

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

January 9, 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: Dr. Gifford, Mr. Kiely and Mrs. Genthner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kendra Bakerink, Board Certified Behavior Analyst for the Dartmouth Public Schools, made comments pertaining to collective bargaining.

Donna Costa, secretary for Dartmouth Middle School, made comments pertaining to collective bargaining: standing with Ms. Costa were Donna Lamontagne, Carol Hart, Kimberly Peach and Angela English members of the Dartmouth Public Schools secretarial staff.

Gary Lauher, Lead Teacher for the Math Department at Dartmouth High School, made comments pertaining to collective bargaining.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the Regular Session Minutes of December 12, 2022 as written. The motion passed: 4-0. Mrs. Amaral abstained.

Mrs. Waite moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Executive Session Minutes of December 12, 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.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Joint Executive Session Minutes of December 19, 2022 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters for which the session was held are concluded. The motion passed: 3-0. Mrs. Waite and Dr. Jenkins abstained.

PRESENTATIONS

Spotlight on Kids – Dartmouth High School: Dr. Gifford welcomed Ryan Shea, Principal of Dartmouth High School (DHS) to present the high school's *Spotlight* segment.

Mr. Shea stated the high school's *Spotlight* segment will highlight the DHS Math Team and invited team members and advisory faculty to the podium: team captains, Junior Steven Wei and Senior Kevin Leong and team advisors Donald York and Gary Lauher were present. It was noted that Senior Nayan Bala, a team captain, was unable to attend.

Mr. Wei and Mr. Leong spoke about their experiences as members of the DHS Math Team and the feeling of community among team members whether at competitions or at team meetings.

Mr. Shea reported Mr. Wei is currently the best performer in the State.

Mr. York reported the team currently “sits” in first place in the State.

DESE Comprehensive District Review: Dr. Gifford welcomed Ross Thibault and Catherine Pavao, Directors of Teaching and Learning/Secondary and Elementary Level respectively to present the District’s Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Comprehensive Review.

Dr. Gifford provided a brief overview explaining the District was required to participate in the review stating DESE engaged an outside group American Institute for Research (AIR) to gather information which culminated in the review findings; Dr. Gifford credited Tracy Oliveira, recently retired Director of Teaching and Learning, for organizing much of the scheduling of the interviews, classroom observations and document reviews conducted by AIR.

Mr. Thibault and Mrs. Pavao, presented information from the review in the areas which were its focus: Leadership and Governance, Curriculum and Instruction, Assessment, Human Resources and Professional Development, Student Support and Financial and Asset Management.

Mr. Thibault and Mrs. Pavao provided a PowerPoint Presentation highlighting the district’s response to the comprehensive district review: Strengths, Areas for Growth, Recommendations and Next Steps.

Dr. Jenkins made comments about the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee as it was mentioned as a strength in the report under many categories and asked that the DEI Committee be placed on a future meeting agenda to reinvigorate, recharge and restructure that committee.

Mr. Oliver asked where “we” are regarding the student representative.

Dr. Gifford responded we will revisit this and will have someone come to the next meeting to “do” what has been done in the past.

OLD BUSINESS

Superintendent Search: Mr. Kiely referred to the brochure which was provided by Jim Hardy of M.A.S.C. and which was provided to committee members; Mr. Kiely stated there were some typos in the previous draft and that he is waiting on a revised version.

Mr. Kiely stated the intent of the brochure was to move the schedule up as soon as possible.

Dr. Gifford asked for approval to advertise as we are a little behind.

Dr. Jenkins asked if the qualifications or criteria are the same as the last search.

Mr. Kiely stated Mr. Hardy was going to change some of the selection criteria based on results from the survey which closed on January 5th.

Dr. Jenkins stated concerns about qualifications and central office experience noting minimum or preferred qualifications.

Mrs. Amaral asked if Mr. Hardy could be present at the next meeting to provide a report on the survey results.

Mr. Kiely stated Mr. Hardy was invited to this meeting but was scheduled to attend another meeting and was unable to be here.

Mrs. Waite stated central administration experience is listed in the brochure.

Mr. Oliver said he would like to see “preferred” versus “minimum” qualifications noted in brochure.

Mr. Kiely read the qualifications from the last superintendent search brochure.

Dr. Jenkins stated she is okay leaving the brochure as is in order to “cast a wider net” but I think we should list central office administration experience as preferred.

The Committee agreed to make the revision to state 3 years central office administration preferred.

