

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

October 7, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to approve the Regular Session Minutes of September 23, 2024 as written. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve the Executive Session Minutes from the Joint Meeting with the Select Board on September 23, 2024 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters under consideration are completed. The motion passed: 3-0. Mr. Oliver and Mrs. Amaral abstained.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

DHS Senior Jordan Rosenberg provided updates on activities and events happening at Dartmouth High School (DHS) including Freshman elections; mid-terms, Student Council fundraiser *Trunk or Treat* and a NEASC survey that students and parents have been asked to complete evaluating DHS.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Saba-Maguire commended the family groups and schools on their substantial fundraising efforts and recommended the following requests to the Committee for its consideration and approval.

- **Potter School PTO – 2024/2025 Fundraising Requests**
- **Quinn School PTO – 2024/2025 Fundraising Requests**
- **DMS PTO – 2024/2025 Fundraising Requests**
- **DeMello/Cushman School PTO – 2024-2025 Fundraising Requests**
- **DSMA – 2024/2025 Fundraising Requests**

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to approve all fundraising requests for 2024-2025 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

PRESENTATION

District Strategic Plan: Mr. Oliver invited Dr. Saba-Maguire to present the District's Strategic Plan.

Dr. Saba-Maguire stated the District and the Strategic Planning Committee are excited to present its 5 Year Strategic Plan to the School Committee and to the public.

Dr. Saba-Maguire noted the diverse representation of the planning committee which included instructional staff, students, Town Government (including school committee members) and members of the Dartmouth community and how it steered the inclusiveness of the plan as you will see during tonight's presentation.

Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Kathleen Smith from Teaching and Learning Alliance: the consulting group that the District hired to support the planning committee in its task, to make brief remarks.

Ms. Smith spoke briefly about her experience working with the planning committee and commended the District for the inclusiveness of the process in creating its strategic plan; a "living document" which will likely continue beyond the five years.

Dr. Saba-Maguire commented we have been doing some of the work that is included in the plan noting adjustments will be made as we implement and work through it.

Dr. Saba-Maguire further commented that the strategic plan is grounded in the District's "why" and that it represents a shared vision and common purpose for every member of the "One Dartmouth" community; it identifies our District's mission, core values, goals and the underlying theory of action we believe will ultimately allow us to make good on our promise to the community of providing unparalleled opportunities leading to educational excellence for current and future generations.

Dr. Thibault explained the action plan layout noting there are four main focus areas: *Teaching and Learning*, *Safe and Supportive Schools*, *Family and Community Engagement* and *Budget and Capital Improvements*; each area has an objective, initiatives to be employed in order to achieve the objective, a timeline, who will be leading the focus area and measures of success.

Catherine Pavao, Director of Teaching and Learning/Elementary Level, described the work of Focus Area One – *Teaching and Learning* including the initiatives, measures of success, and action steps associated with that area.

Laurie Dionisio, Director of Student Services, described the work of Focus Area Two – *Safe and Supportive Schools* including the initiatives, measures of success, and action steps associated with that area.

Jonathan Gallishaw, Chief Technology Officer, described the work of Focus Area Three – *Family and Community Engagement* including the initiatives, measures of success, and action steps associated with that area.

James Kiely, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, described the work of Focus Area Four – *Budget and Capital Improvements* including the initiatives, measures of success, and action steps associated with that area.

OLD BUSINESS

Preliminary FY26 Budget – Update on Budget Discussions: Mr. Kiely stated the FY24 End of Year report has been completed noting he will report back to the Committee on the full report which was provided to Mr. Oliver for his review and signature.

Mr. Kiely reported the District has begun meeting with all District Administrators and Department Heads regarding the FY26 budget.

Mr. Kiely stated the District has proposed a budget sub-committee meeting for October 28th at which time we will review preliminary budget numbers for FY26 that will be pulled from the administrator meetings and the strategic plan.

Mr. Oliver and Ms. Coughlin, budget sub-committee members, confirmed their availability on October 28th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Gauvin, chair of the Dartmouth Finance Committee, asked what horizontal and vertical alignment of high quality researched based curriculum means.

Mr. Oliver noted that public comment is not typically responded to during a meeting but asked for an explanation in light of tonight's presentation.

