

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

**September 23, 2024**

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 Elizabeth Coughlin at 5:00 p.m. in Room 309 at Town Hall for the purpose of entering a Joint Executive Session with the Town Select Board for an update on a pending legal matter.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to adjourn into Joint Executive Session with the Select Board at 5:01 p.m. for the purpose of an update on a pending legal matter and to reconvene in Open Session. On a roll call the motion passed: Elizabeth Coughlin – Yes; Mary Beckwith – Yes; and John Nunes - Yes. Chris Oliver and Kathleen Amaral were not in attendance.

The meeting was reconvened 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comment was offered.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of September 9, 2024 as written. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Amaral to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 9, 2024 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters under consideration are resolved. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

DHS Senior Audrey Kertscher provided updates on the following activities and events taking place at Dartmouth High School (DHS): DHS theater company started rehearsals for “Elf”, performances will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>; athletics update including Football’s current 3-0 record; DHS will hosts its College Fair for juniors and seniors on September 25<sup>th</sup>; DHS will hold its Club Expo on October 1<sup>st</sup> noting joining a club is a way for freshman to get involved; the Student Council held its first meeting last week establishing student council sub-committees; we

are getting excited about our Trunk or Treat fundraiser which will be held in late October; a special thank you to DHS Junior Andrew Moniz who refurbished the 9/11 memorial outside DHS.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Saba-Maguire recommended the following request to the Committee for its consideration and approval. Dr. Saba-Maguire explained that tonight a single request is being made for a fundraiser the PTO must organize soon; the PTO will come back to the Committee for approval of other fundraisers planned for 2024-2025

- **DeMello/Cushman School PTO – 2024-2025 Fundraising Request**

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the DeMello/Cushman School PTO fundraising request as submitted. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Preliminary FY26 Budget – Update on Budget Discussions:** Dr. Saba-Maguire reiterated the purpose for this standing agenda item noting multiple budgets are being developed in tandem with the District’s Strategic Plan which directs us on how we fund certain areas over the course of many budget cycles and invited Mr. Kiely to provide an update on the matter.

Mr. Kiely agreed that the district’s strategic plan is a critical component of the preparation of budgets moving forward and asked that the Committee, in particular the budget sub-committee members, to consider delaying the September 30<sup>th</sup> budget sub-committee meeting until after the District Strategic Plan is made a public document so that the Committee has had an opportunity to consider the it.

Mr. Oliver stated he has no concerns with this request.

Ms. Coughlin agreed.

Mr. Oliver ask that another sub-committee meeting date be scheduled at the next meeting.

Mr. Oliver asked if the District will be wanting the Committee to vote on the Plan at the meeting it is presented.

Dr. Saba-Maguire stated the Committee will have time to review the plan prior to its presentation adding if “we” are able to move forward with the vote on October 7<sup>th</sup> that is what the District would prefer.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

**-Teaching & Learning Update:** Ross Thibault and Catherine Pavao provided an update on curriculum initiatives. Mrs. Pavao provided an update on the elementary level curriculum “pilots”: K-5 literacy pilots are on going with the expectation that a recommendation will be ready to be made for implementation K-5 district wide at the start of the 2025-2026 school year; Gr 3 & 4 teachers are participating in DESE social studies pilot. Dr. Thibault provided an update

on the secondary level curriculum “pilots”: math pilot at DHS; Carnegie Learning PD update; world language (Spanish) pilot; science pilot at DMS; shout out to Wilbur Higgins for his work facilitating the DHS summer reading program; Playbook Initiative update reminding the Committee last year was the District’s first time participating in the anti-hate/anti-bias curriculum that seeks to have high school students teach middle school students to be “upstanders” and not bystanders and the District will be applying again to be part of that program.

-Student Services Update: Update on DESE’s new Individualized Education Plan (IEP) form adding districts have until Thanksgiving (2024) to start implementing the new form. An information night will be held on September 26th at 6:00 p.m. in the DHS library media center and via zoom to introduce parents to the new IEP. This year’s first Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) meeting will be held at the Quinn School on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

-MCAS results will be released publicly tomorrow; the District will give a presentation at a future meeting.

-HR Update

-Climate & Culture Update – including meeting with community public safety leaders as well as establishing a district wide crisis team with the goal to have a coordinated response to emergencies; update on meeting with Council on Aging Director Amy DiPietro.

-Athletics Update including cameras installed in the Lynch Activity Center getting closer to being able to stream events taking place there; Kathy Thornton, Athletic Trainer, was selected as the 2024 District 8 Nominee as Athletic Trainer of the Year.

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

**Report of the Chair:** The Chair reported the following.

-School Committee Workshop Update: reiterate our goals for the public at a future meeting.

-MASC Matters Update

-Superintendent’s Evaluation– present Superintendent Evaluation at October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting

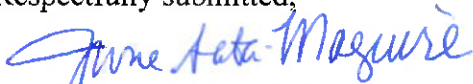
-DHS Band Update

### **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](http://www.youtube.com/dhstvmedia) on Monday, October 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to adjourn from Open Session at 6:49 p.m. On a roll call the motion passed unanimously; 5-0: Mr. Oliver – Yes; Ms. Coughlin; Ms. Beckwith – Yes; Kathleen Amaral - Yes 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 September 9, 2024

DeMello/Cushman PTO Fundraiser Request