

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

September 25, 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 6:00 p.m. in the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center.

On a roll call the following members were present: Kathleen Amaral, Chris Oliver, Elizabeth Coughlin and John Nunes. Dr. Jenkins was not in attendance.

Also present: Dr. Saba-Maguire, Mr. Kiely and Ms. Genthner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve the Regular Session Minutes of September 11, 2023 as written. The motion passed: 3-0. Chris Oliver abstained.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Ryan Shea, Principal of Dartmouth High School, to introduce Anabelle Jonsson, a DHS Senior and Student Advisory Council Representative to the School Committee. Ms. Jonsson provided brief comments pertaining to the Student Advisory Council and her role as the council's representative this year.

Dr. Saba-Maguire commented on the importance of student voice and how it helps "us", as the Superintendent and School Committee, think about the decisions we make.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Saba-Maguire recommended the following requests to the Committee for its consideration and approval and commented on the wonderful experience she had at the Potter PTO meeting last night.

Richard Porter, Principal of Potter School, and Audra Thomas, Assistant Principal of Quinn School, were in attendance to answer any questions.

- **Potter School PTO – 2023-2024 Fundraising Requests**
- **Quinn School PTO – 2023-2024 Fundraising Requests**

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve the Potter and Quinn PTO fundraising requests for 2023-2024, as submitted. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW HIRES

Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Ross Thibault and Catherine Pavao, Directors of Teaching and Learning for the Secondary and Elementary Levels respectively, to provide a brief overview of the teacher induction and mentoring experience known as Project T.I.M.E. Reference material was included in the meeting packets.

Mr. Thibault commented Project T.I.M.E. supports teacher retention and provided statistics for Dartmouth including the District's 92.4% teacher retention rate.

Mrs. Pavao stated school districts in Massachusetts are required to provide a mentoring and induction program and noted Dartmouth provides training to its mentors.

Mr. Thibault and Mrs. Pavao introduced the Dartmouth Public Schools' 2023-2024 new instructional hires and their mentors. It was noted the Project TIME Coordinators are Janine Tavares (Elementary Level) and Kelly Duarte (Secondary Level). Ms. Duarte was in attendance.

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Hailey Perry	Pre-school Teacher	Cushman	Christine Fistori
Michelle Ouellette	Special Education Teacher	Cushman	Lori O'Neil
Matthew Beuparland, Jr.	Physical Education Teacher	Cushman	Paul Pavao
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Olivia Carreiro	ELL Teacher	Potter	Melissa Laurence
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Julia Hoyle	Occupational Therapist	Quinn	Corie Deus
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Tyler Tavares	Physical Education Teacher	DMS	Paul Pavao
Connor Tavares	Gr 6 Social Studies/ELA Teacher	DMS	Annie Laurie Jacob
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Sarah Mitchell	English Teacher	DHS	Will Higgins
Bridget Weinert	Computer Science Teacher	DHS	Doug Smith
Mark Rossi	Math Teacher	DHS	Debra August
Jennifer Cusson	Special Education Teacher	DHS	Ashley Kocur-Pierpont
Cassie Levesque	Guidance Counselor	DHS	Catherine Thomas
NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	MENTOR
Kerry Crane	Physical Therapist	Potter/Cushman	Corie Deus
Anna Zembo	Speech Language Pathologist	Cushman	Maryann Sorensen

OLD BUSINESS

Presentation – Long-Term Capital Improvement Planning: Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Mr. Kiely to address the matter.

Mr. Kiely summarized the recent Fields and Facilities Sub-committee meeting from August 29th adding he hopes it provides a starting point in our discussion of long-term capital improvement planning moving forward. The presentation shown was provided in the meeting packet.

Mr. Kiely provided information pertaining to a 2016 Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) state-wide survey of every school building in Massachusetts wherein Dartmouth Middle School (DMS) was rated in the bottom 16% as well as information about MSBA's funding of new buildings or major renovations since 2016.

Mr. Kiely noted that Dartmouth has never done a new building project or major renovation funded by MSBA adding it appears "we" could be a candidate for an MSBA project down the road.

Mr. Kiely commented on the 2017 Facilities Master Plan submitted to the District by SMMA Architects and noted its limitations at this time.

Mr. Kiely spoke briefly about the newly formed Town group put together to focus on long-term needs through a 40-year window.