Mr. Kiely stated he will relay the change to Mr. Hardy: 3 years central administration experience preferred.

Mr. Nunes asked the Committee if we get a copy of the revised brochure back to review “are we good to go.”

The Committee agreed but they do want to see the survey results.

Mr. Nunes opened the discussion on the superintendent search committee membership.

Mr. Oliver stated he was on that committee and thought it went well noting the only change would be to look at the number of Central Office Administrators and Curriculum Director since Curriculum Directors can be considered Central Office Administrators.

Dr. Jenkins asked if the DHS and DMS principals should include “or designee.”

Mrs. Amaral asked for someone who has a Special Education focus to be incorporated into the make up of the committee

Mr. Nunes asked individuals interested in serving on the superintendent search committee to send an email to Ms. Genthner by January 20, 2023; Ms. Genthner will share the names of those interested in serving with the School Committee.

Mrs. Waite suggested “swapping out” Curriculum Director with a Related Service provider.

Dr. Jenkins proposed changing “Retired Administrator” with a representative from the secretarial, teacher assistant, custodial, food service or maintenance staff.

Mr. Nunes stated he asked Andrew Crisafulli, Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics, to chair the search committee stating he has accepted.

Mr. Oliver asked Mr. Nunes what authority he had to make that offer.

Dr. Jenkins agreed with Mr. Oliver.

Mr. Nunes responded to the comments and apologized if he overstepped.

Dr. Jenkins stated it is her opinion the Committee has not appointed a chair of the search committee.

Mrs. Amaral suggested we come back next meeting with names for consideration and vote on it as a Committee.

Mr. Nunes stated he will inform Mr. Crisafulli and the Committee will vote at the next meeting.

Mr. Oliver asked Mr. Nunes why he did not share the information of the appointment with the Committee.

Mr. Nunes apologized.

Dr. Jenkins stated she feels like decisions are being made outside of open meeting.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to table the superintendent search at this time for the purpose of discussion.

Mr. Nunes asked how long they would like to table the matter for.

Mr. Oliver responded until which time the Committee is satisfied with the hiring process.

Mrs. Amaral asked Mr. Oliver to expound on "that."

Mrs. Waite stated she is concerned about the timeline acknowledging Mr. Nunes overstepped which he has admitted to and apologized for; Mrs. Waite asked if there is something else that she is not aware of.

Mr. Oliver is looking for guarantees moving forward that this Committee will operate in full transparency.

Dr. Jenkins commented on how the Interim Superintendent discussions started.

Dr. Jenkins shared Mrs. Waites' concerns about time and stated she does not want to delay the search but agrees with Mr. Oliver's need for assurances.

Mrs. Waite asked besides a verbal commitment "that we are going to do this;" what else is needed to keep the search moving forward.

Mr. Oliver withdrew his motion and Dr. Jenkins withdrew her second.

NEW BUSINESS

FY24-28 Capital Improvement Plan (Draft): Mr. Nunes invited Mr. Kiely to present the FY24-FY28 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) (draft) which was provided to Committee members in the meeting packet.

Mr. Kiely began by commenting on the age of the district's schools while commending the maintenance and custodial staff for their work and efforts keeping the buildings in operating condition; Mr. Kiely noted the Town's support but indicated more funding is needed for us to consider new school buildings and this is noted in the proposed CIP.

Mr. Kiely stated we want to have a strategy for planning new school buildings in the future stating it makes sense to look at the middle school.

Mr. Kiely reported the middle school was rated our worst building by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) in 2016 noting it was not the recommendation of the Facilities Master Plan (FMP) that was done several years ago.

Dr. Jenkins commented that a new roof was installed at the middle school and the District would "be on the hook" to pay some of this back should a new school be built which would not be the case if the school was renovated.

Mr. Kiely stated that is correct but renovating the middle school is not the answer.

Mr. Kiely noted all schools have new roofs except for the high school.

Mr. Kiely stated he believes Potter, DeMello and Quinn are in better condition than the middle school.

Mr. Oliver stated his concern with the elementary schools is there is not enough space; let's put a place holder in "here" for renovations to expand the elementary schools.

Mr. Kiely stated we could add something to the request that relates to planning.

Dr. Jenkins stated we need to have a sense the Town is committed to a building before committing money to a plan.

Mrs. Amaral responded it is important to have something there.

Dr. Jenkins stated we should include a building not a plan.

Mr. Oliver stated he would like to see funding approved in five years.

