

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

October 6, 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: Kathleen Amaral, John Nunes, Chris Oliver, Mary Beckwith and Elizabeth Coughlin.

Also present: James Kiely and Ms. Genthner. Dr. Saba-Maguire was not present

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 Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular and Joint Session Minutes of September 29, 2025 as written. The motion passed: 4-0. Chris Oliver abstained.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Delilah Dellecesse, a DHS Sophomore, reported on activities and events happening at Dartmouth High School (DHS).

- New SmartPass System Update
- Sports Update including senior night for Girls Soccer

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- DMS PTO 2025-2026 Fundraising Requests

John Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the DMS PTO fundraising requests. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS

Core Knowledge Language Arts (C.K.L.A.): Catherine Pavao, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning/Elementary Level, provided an overview of the “adoption” process recognizing the team of individuals who participated in the vetting of the five different publishers who “demoed” their products over the 2 year process and how this team came to choose Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) as the District’s elementary literacy curriculum.

Mrs. Pavao stated CKLA is a knowledge-based program and described what that is - language comprehension and work recognition which results in skilled reading - adding the same process is true for instructing students in writing. A video was shown to illustrate the concept of a knowledge-based program.

Mrs. Pavao used a powerpoint presentation which was included in the meeting packet to assist with her overview.

Mrs. Pavao explained the District's "implementation support" for teachers.

Ms. Beckwith asked about what are some things that would be done for students not reading at grade level.

Mrs. Pavao provided options on how classroom teachers could assist students adding we are "scaffolding" to build grade level knowledge but also teaching students to read at their instructional level.

Mr. Oliver asked what tier 2 and tier 3 instruction of the new curriculum looks like particularly as it concerns students who are on individualized education plans (IEPs).

Mrs. Pavao responded we are addressing students' goals and we continue to provide interventions when necessary.

Mr. Nunes asked when do you expect to see results.

Mrs. Pavao responded there is always an implementation "dip" but we are working towards building a foundation of knowledge.

Mrs. Amaral made comments that she is happy to hear the program supports inclusivity.

Ms. Coughlin asked if the students are engaging at a different level.

Mrs. Pavao stated that students are being engaged more and we are trying to broaden their "horizons."

Professional Time Learning Plan: Dr. Thibault, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning/Secondary Level, gave an overview of the District's professional time learning plan.

Dr. Thibault stated a district wide Professional Development (PD) Committee has convened to develop a wide range of professional learning for educators across the District noting a survey was conducted across the district in June for feedback in creating the committee and professional learning.

Dr. Thibault noted the partnerships the District has entered into to support professional learning: Mass Insight, Lynch Leadership Academy, Teaching and Learning Alliance, Bridgewater State University, MA Partnership for Youth and Carnegie Learning among others.

Dr. Thibault stated the District provides an opportunity for teacher feedback on professional learning time through Vector (formerly known as TeachPoint) noting professional development points (PDPs) are offered to staff based on the session they attend.

Dr. Thibault provided information on future professional learning time noting the district will return to early release day (ERD) strands model per the feedback provided by teaching staff.

Dr. Thibault stated the PD Committee will continue to explore potential partnership opportunities adding the committee will be meeting on October 15th.

Ms. Beckwith asked about what Vector Solutions is for.

Dr. Thibault responded one purpose is for educator evaluations but the other purpose, which is specific to tonight's presentation, is it tracks attendance at professional learning time sessions and issues PDPs for participation in those sessions.

Ms. Coughlin stated professional learning seems more "robust" adding we have a lot more outside "help."

Dr. Thibault responded some partnerships are not new but that the list provided tonight was not complete.

Overview of Career Technical Education (C.T.E.) Guidance: Dr. Thibault provided an overview of the Department of Elementary and Secondary's (DESE) guidance on the new Career Technical Education (CTE) Exploration Policy.

Dr. Thibault described CTE which are educational programs that "are aligned with industry standards, designed to help students explore their interests, develop technical and employability skills, and earn industry recognized standards" adding Greater New Bedford Vocational Regional Technical High School and Bristol Agricultural School are the schools Dartmouth students would attend should they choose that path.

Dr. Thibault reported DESE's August 2025 guidance states "sending" districts are required to "develop and maintain a district-wide Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy."

Dr. Thibault explained the CTE Exploration Policy Guidance noting student absences for CTE tours may not be counted as unexcused absences, tours should be during the school day and the CTE school would be responsible for any costs to transport students to the CTE school for a tour.

Dr. Thibault stated part of DESE's guidance is to share the names and addresses of 7th and 8th grade students with the CTE schools no later than October 15th noting families can opt out from sharing their child's information and explained how the middle school made families aware of that option.

