

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

August 21, 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 5:00 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, Ms. Coughlin, Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Nunes. Mr. Oliver joined the meeting at approximately 5:15 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lynne Turner, Dartmouth resident, expressed her concerns regarding the summer reading program at Dartmouth High School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve the Regular Session Minutes of July 17, 2023 as written. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Town's Indigenous People, History and Culture Committee (IPHCC)– Further Discussion: The Chair asked Dr. Saba-Maguire to introduce Mr. David Tatelbaum, IPHCC member and chair of the Dartmouth Select Board, and Lili Chamberlain, IPHCC member and foreign language teacher at Dartmouth High School, to open the discussion on the matter.

Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Ms. Chamberlain to address the matter.

Ms. Chamberlain provided information regarding the IPHCC “working group” – which is not yet a committee - and how she and other members educated themselves pertaining to indigenous people, history and culture and taking that information to better implement the goals of the IPHCC.

Ms. Chamberlain reported “we” have had helpful and productive discussions with a number of Wampanoag tribal members who were asked if they would like to join the IPHCC; so far, all have declined.

Ms. Chamberlain stated the draft charge the IPHCC provided to the School Committee for discussion at its last meeting included the language voting and non-voting members.

Ms. Chamberlain explained the IPHCC will be an advisory committee to the Select Board and School Committee and not have any actual “power.”

Ms. Chamberlain stated the IPHCC would be “fine” with changing the voting and non-voting language.

Mr. Tatelbaum stated we have been working hard to find a person of indigenous ancestry who would like to be a member of the IPHCC.

Dr. Jenkins proposed stronger language in the charge which would “require consultation through official (tribal) channels.”

Mr. Tatelbaum asked what do we need to do and the “language” we need to have to get “this done” and move forward.

Ms. Coughlin stated she does not see that it would be necessary to make changes to Town by-laws if “you” change the voting language and include stronger language.

Mrs. Amaral asked if substantial and documented language could be added to the charge as well as seeking a change to the by-laws.

Mr. Tatelbaum stated any change to the by-law would get “push back;” if we agree on the language we can move forward.

Mr. Oliver commented we should move forward with “how it is;” it’s worth “looking” at the bylaws.

Ms. Chamberlain stated she would speak to the Town Administrator to remove the voting language; do we even need it.

Dr. Jenkins stated official Town bylaws require Town committee members to be town residents.

Mr. Tatelbaum responded “voting” members.

Ms. Coughlin asked if every Town committee votes its decisions.

Mr. Tatelbaum responded no; some committees are advisory committees.

Ms. Amaral asked if the name could be changed to a working group instead of a committee.

Dr. Jenkins stated this is essentially an inter-governmental relations council since the Mashpee and Aquinnah are sovereign nations where the tribes’ select their members to a committee; then there is a full partnership.

Mr. Tatelbaum brought up the open meeting law challenge.

Mr. Nunes brought up the “term” language in the charge.

Mr. Tatelbaum stated “buttoning up” the language would be the simpler way to go.

Mr. Oliver asked Mr. Tatelbaum what he needs from “us;” we told you we are looking for the voting language to be removed.

Mr. Tatelbaum asked the committee to rewrite the charge from its perspective, have a meeting, agree on it and bring it back and “we” can work on it.

Mr. Tatelbaum added we can look towards June Town Meeting, if the “thirst and hunger” is there, to recommend that we reconsider the bylaw, that is something I could present.

Ms. Amaral stated she would take her notes and give some final language and present it again: voting language, substantial consultation and term language.

Dr. Jenkins reminded the members that we need to hear about the work being done in the schools through the curriculum adding it should be a recurring agenda item.

Mr. Tatelbaum reported that “we” may have a resident tribal member who will also need to report to someone else and that needs to be part of that “language.”

Update on Maintenance/Custodial Summer Projects: Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Mr. Kiely to address the matter.

Mr. Kiely referred to the memorandum provided in the meeting packet.

Mr. Kiely provided brief highlights of maintenance work completed, nearly complete and ongoing.

Mr. Oliver asked about the high school auditorium lighting and sound upgrades.

Mr. Kiely responded everything is ordered on the sound side which needs to be completed before continuing on the lighting side adding that the upgrades can be done while school is in session.

Mr. Oliver asked if the stadium storage facility is complete.

Mr. Kiely stated it has been completed.

Mr. Oliver asked about getting together with the Turf Field Committee and about maintenance staffing.

Mr. Kiely responded the district could use additional maintenance staff and provided the current staff; facilities manager, grounds keeper, and three full time and one part time maintenance personnel.

Discussion to Consider Sending Committee Members to the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Annual Conference: In light of previous interest expressed by committee members, Dr. Saba-Maguire provided information regarding the NSBA annual conference for 2023-2024.

Mr. Oliver stated he brought this matter up several months ago adding he thinks it is worthwhile to send one, if not two, members to this conference.

Mr. Oliver stated he would like to see a policy created around the matter.

Dr. Jenkins agreed and stated she thinks sending two members would be better.

Mr. Nunes agreed with putting a policy in place; how will participation be budgeted.