Dr. Jenkins asked that the FMP be recirculated to the Committee.

Mr. Kiely reviewed the priorities for FY24 explaining each request.

Mr. Oliver made comments about the stadium project and asked Committee members for their comments.

Dr. Jenkins asked if there is a way to scale back the design.

Mr. Kiely explained why that would not be the best idea.

Mrs. Amaral asked that we be more thoughtful about being more equitable for seating.

Mr. Kiely stated it is in the design.

Mrs. Waite asked if there are temporary fixes that could be done.

Mr. Oliver if it is feasible to "chunk" this out; to make the bathrooms ADA compliant and not do anything with the stands.

Mr. Kiely responded concrete repairs need to be done on the inside and exterior of the stands; we can ask the designers if this is possible.

Mrs. Amaral asked if the bathroom in the new storage facility could be the ADA compliant bathroom.

Mr. Kiely stated he will ask the designers.

Dr. Jenkins stated she is in favor of asking for the money for the project.

Mr. Kiely concluded his report and asked for the Committee's consideration acknowledging the matter will be taken up at the next meeting.

Update on Related Services: Mr. Nunes invited Dr. Gifford to provide information on the matter.

Dr. Gifford provided information on the District's related services; Dr. Gifford noted information was provided to Committee members in the meeting packet.

Mr. Oliver asked if the BCBA's caseload is average or heavy.

Dr. Gifford responded that the number.

Mrs. Amaral spoke about identifying students' needs for related services and communicating services to parents.

Pupil Support Services Administrator Impending Vacancy: Dr. Gifford commented that this position will be a challenge to fill and we want to support you getting the position posted.

Dr. Gifford stated we are ready to post.

Mrs. Amaral stated she would like us to move forward with this and restated her interest in serving on the search committee.

Mr. Oliver stated he would like to see another teacher on the search committee and would like to see the position posted.

Dr. Gifford stated we will get it posted; do you want us to get it out to DPS asking if anyone is interested in serving on the search committee to let us know and next meeting you can discuss the search committee more.

The Committee agreed.

Dr. Jenkins asked that both requests for search committee participation be posted on social media.

Use of School Choice Funds: Dr. Gifford asked for the School Committee's approval to use up to \$25,000 of school choice funds to purchase cameras per the request of the DHS TV Media program: information regarding the request was included in the meeting packet.

Dr. Gifford noted the District supports this request.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the use of up to \$25,000 of school choice funds in order for the DHS TV Media program to purchase cameras per its request. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Proposed 2023-2024 School Calendar: Dr. Gifford referred to the proposed 2023-2024 school year calendar provided in the meeting packet and asked for the Committee's approval of the calendar.

Dr. Jenkins asked if the Wednesday before Thanksgiving could be a parent teacher conference and reduce one parent teacher conference in December.

Mr. Oliver asked that the Wednesday before Thanksgiving be a full day off and extend the last day of school.

Dr. Jenkins asked if one of the December parent teacher meeting dates could be on a different day of the week.

The Committee agreed to make the Wednesday before Thanksgiving a no school day and to extend the last day of school.

Dr. Gifford noted the Friday before Labor Day is being proposed as a no school day.

Dr. Gifford stated we will redraft the 2023-2024 calendar per the Committee's recommendations and bring the matter back for approval at the next meeting.

Town Charter Review Committee – School Committee Appointees: Mr. Nunes opened the discussion on the matter noting the current School Committee appointees to the Town Charter Review Committee are Mrs. Waite and Heidi Brooks.

Mrs. Waite agreed to continue serving as a School Committee appointee.

Mr. Nunes asked Dr. Gifford to reach out to Heidi Brooks to see if she would continue serving on the Town Charter Review Committee as a School Committee appointee.

Mrs. Amaral moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to reappoint Mrs. Waite and Mrs. Brooks, pending Mrs. Brooks agreeing to participate, as School Committee appointees to the Town Charter Review Committee. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

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

-DHS Basketball Court Dedication Ceremony

-DHS TV Media Program was able double its recently awarded \$10,000 grant

-Potter received a \$5,000 award from the Feinstein Institute

Report of the Chair: The Chair reported:

-DHS Basketball Court Dedication Ceremony

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

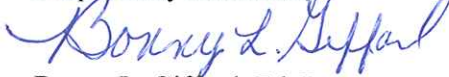
Dr. Jenkins asked if, after public comment, the Committee could provide a response.

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, January 23, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to adjourn at 8:23 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 unanimously; 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