Dr. Saba-Maguire provided an explanation.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and Vote on District Strategic Plan: Mr. Oliver opened the discussion noting the members received the Strategic Plan earlier in the week for review in preparation of tonight's discussion.

Mrs. Amaral expressed her support for the plan.

Mr. Nunes expressed his gratitude for having served on the Strategic Planning Committee and looks forward to having the plan implemented.

Ms. Beckwith commented on this extraordinary effort which was accomplished in such a short period of time by such a large group of people with different needs noting her excitement to watch the plan be implemented and see what it can accomplish.

Ms. Coughlin was thankful for the opportunity to serve on the strategic planning committee stating it is a "great" document.

Ms. Coughlin asked that acronyms and some language not be used so that the document is more accessible to people.

Mr. Oliver agreed with Ms. Coughlin and commented that “we” certainly have a “plan that puts “substance” into what the District is doing.

Dr. Saba-Maguire noted the editing requests.

Mr. Nunes recommended placing a “key” of the acronyms in the document.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the District Strategic Plan for SY2024-2029 with the minor adjustments as discussed. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Oliver stated invitations to tonight’s meeting were extended to the Select Board and Finance Committee noting the Select Board was meeting tonight and so were unable to attend but thanked members of the Finance Committee who were in attendance.

SC Policies Section A – Foundations and Basic Commitments – First Reading: Mr. Kiely stated the District has begun its cyclical review of policies noting there are plans to bring forward a policy section to the Committee every other month.

Mr. Kiely stated the administration met to review the policies and brought them to a School Committee Policy Sub-committee meeting on September 16th at which time we discussed the policies and agreed to bring them to the full committee tonight.

Mr. Kiely referenced an informational memo provided in the meeting packet and highlighted policies where changes are being recommended.

Ms. Coughlin asked that Policy AD – *Mission Statement* – be aligned with the language in the new mission statement as outlined in District Strategic Plan.

Mr. Kiely stated revision of policies referencing IX matters are being placed on hold on the advice of legal counsel pending injunctions being lifted.

Mr. Kiely noted the Wellness Policy will be looked at by the District’s Wellness Committee prior to bring it forward to the policy sub-committee for revision.

Mr. Kiely reported we will be working internally on policy section B – *School Committee and Government Operations* - so that we can move it forward noting there is a tentatively scheduled meeting of the policy sub-committee on November 18th.

Mr. Oliver noted this is a first read and the matter will be brought back for a final vote.

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

-Update on Town Meeting: Mr. Kiely provided a brief update listing several requests which were approved to be placed on the Town Meeting Warrant.

-Teaching and Learning Update – MCAS performance (detailed presentation in November); the Quinn School has been recognized as a “School of Recognition” which is based on

the schools exceptional progress towards meeting its own goals.

- HR Update
- District Communication Update: Mr. Gallishaw provided an update on the ParentSquare software to improve communication between the district and families as well as the District's new website with a target launch date of October 29th
- DHS Internship Update
- Climate & Culture – Targeted School Visits engaging teachers on how their start of the school year is going noting the responses have been overwhelmingly positive
- Community Engagement – met with the Town's Director of Library Services recently; Council on Aging dance class with DHS cheerleaders

Report of the Chair: The Chair reported the following.

- Mr. Oliver asked who was attending the MASC/MASS Joint Conference looking for a volunteer to attend the Delegate Assembly on Friday afternoon; the Delegate would vote on behalf of the Dartmouth School Committee. Ms. Beckwith volunteered to attend the assembly. We would need to debate the resolutions at our next meeting.
- Reminder to submit the Superintendent's Evaluation to Kathleen Amaral by October 9th noting the intention is to present the full Committee's evaluation at the October 21st meeting.
- SEPAC meeting scheduled for October 15th at Quinn School at 6:00 p.m.
- Band Competition Update; Dartmouth Home Show scheduled for October 19th

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 www.youtube.com/dhstvmedia on Monday, October 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to adjourn from Open Session at 8:06 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 and Executive Joint Session Minutes for September 23, 2024

Consent Agenda Items – Potter, Quinn, Middle and DeMello/Cushman School PTOs and DSMA

Presentation – PPP of the District Strategic Plan

Memo – SC Policy A *Foundations and Basic Commitments* Review