

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

November 10, 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, Student Representative Andrew Moniz and Ms. Genthner.

The Committee held a moment of silence to recognize the tragic passing of Anne De Carvalho, a member of the junior class at Dartmouth High School.

Dr. Saba-Maguire provided comments on how the school community came together to grieve the loss of their friend and student and extended heartfelt condolences to Anne's family and friends.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Nate Silva, a Dartmouth resident, encouraged the Committee and District to ask for what "you need" to fund your budget as the budget cycle begins.

Ms. Robin Dela Fuente, Dartmouth resident and parent of Dartmouth Students, stated that "you have parent support" and to fight for the budget you need.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to approve the Regular Session Minutes of October 27, 2025 as written. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 27, 2025 with the stipulation that they be held until the matters under consideration are resolved. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

DHS Senior Andrew Moniz provided updates on activities and events happening at Dartmouth High School (DHS).

- DHS held a Blood Drive on October 28th
- Young Athletes Day held on November 5th – students from Cushman school collaborated with Unified physical education classes and basketball
- Homecoming and the Superlative Dance will be held on November 15th
- Upcoming events: Spirit Week, food drive and the Pep Rally
- Fall Sports Update; all teams made the playoffs and the Boys Soccer Team continues tournament play
- DHS Marching Band won a Bronze Medal over the past weekend at the USBands National

Championships held at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey

-Student Advisory Committee is preparing a Student Experience Report and they hope to present that to this Committee as well as the Administration.

A portion of the following agenda item was addressed at this time.

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Marielle Chrupcala and Alex Ollivierre, Dartmouth High School music teachers and DHS band director and assistant director respectively, to address the Committee.

Ms. Chrupcala displayed the recently won awards and provided an update on DHS Band's achievements at the USBands competition held at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey as well as a subsequent field trip for the band to New York City.

PRESENTATION

District Strategic Plan Monitoring Update: Dr. Saba-Maguire provided comments about the strategic plan and what is happening throughout the schools noting updates have been provided to two school PTO groups (DHS and DMS) as well as to the middle school faculty.

Dr. Saba-Maguire summarized the strategic planning process and noted the District is currently in Phase 3 - Implementation.

Dr. Saba-Maguire explained the progress monitoring process noting how "we" have constructed means of reporting out to the public and the Committee as to where we are in the implementation of our plan.

Dr. Saba-Maguire reported the Central Office Leadership team as well as the District Leadership and Principal Leadership teams met over the summer to discuss District matters including putting together a formal process to report publicly on the progress of the strategic plan adding we will be refining this process as we continue to find ways to improve on reporting out.

Dr. Saba-Maguire reported on the progress made in each of the strategic plan four focus areas: 1 – Teaching and Learning; 2 – Safe and Supportive Schools; 3 – Family and Community Engagement; 4 – Budget and Capital Improvements: by breaking down the work in each area by *Initiatives, In Process* and *Key Action Steps Taken to Date*.

Dr. Saba-Maguire commented we are a "human business" and so we have trials and errors and we try things in good faith; we listen to each other and we refine processes.

Ms. Beckwith asked how often the Committee will receive this type of update.

Dr. Saba-Maguire responded "we" have not planned that out but as often as the Committee would like adding we should plan reviews like the one given tonight strategically because more concise updates are provided at each meeting during the *Superintendent's Update* in an effort to keep the Committee informed on an ongoing basis.

MCAS Results Overview: Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Katie Pavao, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning/Elementary Level, to make the presentation.

Mrs. Pavao provided an explanation of the District's most recent MCAS results noting the curriculum is going to drive how our students are performing; Ms. Pavao added that MCAS results are one source of data when discussing student achievement.

Mrs. Pavao explained what MCAS is and why it matters noting MCAS is an important assessment because it looks at the "standards" overall and provides with us with information as to where students' strengths lie and areas where there is still work to do.

Mrs. Pavao spoke briefly about the impact of the state vote to remove MCAS graduation requirement noting we still assess our students in Grade 10.

Mrs. Pavao stated there was an emphasis "this year" on returning to pre-pandemic levels adding you will hear much comparison between 2019 (the last pre-pandemic year) and 2025.

Mrs. Pavao reported that this was the first year the civics assessment was administered to Grade 8 students across the Commonwealth.

