

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

August 25, 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 5:30 p.m. in the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center.

On a roll call the following members were present: Chris Oliver, Mary Beckwith, John Nunes and Elizabeth Coughlin. Kathleen Amaral 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 July 21, 2025 as written. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to approve the Executive Session Minutes of July 21, 2025 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters under consideration are concluded. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

SEPAC Parent Survey Results: Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Laurie Dionisio, Executive Director of Student Services, to present the results from the SEPAC Parent Survey for 2024-2025.

Ms. Dionisio explained the purpose of the annual SEPAC Parent survey and presented the results from the 2024-2025 survey conducted from April 2025 to June 2025 noting there were more respondents this year.

Ms. Dionisio reported there was an increase in families' overall satisfaction with services their children are receiving as well as with the evaluation process overall noting the need to continue the District's work in some areas including bullying.

Ms. Dionisio listed recipients of the "Above and Beyond" award as voted on by families.

Ms. Dionisio stated the first meeting of SEPAC is scheduled for Thursday, October 9th at the Cushman school.

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.

Dr. Saba-Maguire provided an update on Convocation which took place today noting the theme for this year is *Appreciation*.

Teacher and Learning Update:

- Update on District Leadership Team and Principal Leadership retreats held at UMASS/Dartmouth
- Update on Kindergarten enrollment; 205 students have registered and total district enrollment is 3335, slightly more than last year.

Budget and Capital Improvement Update:

- Mr. Kiely provided an update on facility projects thanking the maintenance and custodial staff.
- Mr. Kiely stated Capital Improvement Plan requests which are up for consideration at October Town meeting will be on the Committee's next meeting agenda reminding the Committee it has already voted a capital plan for this cycle
- Update on the high school roof project including an update on the District's Statement of Interest (SOI) submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for the roof project.
- Update of Community Forums for town capital improvement projects acknowledging Ms. Beckwith's Assistance: September 9th at the Council on Aging and September 17th at Dartmouth Middle School.

HR Update:

- Dr. Saba-Maguire reported that staffing is nearly complete noting positions still to be filled.

-Family and Community Engagement Update:

- Update on activities including elementary level new family tours; tour of the high school for freshman took this past Sunday as well as elementary level open house events taking place this evening

-Safe and Supportive Schools Update:

- Update on the high school/middle school electronic hall pass system to be implemented this year
- Update on Elementary level SRO starting 2025-2026; Officer Ryan Reis

Report of the Chair: Ms. Coughlin addressed the matter of the Superintendent's successor contract reporting she received a letter from the Superintendent in late July requesting to initiate the process. The Committee agreed to move forward with the process. Mr. Oliver volunteered to meet with Dr. Saba-Maguire regarding her successor contract.

Ms. Coughlin addressed the matter of the Superintendent's evaluation and asked for volunteers to compile evaluation information into the final document; the committee agreed to present the Superintendent's final evaluation at its October 27th meeting and to provide their individual evaluations to the "to be named" committee members who will compile the information the week of October 14th.

Ms. Coughlin addressed the matter of the Select Board's invitation to its September 29th meeting at 6:30 p.m.; the Committee confirmed it will attend the meeting.

Ms. Coughlin reported she attended the Town's first Board and Committee orientation meeting at Town Hall presented by Chris Vitale and Sarah Haskell-Arruda commenting that the orientation was really for appointed boards noting it is hoped that elected boards and committees would review and "align" specifically with the Town's code of conduct and suggested this Committee review its public participation policy to confirm that we are up to date with what the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) recommends.

Ms. Beckwith asked where feedback should be forwarded.

Ms. Coughlin stated the Town is not looking for feedback from us necessarily; however, if we have feedback about our own policies we should send that to our sub-committee members.

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

Mr. Nunes asked if the District will have crossing guards this year.

Mr. Kiely responded the District will hire a crossing guard for the middle school at Slocum Road/Hawthorn Street intersection similar to what was done last year but does not believe the Dartmouth Police Department will be revisiting filling crossing guard positions.

Mr. Nunes asked if there was any talk on budgets at the meeting with Town Administration last week.

Dr. Saba-Maguire responded that Cody Haddad, Town Administrator, and Gary Carreiro, Town Director of Budget & Finance/Treasurer, want to meet on a quarterly basis; Mr. Kiely added there was discussion pertaining to the operating budget.

Dr. Saba-Maguire noted part of the discussion with Mr. Haddad and Mr. Carreiro was around the Town's new 43b developments some of which are focused on families explaining why the school district needs to be part of those conversations adding Mr. Kiely will be part of those discussions.

Mr. Kiely stated the District will have an opportunity to provide input on the zoning board process and comment on potential projects.

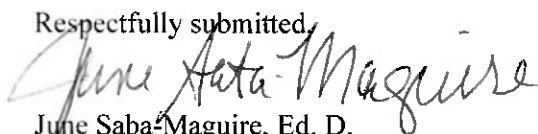
Mr. Nunes asked if we can invite the maintenance/custodian staff as well as DCTV to a meeting to express the Committee's appreciation for their efforts this past summer.

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, September 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to adjourn from Open Session at 6:15 p.m. 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 July 21, 2025

Presentation – SEPAC Parent Survey