

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

June 3, 2024

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Chris Oliver at 6:00 p.m. in the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center. The Chair announced the meeting is being recorded for future broadcast over DCTV.

On a roll call the following members were present: Chris Oliver, Elizabeth Coughlin, Mary Beckwith, Kathleen Amaral and John Nunes.

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

RECOGNITION

SY2023-2024 Athletic Team Captains: Mr. Oliver invited the Superintendent to address the matter.

Dr. Saba-Maguire noted Andy Crisafulli, Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics was unable to attend tonight's meeting and asked Ross Thibault, Director of Teaching and Learning/Secondary Level, to provide background information on team captains.

Dr. Saba-Maguire commented she was able to sit in on a Captain's Advisory Council meeting which was formed this year by Mr. Crisafulli and noted how impressed she was by the leadership insights of these student captains.

Dr. Thibault spoke about what it means to be a captain of an athletic team and noted that every athletic team at Dartmouth High School qualified for post-season play this year.

Dr. Thibault introduced the team captains present at tonight's meeting: Josh Carreiro (Football); Lindsey Klein (Winter and Spring Track); Nathaniel Wentworth (Cross County; Winter and Spring Track); Owen Carter (Soccer); Nicholas Silvia (Soccer); Megan Arruda (Softball); Emma Green (Soccer); Hailey Martins (Soccer and Basketball); Hunter Matteson (Basketball); Brooke Davis (Volleyball, Winter and Spring Track); Kat Cheesebro (Basketball and Soccer); Tyler Medeiros (Soccer; Winter and Spring Track).

The Committee thanked and congratulated the captains for their hard work, leadership and successes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve the Regular Session Minutes of May 13, 2024 as written. The motion passed: 4-0. Mrs. Amaral abstained.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by M. Coughlin to approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 13, 2024 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matter under consideration is resolved. The motion passed: 4-0. Mrs. Amaral abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment was offered.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Saba-Maguire recommended the following request for the Committee's consideration and approval:

- DHS Marching Band and Color Guard request to operate the food concession at the Dartmouth Living Memorial Stadium for the 2024 Football Season

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral, to approve the request of the DHS Marching Band and Color Guard to operate the food concession at the Dartmouth Living Memorial Stadium for the 2024 Football Season. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

PRESENTATION

Music Program Overview: Mr. Oliver invited Dr. Saba-Maguire to address the matter.

Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Ian Flint, Director of Music, to present an overview of the District's music program.

Mr. Flint reminded the Committee that last year he presented an overview of the District's Elementary music program and reported that there is more equity across the program due to more equipment the program was able to purchase through a grant.

Mr. Flint stated his focus this evening will be "performance ensembles" noting the program has 21 unique ensembles with 1,168 students participating adding these ensembles performed in 82 events and covered over 10,000 miles in travel during the course of the 2023-2024 school year.

Mr. Flint provided updates regarding changes/additions to the music program: school choruses, school concerts and music clinics and annual concerts: this year's Pops Concert honoree was Yvette Nunes a long-time supporter of the music program.

Mr. Flint reported on events and competitions the ensembles participated in and noted their successes and improvements.

Mr. Flint concluded reviewing the school spring concert series explaining how these are the academic "aspect" of what we do in our school day noting it is a slow process to prepare students to get to the level that they are able to perform on a stage; they are our "showcase of learning."

Mr. Flint stated "we" offered a music technology course at the high school for the first time this year as well as offering AP Music Theory at the high school with 12 students participating.

Mr. Flint noted there are 12 full time music educators in the District as well as 25 adjunct instructors who work with students after school.

District Technology Overview: Mr. Oliver invited Dr. Saba-Maguire to address the matter.

Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Jonathan Gallishaw, Chief Technology Officer, to present the District Technology Overview.

Mr. Gallishaw presented the 2024 “current state and future plans” for the District’s technology including summer projects.

Mr. Gallishaw stated there are two “pieces” to educational technology: operational technology and instructional technology and provided an explanation for each.

Mr. Gallishaw explained that his department evaluates software which includes assuring “data privacy” as well as the use and performance of software.

Mr. Gallishaw noted his department aligns with standards and curriculum as well as maintains cyber security and internet safety for staff and students.

