

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

May 13, 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: Christopher Oliver, Elizabeth Coughlin, Mary Beckwith and John Nunes. Kathleen Amaral was not present.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment was offered.

SPOTLIGHT ON KIDS – George H. Potter Elementary School: The Chair invited Dr. Saba-Maguire to introduce tonight's presenters.

Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Rick Porter and Melissa McHenry, Potter School Principal and Assistant Principal respectively, to the podium to deliver tonight's *Spotlight* presentation.

Mr. Porter explained the two-part presentation with participation from students about the school's Arbor Day events as well as several fifth graders reading their "Gratitude" essays.

Mr. Porter recognized the guidance and leadership of the "fifth grade team" who were present tonight: Craig Dutra, Anne Goodman and Caitlin Durand; Special Education teachers Michelle Dias and Darren Fleurent and Education Support Professional Joyce Braga.

Mrs. McHenry described how Potter School collaborated with Sarah Lederman and Susan McLaren members of the Dartmouth Tree Committee along with Kyle Barry of Eversource to celebrate Arbor Day at Potter School.

The following students read excerpts from the Arbor Day PowerPoint presentation: Addison Leary, Autumn Cadieux, Lincoln Wilkins, Dominic Pacheco and Chace Amaral.

A video was aired highlighting memorable moments from the Arbor Day Project; Mrs. McHenry recognized the efforts of Potter Instructional Technology Specialist, Sandra Chicca.

Mr. Porter explained the second portion of tonight's *Spotlight* segment is maintaining the Potter tradition of having fifth grade students reflect on their "journey;" this year's topic is gratitude.

The following students read their gratitude essays: Carter Gifford, Adriana Medeiros and Jack Garth.

The Committee thanked the Potter Administration, staff and students for their presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve the Regular Session Minutes of April 22, 2024 as written. The motion passed: 4-0.

RECOGNITION

Superintendent's Certificate of Excellence Award: Mr. Oliver invited the Superintendent to address the matter.

Dr. Saba-Maguire provided background information about the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Excellence noting this annual award honors seniors across the State who have demonstrated distinguished academic performance and personal contributions to their high school communities.

Dr. Saba-Maguire reported the honorees were unable to attend this evening due to schedule conflicts noting both students will be recognized at the upcoming senior awards nights.

Dr. Saba-Maguire read the achievements and accomplishments including comments from high school faculty pertaining to Brooke Davis and Prutha Patel this year's recipients of the M.A.S.S. Certificate of Academic Excellence.

The Committee offered congratulations to the recipients and wished them success in their future endeavors.

PRESENTATION

Student Opportunity Act (SOA): Mr. Oliver invited Dr. Saba-Maguire to address the matter.

Dr. Saba-Maguire introduced Catherine Pavao, Director of Teaching and Learning/Elementary, to discuss the District's recent submission of the Student Opportunity Act noting she feels confident stating one of the aspects of submitting the SOA in Dartmouth is how closely it connects to work already started here this year.

Mrs. Pavao provided background on the SOA noting the law was intended to "inject" some funding into the commonwealth's educational system with a focus on providing funding to districts serving students with the greatest needs.

Mrs. Pavao continued noting the law requires districts to set clear targets similar to a district strategic plan the main difference being the DOA focuses on students with greatest needs and district strategic plans focuses on all students.

Mrs. Pavao reported that the District overall has good student achievement noting there is room for growth in specific areas and acknowledged disparities exist.

Mrs. Pavao explained how the District will address the needs and disparities stating “we know” that early literacy is the best indicator of future success and so that will be our focus which includes bringing in high quality researched based instructional material to our elementary students in the area of literacy.

Mrs. Pavao provided information about how the District is addressing the “targets” set by the State.

Mrs. Pavao and Dr. Saba-Maguire stated that the District will be piloting two new literacy curriculum programs so that there will be teacher “choice” in what program is ultimately selected for the District.

Mr. Nunes asked about funding.

Mrs. Pavao and Dr. Saba-Maguire responded noting a bill is pending currently in the legislature relative to Governor Healy’s commitment to literacy noting the District will be well poised to take advantage of any future funding opportunities based on the work the District is currently doing.

Ms. Beckwith asked if the pilot programs will be ready to go in September and what might that look like.

Mrs. Pavao responded they are ready to implement and explained how it will work.

Ms. Coughlin asked about “where were we” and “where are we now” in terms of the S.O.A.

Mrs. Pavao responded noting the District is building on a new “plan.”

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to forward the Student Opportunity Act as presented to the Department of Education. The motion passed: 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Kiely recommended that the following request to be approved by the Committee.

- SMEC: FY25 Request for Permission to Lease Classroom (1 classroom at DHS and 2 classrooms at Quinn) and office space at DHS.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Dartmouth School Committee and Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC) for FY25 as provided. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

School Committee Organization – School Assignments: Dr. Saba-Maguire reminded the Committee of their request to get Principal feedback regarding school assignments.

Dr Saba-Maguire stated the Principals are comfortable with the “way things stand” adding the Principals encourage Committee members to visit the schools.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- Kindergarten Registration Update/Kindergarten Showcase Update
- Strategic Planning Update
- HR Update
- Budget Update
- Town Meeting Warrant Update
- Unified Sports/Special Olympics are scheduled for May 17th

Report of the Chair: The Chair reported the following.

- Ms. Coughlin is unable to attend the DMS graduation noting Ms. Amaral would be willing to give the speech.
- Policy Sub-committee Meeting schedule/Mr. Kiely noted in 2013 the Committee reviewed its policies.
- Would like to have a workshop scheduled for August or September for agenda setting and would like the Committee to set some goals for the District.

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, June 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. into Executive Session for the purpose of an update on a DEA Grievance and Personnel Matter and not to return to open session. On a roll call the motion passed unanimously; 4-0: Mr. Oliver – Yes; Ms. Coughlin; Ms. Beckwith - 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 April 22, 2024

Presentation – Potter School *Spotlight on Kids* PPP and Video

Presentation – Student Opportunity Act PPP

Consent Agenda – 2024-2024 SMEC Classroom Lease