Ms. Coughlin agreed but expressed concern over the cost.

Mrs. Amaral asked if there was any “appetite” from the committee to participate in the this conference.

Mr. Oliver and Mr. Nunes expressed interest in attending.

Mr. Oliver suggested funding through school choice funds, for this year.

The remaining members stated they would not be available to attend this year.

The Chair noted a policy sub-committee meeting would need to be set up to discuss member participation and requirements for reporting back to the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC) – Request Approval of Intention to Change Facility Location: Dr. Saba-invited Kimberly Wilmot, Director of Student Services for SMEC, to address the matter.

Ms. Wilmot explained how SMEC has been looking for additional space for its Therapeutic Learning Center Program currently located in New Bedford for four to five years to meet the growing need of the students in Dartmouth and other local communities.

Ms. Wilmot stated the former North Star Learning Center located at 267 Samuel Barnet Boulevard in Dartmouth became available adding the facility is already set up for the needs of the SMEC program.

Ms. Wilmot stated SMEC is looking to transfer its day school license to the new space and noted the steps that have been completed to facilitate the process: town inspections and DESE site review.

Ms. Wilmot, on behalf of SMEC, respectfully requested that the Dartmouth School Committee approve SMEC's intention to transfer its public day school license from the current location in New Bedford to 267 Samuel Barnet Boulevard in Dartmouth.

Mr. Oliver, as the Committee's representative to SMEC, provided further comments.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve SMEC's transfer of its public day school license from its current location in New Bedford to 267 Samuel Barnet Boulevard in Dartmouth pending DESE approval. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Capital Improvement Planning Discussion: Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Mr. Kiely to address the matter.

Mr. Kiely referenced the memorandum provided in the meeting packet.

Mr. Kiely explained the need to approach the district's aging school buildings through immediate maintenance needs as well as long term capital planning.

Dr. Jenkins asked about MSBA reopening.

Mr. Kiely responded he thinks it is unlikely MSBA will reopen the program this year.

Mr. Nunes asked about the ATLAS program vehicle.

Mr. Kiely responded we do not have a vehicle at this time adding the program is in its first year and community relations will be developing; we do have "demand response" transportation that can be made available.

Ryan Shea, Principal of Dartmouth High School, provided additional comments regarding the ATLAS program.

Mr. Kiely reported he was invited by Shawn MacInnes, the Town Administrator, to a meeting with representatives with different town interests to discuss long term capital improvement planning.

Mr. Kiely, to prepare for our participation in the conversation, asked that a meeting of the Fields and Facilities Sub-Committee be called to talk about the process, our priorities in terms of how we would want to report back to the School Committee.

Dr. Jenkins asked that the Facilities Master Plan be provided to the members.

Proposed School Committee Meeting Dates (October 2023 through December 2023): Dr. Saba-Maguire proposed the following meeting dates: September 11th and September 25th; October 16, 2023; November 13th and November 27, 2023 and December 11, 2023.

After discussion, the Committee agreed on the following meeting dates: September 11th; September 25th; October 16th; November 6th; November 20th and December 11th.

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

Dr. Saba-Maguire, introduced her Superintendent Coach, Dr. Maureen Lacroix, former Superintendent of the Bedford Public School District.

Dr. Lacroix spoke briefly about the New Superintendent Induction Program including the three requirements of the program noting Dr. Saba-Maguire will introduce the first requirement tonight: her Entry Plan.

Dr. Saba-Maguire provided a PowerPoint Presentation that highlighted her Entry Plan noting it is an opportunity to learn more about the district.

Dr. Saba-Maguire referenced her Entry Plan provided in the meeting packet which is based on Ethics of Organization: Ethic of Community, Ethic of Care, Ethic of Critique, Ethic of Equity and Justice and Ethic of Profession.

Dr. Saba-Maguire stated her Entry Plan will be posted on the district website.

The Committee expressed their happiness with the Entry Plan particularly the community outreach and relationship building.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Superintendent's Entry Plan as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

- New Hire Update and Project TIME begins tomorrow.
- Summer Academic Program and DESE Acceleration Program Update.
- District Leadership Team meeting at the North Branch of the Dartmouth Library.
- Welcome Back Letters were sent to staff and families.
- Mr. Shea provided an update on high school scheduling.
- Monday, August 28th is the first day for Staff and Wednesday, August 30th school opens.

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:

-The Chair spoke with Dr. Cynthia Marland who stated she and Michael Shea, the Dartmouth Representatives to the Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School Committee would be happy to report to the Dartmouth School Committee.

The Committee agreed to a meeting in October or November.

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, September 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. The motion passed unanimously; 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Open Session - Documents/Exhibits

Agenda

Brief

Regular Session Minutes for July 17, 2023

Memo – re Summer Maintenance & Improvements Projects

Reference – DESE Language re SMEC's Request for Approval of Facility Location Change to Dartmouth

Memo – Capital Improvement Plan & Long-Term Capital Planning

Proposed SC Meeting Dates (October 2023 through December 2023)

Superintendent's Entry Plan and PPP