

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

September 29, 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 Room 315 at the Dartmouth Town Hall. The Chair announced the meeting is being recorded for future broadcast over DCTV.

On a roll call the following members were present: Elizabeth Coughlin, Mary Beckwith, Kathleen Amaral and John Nunes. Chris Oliver was not in attendance

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of September 8, 2025 as written. The motion passed: 4-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 8, 2025 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters under consideration are resolved. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- **Potter PTO 2025-2026 Fundraising Requests**
- **Quinn PTO 2025-2026 Fundraising Requests**
- **DeMello PTO 2025-2026 Fundraising Requests**
- **DHS PTO 2025-2026 Fundraising Requests**

John Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to approve the PTO fundraising requests. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

- **DHS/Music Program – USBands National Championship Competition (New York City and New Jersey)**

Marielle Chrupcala, DHS Band and Choir Teacher briefly detailed the competition in New Jersey on November 8th and a field trip to New York City to see the *Harry Potter* musical and a visit to the Statue of Liberty.

John Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the DHS/Music Program request. The motion passed unanimously: 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- MCAS results were made public this morning and Dartmouth was invited to Arlington by the Commissioner's Office as one of 63 districts across the Commonwealth who have reached pre-pandemic levels of achievement in math for grades 3-8 adding a more in-depth presentation will be given to the Committee likely in November.
- Update on CKLA Curriculum "Launch" including ongoing professional development adding an in-depth overview of the process of choosing CKLA as well as detailing its components will be presented at a future meeting
- Elementary Curriculum Teams Update noting 55 faculty are serving on these teams
- Update on Capital Improvement Requests to be voted on at the October Town Meeting
- Update on meeting with Sue Cunningham, the Town's new Human Resource Director, for a discussion on how the District may be able to partner with this office noting Ms. Cunningham's school department background.
- Update on Position Vacancies
- Update on meeting with Dina St. Pierre, Director of Town Libraries, to discuss current partnerships with the Potter and Cushman schools and to expand the partnership to include the Quinn and DeMello Schools.
- District Crisis Team Update noting Kim Redlon, who is leading the team, will present at a future meeting adding the Homeland Security analysis will be provided to the Committee in Executive Session.
- Athletics Update

Report of the Chair: The Chair reported the following.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Kathleen Amaral, to nominate Mary Beckwith to be the Committee's Delegate at the 80th Annual MASC Conference on November 14th. The motion carried unanimously: 3-0. Ms. Beckwith abstained.

- Discussion on the MASC Resolutions was tabled to the next meeting and the matter should be placed on the agenda.

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, October 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Beckwith moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. to Room 304 for a Joint Session with the Select Board. The motion passed unanimously; 4-0.

CALL TO ORDER of JOINT SESSION

The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chairperson Heidi Silva-Brooks at 6:50 p.m. in the Select Board Meeting Room (Room 304) at Dartmouth Town Hall with members of the Select Board and School Committee in attendance.

Mrs. Silva-Brooks invited Dr. Saba-Maguire to "educate us" on what it looks like to produce a comprehensive strategic plan for Dartmouth Public Schools.

Ms. Coughlin opened the School Committee's Joint meeting with the Select Board requesting a roll call. Members of the School Committee in attendance: Elizabeth Coughlin (Chair), Mary Beckwith (Vice-Chair), Kathleen Amaral, Chris Oliver and John Nunes.

In attendance for the Dartmouth Public Schools were June Saba-Maguire, Superintendent of Schools, and James Kiely, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations.

Ms. Coughlin stated Dr. Saba-Maguire will present the District's Strategic Plan noting in "terms of alignment of goals" they are "our" mission and read the District's mission statement.

Ms. Coughlin continued stating "we" as the School Committee strive to run a financially responsible school department with respect to the tax payers' money.

Dr. Saba-Maguire thanked the Select Board for the opportunity to present the District's Strategic Plan.

Dr. Saba-Maguire provided a PowerPoint presentation as a visual aid to her in-depth overview of the purpose, process of development and implementation of the strategic plan.

Dr. Saba-Maguire stressed the cross section of stakeholders involved in the development of the strategic plan.

Dr. Saba-Maguire commented the District's "vision" statement is attributable to every department in the community noting the District aspires to "One Dartmouth."

Dr. Saba-Maguire explained the plan's "timeline" noting there are progress monitoring tools in place and we are looking forward to presenting the District's progress publicly.

Dr. Saba-Maguire highlighted the strategic plan's 4 focus areas and provided examples of what the District is doing to address each area: Focus Area 1 – Teaching and Learning; Focus Area 2 – Safe and Supportive Schools; Focus Area 3 – Family and Community Engagement; and Focus Area 4 – Budget and Capital Improvements.