Mr. Gallishaw noted some of the projects to be worked on this summer include the completion of telephone replacement, creation and recreation of new lab spaces “wrapping up” a new financial server as well as repairing and cleaning chromebooks for the next school.

Mr. Gallishaw reported future plans are focused around cyber security noting this is the same for districts around the state and the country; the District will seek to improve its communications by creating a more common and consistent source of communication.

Mr. Oliver noted how much the technology department is able to accomplish with the few staff and little funding it has and that it is not the department that should be “cutting” staff particularly with growing cyber threats; technology is used every day for learning and instructing and for running the business of a school district.

NEW BUSINESS

SEPAC Parent Survey Results: Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Laurie Dionisio, Director of Student Services, and Debra August, member and officer of the SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Committee) to address the matter.

Dr. Saba-Maguire provided brief comments regarding her attendance at the recent Recognition Night that SEPAC hosts noting how it was “inspirational” how that group recognizes the educators out in the field doing the real work that goes in to supporting our most vulnerable learners.

Mrs. Dionisio introduced the following individuals who participated in tonight’s presentation: Deb August, Treasurer of SEPAC; Stephanie Melo, staff liaison; and Kim Redlon, Assistant Director of Student Services.

Mrs. Dionisio provided a brief explanation of what SEPAC is as well as information about the survey and its purposes.

Mrs. Dionisio provided survey statistics noting the response rate was not as high as was hoped which may have had to do with the number of surveys conducted this year.

Ms. Redlon, Ms. Melo and Ms. August provided the data to survey questions; it was noted that families usually reach out to their classroom or special education teacher with concerns.

Ms. Melo noted most families found the District's special education eligibility and referral process was smooth and efficient.

Ms. August noted most families reported that most families responded that evaluation reports were explained clearly and were easy to understand.

Ms. Melo reported the last survey question, which inquired if a child has experienced "bullying", results indicated a small percentage reported in the affirmative; it was noted in the follow up question if the bullying was resolved the majority responded non-applicable.

Ms. Redlon noted 24 staff and 5 student peers were recognized at SEPAC's Recognition Night event.

Mrs. Dionisio stated the Student Services department will continue to improve upon communications with parents and families and with the process as a whole.

Ms. Coughlin asked how the survey is sent to parents.

Ms. Dionisio responded and provided with ways the department has thought to improve family participation.

Ms. Beckwith asked when the survey is administered.

Mrs. Dionisio stated in February through April.

Mr. Nunes asked if participants indicate what the issue might be.

Mrs. Dionisio responded there is space for comments.

Revisions to the Student Handbook - Vote: Dr. Saba-Maguire sought the Committee's approval and vote for revisions to the student handbook.

Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Catherine Pavao, Director of Teaching and Learning/Elementary Level, to provide information about the revisions to the student handbook.

Mrs. Pavao stated some technical updates were made knowing that a greater revision is to come with the strategic plan.

Ms. Coughlin pointed out a couple of minor grammatical errors.

Mr. Oliver asked if any school committee policies have been referred to or imbedded in the handbook have been looked at for updated language.

Mrs. Pavao responded there are “live links” in the handbook – which “lives” on the website - that will take you to the specific school committee policy.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to approve the student handbook as presented for school year 2024-2025 with the necessary grammatical corrections. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

FY24 End of Year Authorization: Mr. Kiely asked the Committee for authority to transfer funds from one area of the budget to another at the close of the fiscal year as is customarily done consistent with School Committee Policy DBJ.

Mr. Kiely explained the District’s end of year “spending down” of remaining funds noting the priorities are first to pre-pay Special Education tuition for the following year which is allowed by law any other funding after pre-payment will be focused on instructional materials and technology.

Ms. Coughlin asked if “extra cash” comes from the same department year to year.

Mr. Kiely responded noting some areas of the budget are more volatile than others including need for substitutes, long term absences, utilities and special education.

Mr. Nunes requested a report of transfers made.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin, to authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations to make the necessary budget transfers for school year 2023-2024 in accordance with SC Policy DBJ. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

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

Dr. Saba-Maguire briefly commented on the whirlwind this school year has been.

-Teaching and Learning

Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Dr. Thibault to share a few data points from the District’s recent Access Scores with the Committee.

