

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

November 20, 2023

The warrants for bills payable were reviewed and signed by the School Committee.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Chris Oliver at 6:00 p.m. in the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center.

On a roll call the following members were present: Mr. Oliver, Elizabeth Coughlin, Shannon Jenkins and John Nunes. Kathleen Amaral 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 Dr. Jenkins to approve the Regular Session Minutes of November 6, 2023 as written. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to approve the Executive Session Minutes of November 6, 2023 as written with the stipulation that the minutes be held until such time the matters for which the meeting was held are complete. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Annabelle Jonsson stated there were no issues reported by students and provided brief comments about the upcoming Thanksgiving Day football game as well comments about the high school band's achievements in recent competitions specifically reaching Grand Nationals for the first time.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- **DMS PTO 2023-2024 Fundraising Requests**
- **DHS PTO 2023- 2024 Fundraising Requests**
- **DHS/Hockey Team Fundraising Proposal**

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve all three fundraising requests, as submitted. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

FY25 Preliminary Budget – Further Discussion: Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Mr. Kiely to address the matter.

Dr. Saba-Maguire stressed how important it is that “we” continue to present to the community the importance of “protecting” our most valuable asset - our students - as we embark on a challenging budget season.

Mr. Kiely reported the District had a second meeting with Gary Carreiro and Shawn MacInnes, the Town Director of Budget & Finance and the Town Administrator respectively, last Monday and noted, at this time, it is clear there is a “significant” gap between our student needs and what the Town is projecting.

Mr. Kiely stated the Budget Sub-Committee met last Tuesday when “we” talked more about the details and the reality that that “gap” represents.

Mr. Kiely stated “we” continue to “fine-tune” our budget proposal in preparation for presenting our budget at the next school committee meeting on December 11th adding our focus remains advocating for our student needs and not on cuts.

Mr. Kiely stated “we” have another meeting scheduled with Mr. Carreiro and Mr. MacInnes next Wednesday noting it is possible a member of the Select Board will be attending and, if a member of the budget sub-committee could attend, their support would only help our cause.

Mr. Kiely commented more support at the meeting would keep the dialogue going and help to find out a little more about how the Town “wants to approach this.”

Mr. Oliver provided brief comments about the recent budget sub-committee meeting noting a representative from the Finance Committee was in attendance adding the District and the Town are “far apart” and mentioned the need to start the “override” conversation adding he sees no other way to keep services in place.

Dr. Jenkins agreed and added that we as a committee need to get “creative” to help the Town out and do everything we can before we ask the Town and the community to “pitch in” as well.

Mr. Nunes provided brief comments on the matter and offered to assist in any way he could.

Ms. Coughlin commented that she cannot see the State being a “big help” down the road and noted the difficulties of an override adding once we have had the conversation regarding finances with the Town we need to see what the difference is and exactly what it would mean to the individual taxpayer.

Ms. Coughlin added we need to impress upon the community how important our children are and to not say “no” without thinking that through.

Mr. Oliver asked if the budget that will be presented on the 11th will be “level service.”

Mr. Kiely responded that it will be below “level service.”

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Meeting Dates (January 2024 through June 2024): Dr. Saba-Maguire referred to proposed meeting dates provided in tonight’s meeting packet for the Committee’s approval: January 8th and January 22, 2024; February 12, 2024; March 11th and March 25, 2024; April 8th and April 22, 2024; May 13, 2024; June 3rd and June 24, 2024.

The Committee agreed to hold the Public Hearing and Vote on School Choice at the January 22, 2024.

The Committee agreed on the proposed dates for January 2024 through June 2024.

Superintendent’s Update: Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Laurie Dionisio, the Director of Student Services, to present information about the McKinney-Vento Act.

Ms. Dionisio introduced Kimberly Redlon who started today as the Assistant Director of Student Services.

Dr. Saba-Maguire explained why information about the McKinney-Vento Act is being presented this evening.

Ms. Dionisio gave a brief PowerPoint presentation highlighting the “why” of the legislation, noting what the legislation defines as it pertains to homelessness and foster care and who the legislation supports.

Ms. Dionisio commented on educational stability which is another facet of McKinney-Vento.

Ms. Dionisio provided some McKinney-Vento statistics for the District and noted how educational stability works in the scenario that if a family secures permanent housing during the year they remain with “our” school district until the end of the school year.

Ms. Dionisio explained McKinney-Vento funding which the District did not receive previously because it did not meet the threshold but, due to current needs in the State for placing new comer families, the district is receiving reimbursements and grant funding as well as noting changes in transportation reimbursements in FY24.

Mrs. Dionisio and Dr. Saba-Maguire explained what is being done with the grant funds that the District has been assured it will be receiving.

Mrs. Dionisio clarified what is meant by educational stability and that families have the right to stay through the school year or to go to another school district.

Mr. Oliver asked for funding clarification.

Ms. Dionisio and Dr. Saba-Maguire responded.

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

- Entry Planning Update and how the current budget climate is affecting that.
- Personnel Update – particularly substitute teacher
- PTO Recruitment Call
- Update on Superintendent Family Advisory Council hoping to launch in January 2024
- Appreciation for School Community response to Newcomer Families
- Celebrate recent student accomplishments

Report of the Chair:

Mr. Nunes asked if the athletic team captains, music drum majors for coaches in to introduce them and congratulate them.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

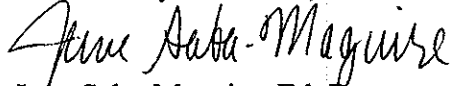
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting:

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

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to adjourn at 6:47 p.m. to adjourn from Regular Session. On a roll call the motion passed unanimously; 4-0: Mr. Oliver – Yes; Ms. Coughlin – Yes; Mr. Nunes – Yes and Dr. Jenkins – Yes.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Open Session - Documents/Exhibits

Agenda

Brief

Regular and Executive Session Minutes for November 20, 2023

Consent Agenda – DMS 2023-2024 Fundraising Request and Financial Report

Consent Agenda – DHS 2023-2024 Fundraising Request and Financial Report

Consent Agenda – DHS/Hockey Team Fundraising Proposal

Proposed Meeting Dates (January 2024 – June 2024)

McKinney-Vento Act Presentation