

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

April 13, 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, Chris Oliver, Mary Beckwith, John Nunes and Elizabeth Coughlin.

Also present: James Kiely, Student Representative Charlotte Alphonse and Ms. Genthner. Dr. Saba-Maguire was not in attendance

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jody Parisi and Joseph Silva, Co-Presidents of the Dartmouth Educators Association (DEA), provided comments regarding the FY27 budget specifically in relation to staffing levels.

Robin Dela Fuente, Dartmouth resident and parent of Dartmouth Public School (DPS) students, provided comments regarding the FY27 budget and thanked the Committee for its hard work and reiterated her statement that you have family support.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Beckwith moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to approve the Regular Session Minutes of March 23, 2026 and March 31, 2026 as written. The motion passed: 4-0-1. Mrs. Amaral abstained noting she was not present at the March 31, 2026 meeting.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 23, 2026 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters under consideration are resolved. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 31, 2026 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters under consideration are resolved. The motion passed: 4-0-1. Mrs. Amaral abstained noting she was not present at the meeting.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

DHS Freshman Charlotte Alphonse provided updates on activities and events happening at Dartmouth High School (DHS).

-April 1st Annual DEF Spelling Bee Update

-March 27th TEDx Update

-DHS will hold its third Annual Day of Kindness on April 16th hosted by the Black Student Union along with 8 additional clubs

SPOTLIGHT ON KIDS – Dartmouth High School: DHS Principal Ryan Shea gave brief comments about the focus of tonight's *Spotlight* and invited Ian Flint, the District's Director of Fine and performing Arts, to introduce tonight's *Spotlight on Kids* segment.

Mr. Flint stated Show Choir is similar to the marching band, indoor percussion or color guard noting this is an opportunity for our choral students to present themselves in a competitive atmosphere against groups from all over the East Coast adding this is a new program which we have been successful building the calling attention to the number of students who will perform this evening.

Marielle Chrupcala, DHS Band and Choir Director, thanked Mr. Shea and the School Committee reporting we had our first "straight silver season" noting the students' growth, resilience and teamwork.

Ms. Chrupcala invited members of *Dartmouth Dynamix* to perform selections from their show: "Misfit Toys."

PRESENTATION

Curriculum Review Cycle: Mr. Kiely invited Mrs. Katie Pavao and Dr. Ross Thibault, Executive Directors of Teaching and Learning/Elementary and Secondary Levels respectively, to make their presentation.

Dr. Thibault stated the presentation will specifically address the PreK-12 District mathematics curriculum review which will begin next year.

Dr. Thibault provided brief comments around the District Strategic Plan noting one of the first initiatives of that plan is to create vertical and horizontal alignment through the establishment of a consistent, predictable review cycle.

Mrs. Pavao spoke about the curriculum review process: ongoing review and revision of curriculum; which supports the use of assessment data to inform instruction; maintain alignment with State and Federal mandates; ensure culturally responsive and inclusive curriculum; plan for research and budgeting for resources; evaluate needs for curricular or programmatic design.

Dr. Thibault stated a review cycle takes approximately 5-7 years noting at the elementary level the current mathematics curriculum, the District has been using *Bridges* for 5 years adding the District may stay with this curriculum.

Dr. Thibault stated we are always engaged in a "phase" of curriculum review throughout the 5-7 years to ensure the intended learning outcomes are being achieved.

Dr. Thibault stated there is a defined process for curriculum review which is outlined in our District Curriculum and Instructional Materials Adoption Plan which is posted on our District website.

Mrs. Pavao explained the Mathematics Review Timeline: survey all staff; "pilot" teachers are trained; professional learning for staff; curriculum options; review of the curriculum options; full implementation.

Mrs. Pavao reviewed the key elements of high-quality instructional materials: standards-based, alignment, equitable, professional development and budget.

Mr. Oliver asked when looking into high quality curriculum do you look to see if they are in C.U.R.A.T.E. (Curriculum Ratings by Teachers).

Dr. Thibault responded the primary tools we use, in addition to the rubrics that Mrs. Pavao spoke of, are Ed Reports, a national vetting of the quality of curriculum materials, as well as C.U.R.A.T.E. which is Massachusetts teachers vetting curriculum adding the benefit of alignment to state standards.