Mr. Kiely shared draft goals for long-term capital improvement planning in an effort to get the conversation started with the School Committee noting they are broad but flexible which includes providing effective and appropriate learning environments for all students; replacing aging school buildings in a strategic way that can be supported by the community; focusing on impacting the most students; increasing opportunities for early childhood education.

Mr. Kiely provided the Committee with a proposal for consideration: build a new high school on the current middle school site; move the middle school to the current high school and add grade 5 to the middle school allowing for a change in the elementary school structure to PreK to Grade 4; offer preschool in all of the elementary schools allowing the District to close the Cushman School.

Mr. Kiely provided the merits of the proposal including how the proposal focuses on one major project that we could fund and it would improve the educational experience for the entire District.

Mr. Kiely stated the proposal presented would not solve all the District's problems and noted future projects that will need to be addressed including replacing the current elementary school buildings and renovations to the Dartmouth Memorial Stadium as well as the current high school building.

Mrs. Amaral commented on the plan proposed.

Mr. Nunes provided comments adding remarks about the Town lack of available land.

Mr. Oliver agreed “the time is now” to address facilities, asked about recent school roof replacements and stated he thinks DeMello and Potter elementary schools need to be addressed and expressed his reservations about the plan presented this evening.

Ms. Coughlin stated she has not seen the 2016 MSBA survey.

Mr. Kiely responded and explained the survey ratings noting the Potter and DeMello schools were rated better than the middle school.

Mr. Kiely stated Mr. Oliver is right the DeMello and Potter schools do need to be replaced as well as the middle school adding no projects have been done since the current high school was built over 20 years ago.

Dr. Saba-Maguire suggested a tour of school facilities for School Committee members, town members and state representatives noting it is important for everyone to get a sense of what the buildings look like as well as visit neighboring districts to see what new buildings can offer including elementary schools.

Dr. Saba-Maguire agreed with Mr. Oliver about the elementary schools and emphasized Mr. Kiely’s recommendation to be “strategic” in our planning.

Ms. Coughlin commented it is important to consider what the community “has the stomach for” and added that the plan presented this evening does benefit all students.

Mr. Oliver added a new high school would be the most expensive type of school to build.

Ms. Amaral asked how we should proceed with the discussion.

Mr. Nunes asked “where” the Town is on this; what are they looking at.

Mr. Kiely responded stating some projects may be ahead of us on planning and explained why it is important for us to identify projects to move along to the long-term planning group.

Mr. Kiely stated the District is providing suggestions to the Committee so that it can set its goals and create a plan which the school department will do its best to implement.

Mr. Oliver asked for more information.

Dr. Saba-Maguire responded this is more of an introduction for the discussion and “we” will have more options for consideration.

Mr. Nunes asked for a time frame to build a school.

Mr. Kiely responded the soonest a building project could begin would be 3 years.

Ms. Coughlin asked about the middle school playing fields which is the proposed site for a new high school.

Mr. Kiely stated there is more land adjacent to the site.

The Committee agreed with the *Goals* presented: provide an effective and appropriate learning environment for all students; replace our aging buildings in a strategic way that can be supported by the community; impact a broad cross-section of the community; increase opportunities for early childhood education.

Dr. Saba-Maguire asked for input from the members to prioritize their individual opinions to help the sub-committee come back to the full committee with other options.

The Committee asked that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Kiely reported he and Mr. Nunes attended the Town Capital Improvement Planning meeting on September 21st and stated he understood the meeting was held primarily because the Town had not included any of “our” projects on the draft Town Meeting warrant for October 17th noting he had not been invited to a capital improvement planning meeting prior to the 21st.

Mr. Kiely reported the Town Administration indicated that excluding the school department projects was because “we” had received more money in our FY24 operating budget than what they projected.

Mr. Kiely stated the meeting on the 21st was productive and the CIP committee offered a proposal; if the School Committee would agree to support an amendment at Town Meeting to use the Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) stabilization fund to support our fire system upgrade request (referencing a letter provided by the District 3 Fire Chief Arruda), the capital committee would support roof repairs and technology infrastructure totaling \$620,000 from free cash.

Mr. Kiely reminded the Committee of a discussion last spring that “we” could use FDK funds to help the district stem the tide of a budget crisis; if we use the funds for the fire upgrade we will not have them to support the district in a budget crisis.

Mr. Oliver voiced his concern about the Town’s direction as it concerns the School Department.

Ms. Coughlin stated she does not have an issue using FDK funds right now but “we” should invite the Finance Committee to the schools now as well as starting the conversation about how “we” are going to fund our ongoing issues including teachers’ salaries, health care and maintenance.