NEW BUSINESS

SC Policies Section C – General School Administration, Policy JICFB Bullying Prevention and new policy JFABZ Middle School Pathway Exploration – First Reading: Mr. Kiely thanked all participants in the policy review process including the policy sub-committee members (Kathleen Amaral and Mary Beckwith) and reviewed the proposed changes as they pertain to Section C of the School Committee Policies and Section J Policy JICFB and new policy JFABZ of the school committee policies.

Mr. Kiely read through the proposed changes to be made to policies in Section C: Policy CA – *Administration Goals*; Policy CB – *School Superintendent*; Policy CBD – *Superintendent's Contract*; Policy CBI – *Evaluation of the Superintendent*; Policy CCB – *Line and Staff Relations*; Policy CE – *Administrative Councils, Cabinets and Committees*; Policy CH – *Policy Implementation*; Policy CHCA – *Approval of Handbooks and Directives*.

The Committee offered no revisions or objections to the proposed changes for policies in Section C.

Mr. Kiely continued with Section J of the School Committee policies noting new Policy JFABZ - *Middle School Pathway/CTE Exploration Policy* – stating the Superintendent must attest to the

implementation of this policy by November 1st; we hope to have a second read and vote at the next school committee meeting to be able to comply with this DESE requirement.

Ms. Coughlin noted redundancies in specific paragraphs of new policy JFABZ.

Mr. Kiely stated if the Committee agrees with the revisions they will be made and presented at the second reading.

Ms. Coughlin states she believes the last paragraph can be removed.

The Committee did not object.

Mr. Kiely stated there will be a revised policy in the packet for the 27th.

Mr. Kiely stated revisions to SC policy JICFB - *Bullying Prevention* – noting the old policy was approved in 2015 which was the DESE guidance noting this was guidance and not policy and we took the time to create a policy.

Mr. Kiely made note that aforementioned proposed changes to the policies in Section C and J are consistent with MASC models.

Mr. Kiely reiterated that tonight was a first reading and that the matter will be brought back for a second reading and a vote with the noted revision to JFABZ at the next school committee meeting.

M.A.S.C. Resolution Discussion: Ms. Coughlin opened discussion on MASC resolutions noting there is only one new resolution pertaining to removing BMI testing from schools.

Ms. Coughlin read the resolution pertaining to BMI testing noting Dartmouth does BMI testing.

The Committee agreed with the resolution to remove BMI testing from schools; Ms. Beckwith stated she will vote yes for the Dartmouth School Committee (at the MASC Delegate Assembly.)

Ms. Coughlin stated the following six are resolutions we would be reauthorizing adding these resolutions were put forward 3 years ago but did not move forward in the State Legislature.

1. Pertaining to Sanctuary Laws for Transgender Students
The Committee agreed with the resolution; Ms. Beckwith stated she will vote yes for the Dartmouth School Committee.
2. Pertaining to Increasing the Maximum Balance Allowed by the Special Education Reserve Fund
The Committee agreed with the resolution.
3. Pertaining to Membership on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
The Committee agreed with the resolution.
4. Pertaining to Preserving the Local Governance of Massachusetts Schools
The Committee agreed with the resolution.
5. Pertaining to Personal Financial Literacy Education
Ms. Beckwith stated she will be attending the MASC webinar before the next meeting and will ask

some questions about the matter.

The Committee tabled this discussion to the next meeting.

6. Pertaining to Establishment of a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund

Mr. Kiely stated he believes the intent is for the Town to fund this through a vote at Town meeting noting there is a limited amount of Town funding adding he is not sure it would benefit "us."

The Committee did not agree with this resolution; Ms. Beckwith will vote no for the Dartmouth School Committee.

Superintendent's Update: Mr. Kiely provided District updates.

- Capital Improvement Articles at Fall Town Meeting.
- Sports Update
- Senior Sports Celebrations
- Thanked the Select Board and Town Administration for a productive Joint Meeting last week.

Report of the Chair: Ms. Coughlin concurred with Mr. Kiely's comment about the Joint Session.

- Reminder to submit Superintendent Evaluations to the Sub-committee by October 15th
- The Town has formed a Budget Advisory Group and they are looking for 2 members of the school committee to sit on that committee; the Chair noted she received a letter from the Town and will share the same with Committee members; the 2 members will be voted at the next School Committee meeting.
- Band Update
- SEPAC Update – this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at Cushman School will be a presentation on parents' rights.

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 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to adjourn from Open Session at 7:41 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 Joint Session Minutes for September 29, 2025

Consent Agenda – DMS PTO 2025-2026 Fundraising Requests

Presentation – CKLA

Presentation – Professional Learning Time

Presentation – Overview of Career

SC Policy Section – General School Administration; Policy JICFB – *Bullying Prevention*
and new Policy JFABZ - *Middle School Pathway Exploration*

MASC Resolutions