Ms. Coughlin asked if the pilot teachers are volunteers; do you have trouble finding teachers to pilot curriculum.

Dr. Thibault stated we do not have a problem finding volunteers noting the “heavy lift” piloting a new curriculum can be for teaching staff.

Mr. Nunes asked how you determine which vendors/curriculum to pilot.

Mrs. Pavao stated we look at Ed Reports and C.U.R.A.T.E. to make sure what we are looking at high quality programs.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Coughlin invited Mr. Kiely to speak about the consent agenda items.

Mr. Kiely reported the summer sports camp is a successful program open to students in grades 2 through 9 noting this year’s program will run from June 29th through July 31st from 9:00 am until 12:00 p.m. daily adding last year there were 444 participants. The fee will remain the same as last year: \$65 for the 4-day week and \$80 for the 5-day week; we are seeking permission to run the program this summer.

- 2026 Summer Sports Camp

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Beckwith to approve the request as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Kiely reported the Dig Green Volleyball camp was a successful program last year which is proposed to run for one week this year from August 10th through August 14th; 9:00 am until 3:00 p.m.; \$200 per player adding we “maxed out” on participation last year: 120 participants, and expect the same this year.

- 2026 Dig Green Volleyball Camp

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the request as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Ms. Coughlin addressed the Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC) FY27 Lease Request.

Mr. Kiely reported there was a 3% increase in the rental fee as voted by the SMEC Board of Directors.

- SMEC: FY27 Request for Permission to Lease Classroom (1 classroom at DHS and 2 classrooms at Quinn) and Office space at DHS.

Mr. Oliver stated it is his understanding that that money taken in will go into the Facilities revolving account.

Mr. Kiely responded correct; the funds will be put in the Use of Facilities Revolving account for use maintaining the facilities or purchasing supplies for the facilities.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral, to approve the SMEC: FY27 Request for Permission to Lease Classroom (1 classroom at DHS and 2 classrooms at Quinn) and Office Space at DHS. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE

Appointment of Chair:

Mr. Kiely sought nominations for Chair of the Dartmouth School Committee.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to nominate Mary Beckwith to be Chair of the Dartmouth School Committee for the balance of SY26 into SY2027. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Ms. Beckwith accepted the appointment.

Appointment of Vice Chair:

Ms. Beckwith sought nominations for Vice-Chair of the Dartmouth School Committee.

Ms. Coughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to nominate John Nunes as Vice-Chair of the Dartmouth School Committee for 2026-2027. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Nunes accepted the appointment.

Appointment of Secretary:

Mr. Nunes, seconded by Mr. Oliver to appoint Dr. June Saba-Maguire, Superintendent of Schools, as Secretary to the School Committee. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

Chairperson Comments:

Ms. Beckwith thanked the Committee members for their support.

Ms. Beckwith asked if any member wanted to make a change to the current sub-committee assignments.

The Members agreed to make no changes to the current assignments and so remain as follows:

<u>SUB-COMMITTEES</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Policy Committee – Assistant Superintendent	Kathleen Amaral and Mary Beckwith
Fields & Facilities Committee - Superintendent	John Nunes and Kathleen Amaral
Budget Committee – Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations	Chris Oliver and Bess Coughlin John Nunes(back-up)
Non-SUB COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS	
<u>School Assignments:</u> Dartmouth High School, Dartmouth Middle School DeMello School, Quinn School, Potter School And Cushman School	Decided no school assignments will be given and that all members should do their best to keep in touch with all schools

<u>DISTRICT & TOWN COMMITTEES</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Dartmouth Education Foundation	Bess Coughlin
Southern MA Educational Collaborative	Chris Oliver
MA Association of School Committees	John Nunes
Negotiations Representative – DEA Collective Bargaining	John Nunes Kathleen Amaral and Mary Beckwith (back-up)
Technology Committee – Chief Technology Officer	Chris Oliver and Mary Beckwith
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee	No appointments were made
Committee Representatives – Town Open Space & Recreation Plan Steering Committee	John Nunes (Bess Coughlin alternate)
Curriculum Council	Mary Beckwith
Town Budget Advisory Group	Chris Oliver and Bess Coughlin

OLD BUSINESS

FY27 Budget - Vote: Ms. Beckwith opened the matter on the FY27 budget for further discussion and a vote and asked Mr. Kiely to discuss what he provided to us this week in terms of a revised budget.

