

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

September 11, 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 6:15 p.m. in the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center.

On a roll call the following members were present: Mrs. Amaral, Ms. Coughlin, Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Nunes. Christopher Oliver was not in attendance.

Also present: Dr. Saba-Maguire and Ms. Genthner. James Kiely was not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair opened public comment by referencing the School Committee policy pertaining to public comment and asked the Committee to revisit the current policy, perhaps with other policies, to improve our practice for engaging with the community.

Dr. Jenkins stated her concerns about “opening up” public comment and added restricting public comment to items on the agenda allows “us” to keep comments directed towards matters that are the purview of the School Committee.

No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve the Regular Session Minutes of August 21, 2023 as written. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The matter was held until later in the meeting.

A student representative report was not provided.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Saba-Maguire recommended the following requests to the Committee for its consideration and approval.

- **DSMA – 2023-2024 Fundraising Requests**

Amy Dion, President of the Dartmouth Music Association (DSMA), spoke briefly noting most fundraising activities are what has been approved in the past adding there a few new activities – such as *Parents Night Out*.

Dr. Jenkins asked what DSMA expects to raise last year.

Ms. Dion and Ian Flint, Director of Music for the Dartmouth Public Schools, responded in excess of \$120,000.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve the DSMA 2023-2024 Fundraising Activity request as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

- **Dartmouth School Music Association (DSMA) – Permission to Participate in the Bands of America Regional Championships: October 28-29, 2023 in New Jersey**
- **Dartmouth School Music Association (DSMA) – Permission to Participate in the Bands of America National Championships: November 8-12, 2023 in Indiana**

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve the DSMA request to participate in regional and national music competitions, as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and Agreement of Final Proposed Charge for the Town's Indigenous People, History and Culture Committee (IPHCC): The Chair opened discussion on the matter.

Dr. Jenkins asked about the Town by-law and committee membership question discussed at the last meeting.

Ross Thibault confirmed Shawn MacInnes, the Town Administrator, confirmed at the last meeting of the IPHCC that the question is a matter of Town By-law and not Town Charter and language in the charge was changed to reflect that.

Dr. Jenkins read from the revised draft charge forwarded by Mr. Thibault, a member of the IPHCC working group, which was included in the meeting packet, “per Town By-law all voting members shall be residents of the Town of Dartmouth” adding it was her understanding from the previous meeting’s discussion that it was not going to be a voting committee.

The Chair agreed with Dr. Jenkins.

Mr. Nunes commented the IPHCC would “vote” to forward information to the Select Board or to this Committee.

Dr. Jenkins brought up language in the third “bullet” adding the word “may” should read “shall” per the previous meeting’s discussion.

Mr. Thibault responded that his understanding is the IPHCC would bring whatever changes the School Committee makes this evening back to the Select Board which would likely be adopted at that point.

Dr. Jenkins asked that the language changed from “may” to “shall” in the third “bullet.”

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve the School Committee’s Recommendation for the IPHCC charge as presented in draft by the IPHCC working group with the agreed upon change of language in “bullet” three from “may” to “shall.” The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

Update on Fields and Facilities Sub-committee Meeting Regarding Long-term CIP Planning: Dr. Saba-Maguire provided a brief update on the matter.

Dr. Saba-Maguire reported on the August 29th sub-committee meeting referencing the overview of long-term capital improvement plans provided by James Kiely, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, at said meeting which addressed the district's aging school facilities.

Mr. Nunes expounded on Mr. Kiely's overview commenting on what needs to be considered when addressing the need for new buildings.

Ms. Amaral added her understanding from Mr. Kiely was the district should continue the planning of what "we" want to see regarding new buildings and not wait for funding but be ready to "go" when we apply for funding from MSBA or elsewhere.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- Convocation
- First Day of School Update
- Enrollment Update
- Maintenance Update
- Report on District's Response to Excessive Heat
- Staffing Update

Report of the Chair: The Chair reported that Mary Waite stepped down from her position as one of the School Committee's representatives to the Town Charter Review Committee and that the matter should be placed on a future agenda to discuss her replacement.

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, September 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to adjourn at 7:01 p.m. The motion passed unanimously; 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Open Session - Documents/Exhibits

Agenda

Brief

Regular Session Minutes for August 21, 2023

Consent Agenda – DSMA Fundraising Request

Consent Agenda – DSMA Permission to Participate in Regional Music Competition

Consent Agenda – DSMA Permission to Participate in National Music Competition

Email from Ross Thibault, member of IPHCC, pertaining to proposed IPHCC "Charge" Language

Email from Kathleen Amaral, School Committee Chair, pertaining to IPHCC "Charge" Language