Mrs. Pavao provided an MCAS timeline from 2019 through 2025 along with an explanation as to what was happening with the administering of MCAS during each time period.

Mrs. Pavao provided a brief summary of Dartmouth's as well as the State's MCAS performance overall in 2025 including trends across the State in ELA, Mathematics and Science, Technology and Engineering (STE).

Mrs. Pavao addressed the new civics assessment noting that the responsibility does not fall solely on middle school teachers meaning how, particularly at the elementary level, can the District support this learning and all learning at the upper levels.

Mrs. Pavao provided a "slide" wherein data was provided showing how Dartmouth's results compares to its D.A.R.T. schools (District Analysis and Review Tools).

Mrs. Pavao provided information about what the District is doing with this data to improve Dartmouth's student achievement explaining the 5 Step process: Engaging Schools in Data Inquiry Cycles; Analyzing Trends; Aligning Curriculum & Resources; Providing Professional Learning and Monitoring Progress, noting these steps are "happening" at all grade levels at all schools and at the District level.

Mrs. Pavao noted she is working with Liz Voci, the Instructional Technology Specialist at DeMello Elementary school, to look at our MCAS data, our curriculum materials and our standards and to utilize A.I. to do some of the deep "crosswalk" work which is extremely time consuming.

Mrs. Pavao reported DESE named 63 school districts in the State including Dartmouth a *District of Recognition* because they met or exceeded 2019 achievement levels in math and/or ELA in grades 3-8 noting Dartmouth returned to pre-pandemic levels in math 3-8.

Mr. Nunes asked if Dartmouth has any Adams Scholarships award winners this year.

Dr. Saba-Maguire responded we definitely do and this is one reason why we encourage our high school students to continue to do their best on their MCAS even though it is no longer a graduation requirement.

Mr. Nunes asked if we are able to "drill down" on questions where students had issues.

Mrs. Pavao responded last year DESE did not provide any questions adding there is a limited view as to what you can "dig into" adding you can "dig in" by standard or by student.

Ms. Coughlin asked if a way could be found to reward students whose SGPs increased by so much so that we are not only rewarding the top performers.

Mrs. Pavao and Dr. Saba-Maguire appreciated the recommendation and will talk with the schools about the idea.

NEW BUSINESS

SC Policies Section D – Fiscal Management Review, Policy JKAA - Physical Restraint Prevention and Behavior Support; Policy IKF Graduation Requirements and Proposed New Policy IKFE – Competency Determination – First Reading: Dr. Saba-Maguire thanked the policy sub-committee as well as administrators for their input and work updating the policies that we present tonight.

Dr. Saba-Maguire read through the proposed revisions to be made to the following policies in Section D: Policy DA – *Fiscal Management Goals*; Policy DB – *Annual Budget*; Policy DBD – *Budget Planning*; Policy DBJ – *Budget Transfer Authority*; Policy DD – *Funding Proposals and Applications*; Policy DFD – *Gate Receipts and Admissions*; Policy DI – *Fiscal Accounting and Reporting*; Policy DJ – *Purchasing*; Policy DK – *Payment Procedures*; Policy DKC – *Expense Reimbursements*; Policy DM – *Cash in School Buildings*.

Mr. Oliver stated he is fine with the language in Policy DI *Fiscal Accounting and Reporting* and asked if “we” are receiving quarterly financial statements or have we ever received quarterly financial statements from the District referring to language in the policy stating his question has nothing to do with the present administration but referred to the current status of another Massachusetts school district and would like to see something moving forward.

Dr. Saba-Maguire stated she and Mr. Kiely have had this conversation and discussed what the reporting would look like at the Committee level noting we haven’t done this since my tenure but that doesn’t mean this is not something we could consider and discuss further.

The Committee offered no further comments, revisions and/or objections to the proposed changes to policies in Section D.

Dr. Saba-Maguire read through the proposed revisions for policies in section J – *Students* policy IKF - *Graduation Requirements* which reflects the vote that was taken by Committee on March 24, 2025 and the proposed new policy IKFE - (Competency Determination) which reflects the vote that was taken by Committee on January 27, 2025 reminding the Committee these changes were brought forward after the Statewide referendum (Question 2) was passed noting we did not vote them in as policy at that time and so they were brought to the sub-committee and to the full committee tonight for a vote.

