

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

May 19, 2025

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Jordan Rosenberg, DHS Student Representative to the School Committee, was present.

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

The Chair announced the meeting is being recorded for future broadcast over DCTV.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Megan Wakefield, an Education Support Professional for the Dartmouth Public Schools and parent of Dartmouth Public School students, provided comments on the FY26 budget as it relates to instructional staff.

Rachelle Lemieux, Dartmouth High School Math Teacher, provided comments pertaining to math curriculum at Dartmouth High School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of May 5, 2025 as written. The motion passed: 4-0. Mr. Nunes abstained.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 5, 2025 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters under consideration are resolved. The motion passed: 4-0. Mr. Nunes abstained.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Jordan Rosenberg, a DHS Senior, reported on activities and events happening at Dartmouth High School (DHS).

- Gratitude for DPS Instructors
- PreK-12 Art Show
- Special Olympics
- Junior Banquet
- AP Exam and MCAS
- Spring Sports
- Senior Activities Update and Good Wishes to 2025 Graduates

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Saba-Maguire recommended the following requests to be approved by the Committee.

- SMEC: FY26 Request for Permission to Lease Classroom (1 classroom at DHS and 2 classrooms at Quinn) and office space at DHS.

Ms. Coughlin asked who decides on the increase in rent.

Mr. Oliver explained the process which is decided by the Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC).

Ms. Coughlin asked where the money goes.

Mr. Kiely responded it goes to the Use of Facility Revolving fund in which we can buy supplies for the school or modest repairs adding Dartmouth Public Schools will receive \$34,162 for FY26.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral, to approve the FY26 Leases for the Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC). The motion passed: 4-0. Mr. Nunes abstained.

PRESENTATION

Joseph DeMello Elementary School Improvement Plan: Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Elizabeth Correia and Adam Hill, DeMello School Principal and Assistant Principal respectively, to present their school improvement plan.

Ms. Correia thanked Melissa McHenry and Audra Thomas, incoming Principals at Potter and Quinn Elementary Schools respectively, for their support and collaboration.

Ms. Correia stated the DeMello School Improvement Plan (SIP) stems from the District Improvement Plan and will look similar to the other elementary school improvement plans. Ms. Correia and Mr. Hill presented the DeMello SIP addressing each of the four focus areas as well as providing action steps and measures of success for each area: Teaching and Learning; Safe and Supportive Schools; Family and Community Engagement; and Budget and Capital Improvements, through four categories: School Based Action Steps, Timeline, Led By, and Measures of Success.

Ms. Correia stated a survey was sent out earlier this year asking staff to identify areas of professional development (PD) they were interested in pursuing adding she and Mr. Hill along with the instructional support teams (SILT and SEL) will use the results of the survey to fine tune PD opportunities that are differentiated and meet the teachers' needs in a format they find engaging and motivating.

Mr. Hill addressed Focus Area 2 and noted the goal is to continue the collaboration between the SEL and PBIS teams and to provide PD to focus on strategies that will enhance the ability to meet students "where they're at" adding "like academics, behavior is skill based."

Dr. Saba-Maguire thanked the Committee for its approval to add a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) position last year noting the addition has been helpful to educators by providing consistent and timely support.

The Committee thanked the DeMello leadership for their presentation.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to approve the DeMello School Improvement Plan. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

- Project 351 Playbook Initiative was not presented at tonight's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Long Term Capital Improvement Planning Committee – Update: Mr. Kiely referred to the Long-Term Capital Improvement Planning Committee's (CIP) presentation (which was provided in the meeting packet) noting the CIP committee will make this presentation at the June Town Meeting.

Mr. Kiely reported that the school department is well represented in the number of capital improvement projects that are planned in the long term noting the high school roof and window replacement project is first on the list and the middle school building replacement is being planned for the not too distant future.

Mr. Kiely stated the Long-Term CIP is hoping to have a series of forums to educate the public on the projects adding they would like to publish the dates when they make this presentation at Town Meeting.

Mr. Kiely stated we will prepare a presentation working with the School Committee for a forum in September highlighting the issues that exist in the school facilities.

Mr. Nunes asked about costs for the projects.

Mr. Kiely responded it is difficult to predicate and stated there is a great deal of borrowing capacity in the Town currently adding "we" feel the projects are not "unaffordable" if we space them out enough.

Mr. Kiely reported he did mention having school committee representation on the Long-Term CIP committee and thinks that is welcome adding his understanding is the Town Administrator would bring the matter of adding members to the Long Term CIP committee to the Select Board after Town Meeting.

The Committee agreed Wednesday, September 17th would be good for a community forum on school long term capital improvement projects.

Proposed FY26 Budget – Further Discussion: Dr. Saba-Maguire recognized the steps faculty and staff are taking to address their needs during the present negotiations and stated we do not want them to feel it is necessary to take such steps; we are continuing to emphasize the importance of arriving at a fair and sustainable agreement.

Dr. Saba-Maguire continued stating we acknowledge the value of our instructors and support staff; they are the backbone of our students' success.

Dr. Saba-Maguire stated the current health insurance infrastructure is a significant financial hardship; health care should be accessible and affordable.

Mr. Kiely reported the Select Board and Finance Committee unanimously supported our 4.4% budget proposal.

Ms. Coughlin added we are mindful that not all budget requests were included in the budget and the health insurance benefit package "is not what it should be" and hopefully we can "get the whole Town behind us" with more monetary support so we can meet the "those" needs.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Saba-Maguire provided information of work being done in the district that is aligned to the District Strategic Plan as well as current activities and events that are happening.

-Teacher and Learning Update: MCAS Update; DHS National Honor Society Induction (70 students)

-Budget and Capital Improvement Update: HR: Potter School Assistant Principal and DHS Associate Principal final interviews are happening as well as other positions being posted as necessary.

-Family and Community Engagement Update: End of year school events are happening all the time and recognized the staff and administrators who organize these events; Recognition of MassHire Grants (in excess of \$15,000) this year.

-Safe and Supportive Schools Update: DMS Student Civic Presentations update.

Report of the Chair: Ms. Coughlin mentioned a request made for a joint meeting noting that due to the fact the Select Board and Finance Committee support "our" budget we do not need that meeting but we will "look into it" for next year.

The Committee agreed to schedule a Goals Setting Meeting for August 18th at 5:30 p.m. to be held at the School Administration Building.

Ms. Coughlin made comments pertaining to a Town Meeting item regarding "License to Carry" in municipal buildings adding not in schools.

Mr. Nunes asked if there could be a presentation at the next meeting regarding MassHire.

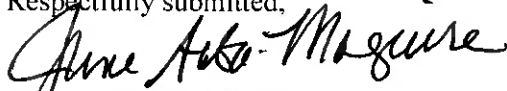
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting:

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, June 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining where an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's bargaining position (DAA and DEA) and Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2), to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Superintendent of Schools) and not to reconvene in open session. On a roll call vote, 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 Session Minutes for May 5, 2025

Consent Agenda – SMEC FY26 Request for Permission to Lease Classroom Space

DeMello School Improvement Plan Presentation

Long Term Capital Improvement Planning Committee Presentation