Dr. Saba-Maguire explained access testing is required for our students identified as English Language Learners and the results are meant to inform “us” as to how our students are progressing toward their acquisition of the English language.

Dr. Saba-Maguire referred to DESE’s audit last year and its requirement for the District to add additional ESL support which has happened.

Dr. Thibault noted an ESL teacher was hired at the beginning of this school year bringing the number of ESL teachers in the district to 4.

Dr. Thibault stated the impact of an additional teacher shows up in the data which indicates improvement in student proficiency.

-Kindergarten registration continues with 100 completed registrations with others in the process of being verified.

-Elementary School hosted Kindergarten Showcases this past week.

-Strategic Planning Team next meeting is June 10th; we are at the mid-point of working with this team and look to present our findings to the full School Committee in the near future.

-Personnel and Human Resources

Recognition of 2023-2024 Retirees

NAME	SCHOOL	POSITION
Robin Mayo	Quinn/Potter	Elementary PE & Health Teacher
Lori Pettengill	DMS	Grade 8 Teacher
Kathryn Gollub	Quinn	Education Support Professional
Karen Morrisseau	Quinn	Education Support Professional
Lisa Arruda	Quinn	Grade 3 Teacher
Justine Dale	Cushman	Early Childhood Director

Mr. Oliver recommended we start a tradition to recognize and thank retirees at a meeting of the Committee before the end of the school year which would include a small token of our appreciation.

Dr. Saba-Maguire stated our team can come back to you with a plan as to what that could look like.

-Dr. Saba-Maguire introduced Kelly Mooney, the District's new Early Childhood Director.

Mrs. Dionisio provided Ms. Mooney's professional experience.

Ms. Mooney gave brief comments.

-Dr. Saba-Maguire commented on the recently held DEF Spelling Bee and noted 27 educators applied for grants through the DEF.

-Dr. Saba-Maguire noted the successful Unified Sports Special Olympic event on May 20th with over 450 student participants from area school districts and thanked the Dartmouth Youth Soccer Association for the use of their soccer fields.

-Dr. Saba-Maguire recognized the success of this year's Prom noting the work Principal Shea and DHS teacher Rachel Lassey and her team.

-Dr. Saba-Maguire noted the success of yesterday's high school graduation commenting on the organization of the event as well as the grounds and the hard work done by all involved.

-Mr. Kiely provided information about articles that the School Department has on the warrant for tomorrow's annual Spring Town Meeting as well as the Special Town Meeting warrant which pertains to financing the memorial stadium renovation.

-Dr. Saba-Maguire noted today was "Moving Up" day for fifth graders who are moving to the middle school.

Report of the Chair: The Chair reported the following.

-Mr. Oliver congratulated the class of 2024.

-Mr. Oliver proposed cancelling the June 24, 2024 school committee meeting; the Committee agreed.

-Mr. Oliver asked about budget sub-committing meetings; Mr. Kiely offered June 24th at 4:30 p.m.

-Mr. Oliver mentioned setting up standing meetings for policy sub-committees; Dr. Saba-Maguire proposed Monday as the meeting day and will send out dates to the sub-committee members and if a meeting is not necessary "we" will not post. Committee members agreed to the proposal to set up meeting place holder dates on Mondays.

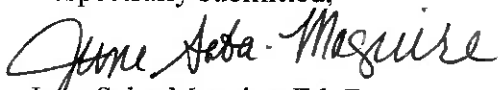
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting:

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place in the Library Media Center at Dartmouth High School and via live stream at youtube.com/dhstvmedia on Monday, July 22, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. into Executive Session for the purpose of an update on Pending Legal and Personnel Matters and not to return to open session. On a roll call the motion passed unanimously; 5-0: Mr. Oliver – Yes; Ms. Coughlin; Ms. Beckwith – Yes; Mrs. Amaral and Mr. Nunes – Yes.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Open Session - Documents/Exhibits

Agenda

Brief

Regular and Executive Session Minutes for May 13, 2024

Consent Agenda – DHS Band Operate Concession Stand for 2024 Football Season

Presentation – Music Program Overview PPP

Presentation – District Technology Overview PPP

SEPAC Parent Survey Results PPP

SC Policy DBJ – Budget Transfer Authority

Revised DPS Student Handbook

DPS ACCESS Data Slide