MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
DARTMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 2, 2026

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

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 Ms. Beckwith to approve the Regular Session Minutes of February 9, 2026 as written. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

No student representative report was provided.

OLD BUSINESS

FY27 Budget – Further Discussion: Mr. Kiely reported he received an email from Cody Haddad, Town Administrator, this afternoon which precipitated the *Budget Impact* information that was emailed to the Committee and which is presented tonight noting Mr. Haddad asked that it be shared that "this reflects the maximum" the Town can budget; Mr. Kiely added a similar slide was included in the FY27 Budget packet noting the addition of the last three lines which indicate the Town budget projection, the reflection of the school choice plan as it relates to Town funding and an unfunded amount.

Mr. Kiely added Mr. Haddad stated this already takes in to account several reductions on the general government side to allow them the ability to approve this increase of 3.5% or $57,371,663 leaving the District with an unfunded amount of $1,610,726 or 2.91% based on its draft FY27 budget proposal.

Mr. Oliver asked if he was reading the information correctly that the Town's proposal doesn't even meet contractual obligations; we would be 1.5% under our contractual obligations.

Mr. Kiely responded "yes."

Mr. Oliver stated he thinks we should push "this" budget forward; we need to get the word out to the general public that things need to change; let the Select Board and Finance Committee tell us they are not going to support this budget.

Ms. Beckwith and Mrs. Amaral agreed with Mr. Oliver's comments.

Mr. Nunes asked if the Finance Committee voted or "weighed in" on this "number" or is this just the Select Board.

Mr. Kiely stated he does not know; the information was received late this afternoon noting that he and Dr. Saba-Maguire met on February 11th with the Town Administration and had a conversation about the parameters of how the Town was preparing its budget.

Mr. Kiely reminded the Committee that the District is scheduled to present the budget to the Finance Committee at its meeting on March 5th.

Mr. Nunes stated this information from the Town does not work.

Ms. Coughlin agreed with Mr. Nunes' statement adding keeping the District "level funded" is about 5% and this proposal falls "way short."

Ms. Coughlin asked about the PreK funds.

Mr. Kiely responded as we move forward there are things we can take a look at in terms of our proposal and our recommendations.

Mr. Kiely added the Kindergarten Stabilization account has $367,266 but that is "one time" money adding it should be utilized at some point; it doesn't have a separate purpose anymore other than to support our operations.

Mr. Kiely mentioned funding received from the Opioid Committee in the amount of $100,000 which funded after school programs that were previously built into the school choice spending plan.

Mr. Nunes asked what is in school choice funding right now.

Mr. Kiely responded agreeing with Mr. Oliver's statement that "we are going to end FY26 with $2.1 million, adding we will probably adjust that amount that by about $100,000 based on "opioid" funds received from the Town.

Ms. Beckwith asked if "this" will change the presentation on Thursday.

Mr. Kiely responded not necessarily unless the School Committee directs us to do something different that would require us to alter the plan.

Ms. Coughlin commented that we are being careful with our budget and have reduced in past years and it would only hurt students to continue "that" while recognizing the effects of inflation on the budget and asked if the Town Administrator took "free cash" into account when figuring out this 3.5%.

Mr. Kiely responded what he shared with Mr. Haddad and Mr. Carreiro at their February 11th meeting adding this afternoon Mr. Haddad conveyed they are working on the information provided.

Mr. Oliver asked about Circuit Breaker.

Mr. Kiely responded the funds received this year will be expended next year and explained the process of spending funds from this account.

Ms. Coughlin suggested making the Kindergarten Stabilization Fund a Special Education Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Kiely explained the steps if the Committee were to consider this suggestion adding this would not have a real impact on the budget proposal.

Mrs. Amaral asked if we should make a motion or vote to keep "things" as they are for Thursday.

Dr. Saba-Maguire stated she and Mr. Kiely have another meeting with Mr. Haddad and Mr. Carreiro on Wednesday morning giving us another "in person" opportunity to go over the budget.

Mr. Kiely gave reasons why he would not recommend voting on the budget tonight.

Mr. Nunes asked if the Committee should make a motion that "we" support the information provided with regard to the budget at the February 9th meeting.

Mr. Oliver asked if it is needed.

Mr. Oliver asked for what the Town provided to the school district in the last three years.

Mr. Kiely stated the last three increases were 4.3% (FY25), 3.0% (FY24) and 4.3% (FY23).

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Saba-Maguire provided information and updates of events and activities happening throughout the District.
-Update on snow removal; Mr. Kiely stated effective today the District paid $51,060.77 on snow removal which is money spent over the budgeted amount.

Mr. Nunes suggested the Finance Committee and Select Board be made aware of these numbers and that we are going to be looking for money to augment our budget.

Mr. Kiely stated he can share this information with the boards and reported he filled out FEMA reimbursement paperwork today noting it takes a long time for the money to disbursed which would go to the Town and not the school department.

-Dr. Saba-Maguire stated the 2-hour delay scheduled for today and tomorrow has been cancelled for tomorrow and school will start at the regular time adding the early release/in-service day scheduled for Wednesday has been postponed making Wednesday a full day of school stating the early release/in service day has been rescheduled for June 22nd; the last day of school for 2025-2026 is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 23rd which will be a ½ day of school for students.

-Elementary After School Program Update: The District will be launching an afterschool program at each of the three elementary schools with support from the Town through its Town's Substance Use Program Coordinator Rachel Dzialo who met with the District back in the fall. The program will run from the week after April 2026 vacation and the first week of June.

-Mr. Kiely provided an update on the high school generator reporting he provided information about the matter to Gary Carreiro stating the Finance Committee has already transferred $37,000 for repairs of the generator which was done just before the winter break.

-Update on DHS Athletics: Boys' ice hockey and Girls' basketball.

Report of the Chair: The Chair had nothing further to report and asked the Committee if they had anything further to add.
-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, March 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to adjourn from Open Session at 6:56 p.m. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
June Saba-Maguire
June Saba-Maguire, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Open Session - Documents/Exhibits
-Agenda
-Brief
-Regular Session Minutes for February 9, 2026
-Superintendent Update – FY27 Budget Impact