Dr. Saba-Maguire read through the proposed changes to be made to policies in Section J - *Students*: Policy JKAA – *Physical Restraint Prevention and Behavior Support*.

Ms. Coughlin noted this is a first reading and asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Nunes asked about language to be included to policy DFD – *Gate Receipts and Admissions* noting the process the funds go through prior to being deposited with the Town such as student activity and revolving accounts (athletics and music to name a few).

Dr. Saba-Maguire noted her earlier conversation with Mr. Nunes adding we agreed to have a second look and bring it back to the Committee with a revision.

Mr. Oliver asked if the funds of student activity and revolving accounts go through the Town Treasurer.

Mr. Nunes responded yes except, to my knowledge, for the individual Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) accounts.

Superintendent's Evaluation: Ms. Coughlin asked the sub-committee, Mrs. Amaral and Mr. Nunes, to share the evaluation.

Mr. Nunes thanked the Committee for its input and Mrs. Amaral for her work in compiling the information.

Mr. Nunes noted this an end-of-cycle summative evaluation and briefly described the evaluation process noting the format follows the guidelines issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Mr. Nunes noted the evaluation must be done in open session and once the evaluation is voted on it becomes part of the Superintendent's personnel file.

Mr. Nunes read through the evaluation: Step 1 Assess Progress Towards Goals: *Personal Practice Goals; Student Learning Goals; District Improvement Goals*; Step 2 Assess Performance on Standards: Standard I *Instructional Leadership*; Standard II *Management and Operations*; Standard III *Family and Community Engagement*; Standard IV *Professional Culture*; Step 3 Rate Overall Summative Performance – Proficient on all matters under Steps 1 and 2.

Mr. Nunes read the comments provided by Committee members that were compiled to be included in the evaluation.

Mr. Nunes read through the Superintendent's Performance Goals including corresponding *Indicators* and *Descriptions* for the following areas: Student Learning Goals, Professional Practice Goals, District Improvement Goal 1 and 2. Evaluation – Proficient in all areas.

Mr. Nunes read through the Superintendent's Performance Rating for Standard I – *Instructional Leadership*; the overall rating for Standard I was proficient. Committee comments were read.

Mr. Nunes read through the Superintendent's Performance Rating for Standard II– *Management and Operations*; the overall rating for Standard III was proficient. Committee comments were read.

Mr. Nunes read through the Superintendent's Performance Rating for Standard III– *Family and Community Engagement*; the overall rating for Standard III was proficient. Committee comments were read.

Mr. Nunes read through the Superintendent's Performance Rating for Standard IV– *Professional Culture*; the overall rating for Standard IV was proficient. Committee comments were read.

Mr. Nunes concluded this is the evaluation of Dr. Nunes Saba-Maguire as compiled.

Dr. Saba-Maguire stated she is humbled more by the comments than the ratings adding she is committed to the District and the Dartmouth community and recognized the work is not done solely by the

Superintendent noting the work of administrators, teachers, food service workers and all staff concluding that she will not rest and will strive for continuous improvement.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to accept the Evaluation of the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

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

- DHS Lead Teacher Team – start of professional learning strand with Teaching and Learning Alliance
- DHS grades issued recently noting the first year of changes in grading practices which was part of the DHS school improvement plan presented at a Committee meeting.
- MSBA Update (DHS Roof Project)
- Vape Detector Update
- Community Engagement Update - Quarterly Meetings planned with Town Administration

Report of the Chair: The Chair reported the following.

- Comments on Greater New Bedford Vocational Tech HS Information Day
- The State is looking for feedback on the Chapter 70 Formula; an informational meeting will be held in Lakeville on November 19th (in person) and a virtual session on November 18th. Mr. Kiely will be attending and the Chair noted she will be attending.
- Band Update

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

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The Chair stated 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, December 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to adjourn from Open Session at 7:49 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 October 27, 2025
- Presentation – District Strategic Plan Monitoring Update
- Presentation – District MCAS Results Overview
- Section D, Section I (IKF and IKFE), Section J (JKAA)
- Superintendent's 2024-2025 End of Cycle Summative Evaluation