo proposing reductions to the initial proposed FY24 Budget that was included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Kiely provided his reasoning for the reductions explaining they were brought about by recent staff resignations and retirement notification; Mr. Kiely proposed not to fill these vacancies and explained what the district's plan is to limit the impact on students.

Mr. Kiely added the district is proposing to shift some supplies into the School Choice budget; we propose shifting \$50,000.

Mr. Kiely stated the proposed reductions would result in a savings of \$361,343: what initially was a 5.1% budget proposal increase would now be a 4.4% budget proposal increase.

Mr. Kiely drew the Committee's attention back to the memo and to information therein regarding the Town's budget projections noting there is a \$950,000 variance from where we initially proposed a 5.1% budget increase; our revised proposal is approximately \$590,000 more than what the Town is projecting for the District.

Mr. Kiely stated it is the District's hope to gain the Committee's support and the Town's support for a 4.4% proposed budget; any further reduction will have a significant impact on students.

Mr. Oliver asked if the Town is aware of the significance the current Town budget projections would mean to the Dartmouth School system.

Mr. Kiely responded that he had a meeting with the Town Administrator and the Town's new Finance Director and was presented with a 3.1% budget increase for the school district adding the discussion was "limited flexibility" on the town side to fund anything beyond that; Mr. Kiely stated the Town is aware "we" would be talking about reduction in staff and an increase in class size.

Mr. Kiely noted that the School Committee has been invited to the Finance Committee's meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Nunes asked that a meeting be posted indicating the School Committee may be attending the Finance Committee's meeting.

Mrs. Waite moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the proposed FY24 Budget reduction in the amount of \$361,343 of which \$50,000 will be school choice funds. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Pupil Support Services Administrator Finalist Interviews

Lori Jodoin

**Current Position: Assistant Pupil Support Services Administrator
Dartmouth Public Schools**

Mr. Nunes opened the interview by asking the Committee members to introduce themselves.

Mr. Nunes explained the format of the interview: Candidate's Opening Statement; Series of Prepared Questions to be asked by the Committee, a copy of the questions was provided to the Candidate at the beginning of the interview; Candidate's Closing Statement and/or questions for the Committee. One hour has been scheduled for this interview.

Ms. Jodoin briefly highlighted her public education career.

The Committee posed and the Candidate responded to questions relating to but not limited to the following: department priorities, leadership style, programming and models currently in place and how to expand them based on individual needs, experience with budgets, communication with all stakeholders and decisions regarding curriculum, resources, professional development and their district wide implementation.

Laurie Dionisio

**Current Position: Special Education Teacher/ Team Facilitator
Dartmouth Public Schools**

Mr. Nunes opened the interview by asking the Committee members to introduce themselves.

Mr. Nunes explained the format of the interview: Candidate's Opening Statement; Series of Prepared Questions to be asked by the Committee, a copy of the questions was provided to the Candidate at the beginning of the interview; Candidate's Closing Statement and/or questions for the Committee. One hour has been scheduled for this interview.

Ms. Dionisio briefly highlighted her public education career.

The Committee posed and the Candidate responded to questions relating to but not limited to the following: department priorities, leadership style, programming and models currently in place and how to expand based on individual needs, experience with budgets, communication with all stakeholders and decisions regarding curriculum, resources, professional development and their district wide implementation.

The Committee recessed at 8:12 p.m. and reconvened at 8:22 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Pupil Support Services Administrator Search Update – Vote and Announcement: Mr. Nunes opened discussion on the matter of voting and announcing the new Pupil Support Services Administrator.

The Committee discussed the candidacies of Ms. Jodoin and Ms. Dionisio.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to appoint Laurie Dionisio as the Pupil Support Services Administrator subject to contract negotiations. On a roll call vote the motion passed: 3-2. Mr. Nunes – No; Mrs. Waite – Yes; Mrs. Amaral – Yes; Dr. Jenkins – No; and Mr. Oliver – Yes.

NEW BUSINESS

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

-MCAS happening this week.

-DMS had a dance this past Friday – the first since 2019 – selling over 300 tickets.

-District hosting the Department of Education for the Tiered Focused Monitoring visit this week.

Report of the Chair: The Chair reported:

-Athletics Update

-Music Update

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

-Mr. Oliver proposed recognizing Darren Doane for his years of service at a future meeting.

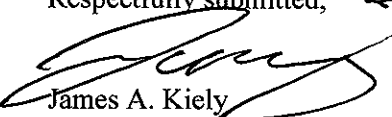
-Dr. Jenkins referenced an email sent to members regarding the DEF Spelling Bee.

-Dr. Jenkins reiterated her request to share meeting documentation except for Executive Session information with the Student Representative.

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, April 10, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to adjourn at 8:59 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: Mr. Nunes – Yes; Mrs. Waite – Yes; Mrs. Amaral – Yes; Dr. Jenkins - Yes and Mr. Oliver – Yes.

Respectfully submitted, 

James A. Kiely
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Open Session - Documents/Exhibits

Regular Session Minutes for March 6, 2023

Executive Session Minutes for March 6, 2023

Regular Session Minutes for March 20, 2023

Regular Session Minutes for March 22, 2023

Spotlight on Kids -DMS "Kindness Café" Mission Statement and Operation Information/video

Student prepared gift to Committee members and others/mug and snacks

DMS PTO Fundraising Requests 2022-2023

Superintendent Finalists – Survey Results

PSSA Interview – Questions

FY24 Memo – Proposed Budget Reductions

Executive Session – Documents/Exhibits

Memo - Select Board Executive Session Update