

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

September 8, 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. 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.

The Committee held a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Steven Gaspar, a longtime Dartmouth Public Schools Educator and Basketball Coach and who helped to establish the *After Prom* program at Dartmouth High School.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Megan Fitzgerald Pogash thanked the Superintendent and the School Committee for implementing the use of metal trays in the school cafeterias.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW HIRES

Dr. Saba-Maguire welcomed the new hires and invited Ross Thibault and Catherine Pavao, Executive Directors of Teaching and Learning for the Secondary and Elementary Levels respectively, to provide a brief overview of the teacher induction and mentoring program known as Project T.I.M.E. noting a small reception for new hires was held prior to tonight's meeting in the high school cafeteria.

Mrs. Pavao explained Project T.I.M.E. (Teacher, Induction, Mentoring, Experience) is a program designed to support new educators as they enter Dartmouth Public Schools. Every new hire is required to participate in the program for at least one year while those educators who do not yet hold a professional level teaching license will continue on to a second year of mentoring.

Mr. Thibault stated the reason Project T.I.M.E. is so important is that it helps the District not only recruit talented educators but to support and retain them; the District's current teacher retention rate holds at 92.2% which is well above the State average of 86%.

Mrs. Pavao and Dr. Thibault explained the role of mentors noting they are provided training; Mrs. Pavao noted she and Dr. Thibault meet regularly with new hires.

Mr. Thibault and Mrs. Pavao introduced the Dartmouth Public Schools' 2025-2026 new instructional hires and provided a brief biography for each individual.

NAME	SCHOOL	POSITION
Sydney Allen	DMS	English Language Learner Teacher
Sydney Amaral	DMS	School Psychologist
Danielle Caron	DMS	Gr 8 English Teacher
Emily Catalano	DMS	Special Education/Compass Teacher
Marielle Chrupcala	DHS	HS Band/Choral Teacher
Isilda DaCosta-Farias	DHS	Special Education Teacher
Nicole Ekholm	DHS	Special Education Teacher
Matthew Huberman	DHS	Math Teacher
Nikie Iwanczuk	DHS	Adjustment Counselor
Holly Machado	DeMello	Special Education Teacher
Kimberly Marcus	Cushman	.5 Social Worker
Faith Marrano	DHS	Special Education Teacher
Tessa Napert	Potter	Gr 5 Teacher
Alex Ollivierre	DHS/District	Instrumental Music Teacher/Percussion Specialist
Michaela Pace	District	Special Education Team Facilitator
Lindsey Rafferty	DeMello	Gr 4 Teacher (1 Year Position-LTS)
June Reedy	DeMello	Outreach Social Worker
Julianne Rose-Wells	Quinn	Physical Education/Health Teacher
Gwenyth Taradash	District	Speech Language Pathologist (1 Year Position-LTS)
Brian Thomas	Quinn	Gr K-1 Teacher (1 Year Position-LTS)
Madeline Whelan	DMS	Gr 7 Social Studies Teacher
Post 2024-2025 Start Hires		
Mckensie Frye	Elementary	Physical Education/Health Teacher
Lisa Gibson	District	Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)
Erica Pallatroni	DMS	Special Education Teacher

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to approve the Regular Session Minutes of August 25, 2025 as written. The motion passed: 4-0. Kathleen Amaral abstained.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Saba-Maguire recommended the following requests to the Committee for its consideration and approval.

- **DSMA – 2025-2026 Fundraising Requests**

John Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the DSMA (Dartmouth School Music Association) fundraising requests for 2025-2026, as submitted. The motion passed: 4-0. John Nunes abstained.

NEW BUSINESS

Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) Update: Mr. Kiely noted the Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) Update was provided in the meeting packet and reminded the Committee it voted this 10 Year Plan which covers the period of FY2026 through 2035 in January 2025.

Mr. Kiely reported the District has received funding for specific items from the plan which were voted at June Town Meeting including the DeMello/Potter Fire Alarm Systems (\$450,000) and Technology Hardware Replacement (\$50,000) adding the rest of the requests were not funded.

Mr. Kiely stated it is his understanding that recommendations for the October 21st Town Meeting have not been finalized yet and added it appears \$200,000 for Technology Hardware Replacement will be supported as well as \$285,000 for security upgrades and \$250,000 for the high school roof explaining the money for the roof project will be for a feasibility study which will be required by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) should the District be selected to participate in the accelerated repair program which will not be known prior to the October Town Meeting.

Mr. Kiely explained if the MSBA does not select Dartmouth in this round any funding for a feasibility study would remain in the article until such time the District is selected by MSBA.

Mr. Kiely listed other requests for this year noting he has not heard from the Town about these requests and does not know where they stand as potential items for this Town Meeting warrant.

Mr. Oliver stated his concerns about the high school track.

Mr. Kiely responded to Mr. Oliver's concerns noting the age of the track and its need for repair; Mr. Kiely also spoke about playground improvements noting an Article exists that has funds but they are not sufficient due to escalating costs.

Mr. Oliver asked about CPA funding.

Mr. Kiely responded there was discussion about CPA funding when he and Dr. Saba-Maguire met with the Town Administrator.

Mr. Nunes asked if school bus replacement will replace the District's current bus or will the current bus be able to be used.

Mr. Kiely responded the current bus did pass inspection but it probably will not be around for the long term adding should a new bus be funded it will take some time for it to be delivered to the District.

Ms. Coughlin asked about stadium renovations.

Mr. Kiely noted the long-term capital planning committee is hosting 3 presentations on town projects; one will be held tomorrow night at the Council on Aging which will address community projects including stadium renovations as well as a second forum to be held on September 17th about school projects (i.e. high school roof, middle school replacement, DeMello, Potter and Quinn school replacement) noting the meeting will be held at Dartmouth Middle School beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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

- Start of school year update (thanking all those individuals who have contributed to this year's successful start)
- DHS Summer Reading Program Update extolling the efforts of Will Higgins, DHS Lead Teacher and Summer Reading Program Facilitator
- MCAS Update noting when final results are available a presentation will be provided to the Committee
- Enrollment Update: District Total is 3,274 noting last year's enrollment at this time was 3,292
- Budget & Capital Improvement Update (CIP presentation this evening)
- HR Update (new hires introduced this evening)
- Family & Community Engagement Update including school open house events
- Safe & Supportive Schools Update (electronic hall pass implementation at DHS and DMS as well as upcoming updates from Kim Redlon who chairs the Safety Committee)
- Transportation Update

Report of the Chair: The Chair reported the following.

- Superintendent Evaluation Update Mr. Nunes and Mrs. Amaral confirmed their roles on the sub-committee (individual member evaluations should be submitted to sub-committee week of October 14th and final evaluation to be presented at October 27th meeting.)
- MASC/MASS Annual Joint Conference – Mary Beckwith agreed to be the Committee’s Delegate at the Delegate Assembly; chair asked Committee Members to look at the MASC resolutions so “we” can come prepared to register our opinions at the next meeting.
- DHS Band Update
- Joint Meeting with the Select Board scheduled for September 29th at 6:30 p.m.

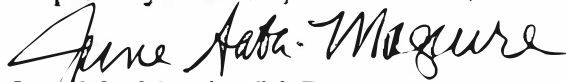
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting:

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, September 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to adjourn at 7:15 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. (Dartmouth Educators Association) and not to return to 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 Session Minutes for August 25, 2025

Project Time PPP and New Hire BIOS

Memo - CIP Update