

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

July 21, 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 and Elizabeth Coughlin. Mary Beckwith was not 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

No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 9, 2025 as written. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 9, 2025 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters under consideration are resolved. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Teacher and Learning Update:

- Update on DHS Summer School
- Update on 2 Day District Curriculum Summit
- Update on ESY (Extended School Year) Program

Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Laurie Dionisio and Kim Redlon, Executive Director of Student Services and Assistant Director of Student Services respectively, to update the Committee on changes and improvements made to deliver services to our students.

Laurie Dionisio and Kim Redlon provided information on the *Vertical Alignment of Substantially Separate Programs* noting changes evolved from collaboration with teaching staff.

Ms. Redlon reported the District took the P.A.S.S. (Promoting Academic Social Skills) and P.A.L.S. (Promoting Academic and Learning Skills) programs and combined them to create the Compass program which is a vertically aligned PreK-12 program to increase programmatic cohesiveness while retaining the focus areas of the 2 programs.

Ms. Redlon provided information regarding the improvements to student services throughout the district.

Ms. Dionisio described how the new program will help to create more functional Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and improve student outcomes.

Mrs. Amaral commented about maintaining individuality.

Mrs. Dionisio responded stating the District is looking for more “meaningful inclusion” for students.

Mr. Oliver asked for confirmation that the District has a total of 10 classrooms.

Mrs. Dionisio stated that is correct adding that number does not include the Cushman school classrooms.

Mr. Oliver asked if there are any other sub-separate classrooms

Mrs. Dionisio stated the District does not currently have therapeutic classrooms adding the middle and high schools have Step-Up classrooms which can be considered therapeutic classrooms.

Dr. Saba-Maguire acknowledged the work of Jennifer Machado, the District Registrar, noting there are currently 185 completed kindergarten registrations with 15 registrations that are in the works which will bring kindergarten registration to 200 keeping in line with last year’s numbers as well as NESDEC projections noting the District is looking at reasonable class size (17 to 20) at the kindergarten level.

- Update C.O.L.T (Central Office Leadership Team) Retreat
- Upcoming Principal and D.L.T. (District Leadership Team) Retreats
- Update on Attendance at the I.S.T.E. (International Society of Technology Educators) and the ASCD (American Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development) Conference: Joint Conference between Curriculum and Technology professionals.
- Update on A.I. (Artificial Intelligence) and developing policy to be addressed and included in a future meeting agenda
- Update on M.A.S.S. (Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents) Conference
- Update on Funding Levels at Federal level which we are monitoring and hope to have a clearer picture to be able to report at the August meeting
- Update on Math Conference sponsored by Carnegie attended by DPS Faculty; Gary Lauher, DHS Lead Math Teacher and Anne Brown, DMS Math Coach along with recently hired DHS Associate Principal, Stephanie Santos, noting we look forward to hearing more from them about their experience

Budget and Capital Improvement Update:

- Update provided by Mr. Kiely on MSBA regarding the District’s Statement of Interest (SOI) submitted for the DHS Roof Project adding the District’s SOI is one of 96 and we will keep the Committee posted on whether the District’s project will be recommended by MSBA to go forward adding the MSBA will meet on October 29th.

Mr. Oliver asked how many projects are funded.

Mr. Kiely responded it depends on the scope of the projects adding 20 projects were funded last year out of 75 SOIs submitted.

- Update on Summer Maintenance Projects provided by Mr. Kiely including the fire alarm replacement at the DeMello and Potter Schools and hope that the projects will be done by the second week of August; DHS auditorium lighting being worked on mostly by DPS maintenance staff; ADA bathroom at the Quinn School; it is hoped the sound system at Memorial Stadium will be ready for the fall season.

HR Update:

-Dr. Saba-Maguire reported that most positions have been filled at this point and noted some positions that remain to be filled including special education teacher positions and education support professional positions.

-Family and Community Engagement Update:

-Update on elementary level activities planned for families in August

-Safe and Supportive Schools Update:

- Update on Electronic Hall Pass system for the middle and high schools and will have it in
- Update on Meeting with Heidi Brooks, Select Board Chair, and Rachel Dzialo, Town Substance Use Program Coordinator, whereat we spoke about how the opioid money can help to support schools. Dr. Saba-Maguire spoke about vape detectors which are meant to deter students from vaping; as well as adding more after school programs at the high school level and noted the Select Board's support to add additional security personnel at the high school.
- Update on SRO (School Resource Officer) for the Elementary Level

Report of the Chair: Ms. Coughlin addressed the matter of the Select Board's invitation to its August 11th meeting. Mr. Nunes and Mr. Oliver stated they are not available on that date. Ms. Coughlin stated "we" will represent the Committee noting the purpose is to discuss goal and role sharing and working together and asked that Committee members to email her with any comments they want her to share with the Select Board.

Ms. Coughlin reminded the Committee of their August 18th workshop.

Dr. Saba-Maguire stated she will share her evidence for her evaluation with the Committee tomorrow.

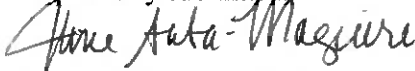
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting:

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, August 25, 2025 starting at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Amaral to adjourn at 6:20 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 (DEA, AFSCME) and not to reconvene in open session. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Open Session - Documents/Exhibits

Agenda

Brief

Regular and Executive Session Minutes for June 9, 2025

COMPASS Program Description

Presentation – Vertical Alignment of Substantially Separate Program