Mr. Kiely spoke briefly about some of the steps the District has taken to address Focus Area 3 noting the recent collaboration with Gary Carreiro, Town Director of Budget & Finance/Treasurer, the Town Administration and the Finance Committee to create a plan for this year's budget adding we are in a "better place" in terms of collaborating on the operating budget and we are looking forward to the next budget cycle.

Mr. Kiely spoke briefly about District capital improvement as well as long range capital improvement plans noting those to be voted on at the October Town Meeting as well as the need to replace some school buildings.

Dr. Saba-Maguire called the Board's attention to the connection the plan makes with town government particularly as it relates to Focus Area 4.

Dr. Saba-Maguire concluded the presentation expressing the commitment of the Dartmouth Public School staff and the District's commitment to "One Dartmouth."

Dr. Saba-Maguire stated a more detailed strategic action plan is posted on the District website.

Ms. Silva-Brooks invited Select Board members to ask questions.

Chris O'Neil, Select Board Member, asked about staffing status including retirements.

Mr. Kiely responded the "biggest hurdle" the District faces is health insurance; the District is not competitive in that regard; Mr. Kiely noted recent changes the Town has made regarding health insurance costs.

Mr. O'Neil asked about Focus Area 2 – Safe and Supportive Schools – and what the District's strategy is to address the continuing needs of students.

Dr. Saba-Maguire responded the District has done a good job having used ESSER funds to expand the staff to support students' social emotional learning.

Mr. Kiely added that those positions are now funded with school choice funds which the District is currently attempting to wean off from using.

Dr. Saba-Maguire noted the collaboration with the Town through the allocation of the "opioid" funding adding the District has invested in a social emotional learning curriculum at Dartmouth High School (DHS), the expansion of vape detectors and a new safety person at DHS and to expand after school programming particularly at the elementary level.

Mr. O'Neil spoke about the *SERPIT* program noting he will get more information to the District.

Mr. Kiely stated we, through Police Chief Brian Levesque, were connected with the Department of Homeland Security last year who came down and did a comprehensive security assessment of each of our buildings and provided practical suggestions that are actionable which we hope to fund with the \$285,000 request that will go before Town Meeting in October.

Mr. O'Neil asked what Town can do in the areas of consolidation or sharing of services between town departments.

Mrs. Silva-Brooks stated the Town has hired a new Human Resource Director who has a municipal and school district experience and will work with the school department as well as youth advocate services are shared and the DAART Substance Use Coordinator is working with the school department.

Dr. Saba-Maguire noted her meeting with Rachel Dzialo, Substance Use Program Coordinator as well as her recent meeting with Dina St. Pierre, Town Director of Libraries, explaining how these partnerships are sharing Town services but not necessarily in a monetary way.

Mr. Tatelbaum provided comments about the need to spend funds efficiently throughout the town and the need to look at the short and long term through a "sequence of events" adding I don't think we spend enough money on our schools.

Mr. Mickelson read a comment he received from a Dartmouth resident who asked what does “One Dartmouth” mean and what does that mean to the schools and how will that “show up” in the broader community.

Dr. Saba-Maguire explained how “One Dartmouth” is promoted throughout the District and the hope is that sentiment of connection expands out to the community.

Mr. Mickelson spoke about where new schools would be constructed.

Ms. Silva-Brooks noted that a plan was laid out at a meeting held on September 17th specific to school long term capital projects.

Mrs. Amaral, School Committee member, provided comments on “One Dartmouth” noting it is about children seeing themselves as a member of this school community.

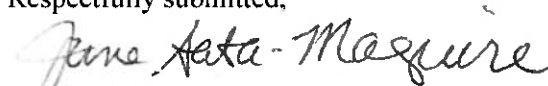
Mr. Oliver stated that “One Dartmouth” means equal opportunity to all members of the school community and the community of Dartmouth.

Mrs. Silva-Brooks provided comments about the symbol of “One Dartmouth” and what it means to her as well as comments on opportunities for all students.

Mrs. Silva-Brooks thanked the School Committee and the School Administration for its presentation this evening.

Mr. Nunes moved on behalf of the School Committee, Mrs. Amaral seconded, that we adjourn out of Joint Session at 7:54 p.m. 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 September 8, 2025

Potter PTO 2025-2026 Fundraising Requests

Quinn PTO 2025-2026 Fundraising Requests

DeMello PTO 2025-2026 Fundraising Requests

DHS PTO 2025-2026 Fundraising Requests

DHS/Music Program – USBands National Championship Competition

Joint Session - Documents/Exhibits

Dartmouth Strategic Plan (PPP)