Mr. Kiely responded he is currently working on the FY25 budget.

Mr. Nunes provided comments about the CIP committee meeting and the amendment proposal and stated he is “good” with taking the \$250,000 out of the FDK fund to support the fire system upgrade.

Ms. Amaral agreed with Mr. Oliver’s comment and voiced her frustrations.

Mr. Kiely asked for the Committee’s approval of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee’s proposal.

Dr. Saba-Maguire read a portion of the Fire Chief’s letter to emphasize the importance of the upgrade.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Oliver to request Town Meeting to appropriate \$250,000 from our Full Day Kindergarten Stabilization Fund for the fire system upgrade and \$620,000 from free cash or surplus revenue for the purpose of roofing repairs, technology infrastructure, security and improvements. The motion passed: 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of School Committee Representative to the Town's Charter Review Committee:

Mrs. Amaral opened discussion on the matter.

Dr. Saba-Maguire reminded the Committee that Mary Waite is stepping down as one of the School Committee's representatives to the Town Charter Review Committee and provided general information regarding that committee's meeting schedule.

Mrs. Amaral asked if any of the School Committee members would be interested in the position.

Elizabeth Coughlin expressed her interest in serving.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Oliver to appoint Elizabeth Coughlin to the Charter Review Committee to replace Mary Waite. The motion passed: 4-0.

Superintendent Goals for 2023-2024: Dr. Saba-Maguire presented her 2023-2024 Goals which is part of her Entry Planning process noting they are meant to serve as a starting point for the evaluation process.

Dr. Saba-Maguire noted and briefly explained her goals: Goal 1 – Effective Entry and Goal Setting; Goal 2 – Maintaining Momentum During Transition; Goal 3 – (Professional Practice) New Superintendent Induction Program.

Dr. Saba-Maguire stated she hopes her goals are acceptable to the Committee adding she is not looking for a vote this evening; she wanted to start a process so that when we meet in sub-committee this will be a foundation from which to work off.

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

- Dartmouth Education Fund (DEF) grants awarded 14 grants to the District (Staff and Students) totaling over \$14,000.
- MCAS results released; we should be receiving the reports this coming Friday; the District will send out the reports to parents on October 10th; a comprehensive presentation of the District's results will be presented at the November 6th school committee meeting.
- Report on M.A.S.S. New Superintendent Induction/Mentoring Program; including visit of schools with New Superintendent coach Dr. Maureen Lacroix.
- State Revision of Health and Sex Education standards noting they had not been revised since 1999.
- Personnel Update: a contract was offered to a new Assistant Director of Student Services; all food service positions have been filled and the District continues to seek Education Support Professionals.

- Sports Update including new scorer's table.
- Partnering with Dartmouth Council on Aging – considering ways to unite “our” seniors with the school community; *Celebrate Our Seniors Night* tentatively scheduled for half-time at the October 13th football game.
- DMS is launching its After School Program on October 12th.
- Update on Meeting with all the School PTOs – goal is to have a Superintendent PAC in place by the first of the new year which would be representative of all the schools.

Report of the Chair: The Chair reported the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) will be holding a meeting at Quinn School on October 10th at 6:30 p.m.

Dartmouth High Schools is holding its *Showcase Night* on October 24th for 7th and 8th graders from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

- Upcoming Sports Events
- Upcoming Music Events

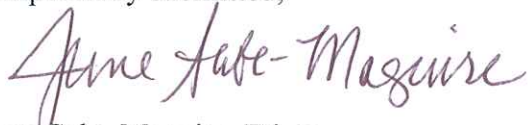
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting:

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, October 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. into Executive Session for a discussion of non-union personnel positions and not return to open session. On a roll call the motion passed unanimously; 4-0: Mrs. Amaral – Yes; Mr. Oliver – Yes; Ms. Coughlin – Yes; and Mr. Nunes – Yes.

Respectfully submitted,



June Saba-Maguire, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Open Session - Documents/Exhibits

Agenda

Brief

Regular Session Minutes for September 11, 2023

Consent Agenda – Potter PTO 2023-2024 Fundraising Request

Consent Agenda – Quinn PTO 2023-2024 Fundraising Request

Presentation – Project T.I.M.E. Overview & New Educator Induction

Presentation – Long Term Capital Improvement Planning

Memo – Long Term Capital Plan (including letter from District 3 Fire Chief Richard Arruda)

Presentation – Superintendent's 2023-2024 Goals