Mr. Kiely stated we were thankful to hear from the Town Administrator following our last school committee meeting reporting that “he” is advocating for \$100,000 of the collective bargaining reserve fund to be allocated to Dartmouth Public Schools to help solve our budget gap which brings the Town projection to 4.68% adding that transfer from the collective bargaining reserve fund to our operating budget would require a 2/3rds vote at Town Meeting; the Town Administrator is prepared to have that on the warrant for Town Meeting members’ consideration.

Mr. Kiely explained what this means relative to our budget request of \$58,204,287 a 5% increase as presented at the last meeting; the Town’s projection for a 4.68% increase noting the amount unfunded would be .32% or \$178,309.

Mr. Kiely reminded the Committee about its discussion to use the kindergarten stabilization funds to bridge the gap noting the fund has approximately \$367,000 and if we were to utilize \$178,309 to bridge this gap that would leave approximately \$190,000 in the kindergarten stabilization fund noting this “transfer” would also require a Town Meeting vote.

Ms. Coughlin asked if we need further funds from the stabilization account would we have to make another request.

Mr. Kiely responded that is correct.

Mr. Oliver stated we have 2 choices; the kindergarten stabilization fund or school choice and I am not comfortable using school choice and recommended we request the \$178,309 to balance this budget.

Mrs. Amaral asked what positions are not being funded in the revised budget proposal.

Mr. Kiely responded: additional support for the athletics, music and maintenance programs, Human Resource Director, maintenance and technology positions, Special Education Team Facilitator and the Athletic Coordinator stipend.

Ms. Coughlin gave comments recognizing structural deficits and noted the Town has to understand that we eventually have to come up with more money especially within the next two years when school choice funds run out; would like to plant the seed for the community to know that we need to do something in the next year adding she supports the 5% budget request and the request to use \$178,309 stabilization account.

Mr. Oliver commented he would like to see the kindergarten position put back if kindergarten enrollment increases.

Ms. Beckwith agreed with Mr. Oliver.

Mr. Coughlin moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to approve the FY27 budget appropriation for Potter School Classroom Teachers in the amount of \$2,190,357.00. The motion passed: 4-0-1. Mr. Oliver abstained.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve the FY27 budget appropriation for the total budget, excluding the item voted individually in the previous motion, in the amount of \$56,013,930.00. The motion passed: 4-1. Mrs. Amaral opposed the motion.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to request the Board of Selectman to put a warrant article for the School Department to appropriate \$178,309 from the Full Day Kindergarten Stabilization account for the Dartmouth Public School Budget for school year 26-27. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent's Update: Mr. Kiely provided information and updates of events and activities happening throughout the District.

- MCAS Testing happening at all levels
- DHS Students are currently participating in the Bi-Literacy On-Line Testing
- The 3rd of a series of 5 professional learning strands was recently held
- High 5 Friday* held on April 10th; thank you to our First Responders for their collaboration
- District Phone Audit recently conducted in preparation for the conversion to "Cloud Based" telephone service in the future
- Senator Montigny contacted the District asking that we submit a request for the State Senate Supplemental Budget Bill; Senator asked for \$200,000 of requests; we submitted the school bus replacement as well as athletic and music equipment to Senator Montigny's office and we received word it was included in the supplemental budget bill which Senator Montigny amended to \$270,000 and the Senate approved the budget bill; we are waiting to see if it clears the rest of the legislative process.
- Statement of Interest (SOI) Update noting unanimous support from the Select Board adding the SOI has been submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) as it relates to a new middle school building.

Report of the Chair: The Chair had nothing further to share.

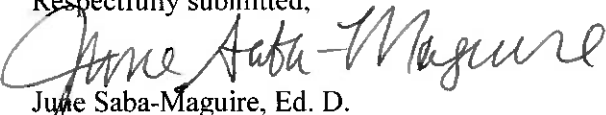
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting:

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, May 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2), to conduct a grievance hearing pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement between the Dartmouth School Committee and the Dartmouth Educators Association and not to return to open session. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously: 5-0. Mrs. Amaral – Yes; Mr. Nunes – Yes; Mr. Oliver – Yes; Ms. Coughlin – Yes and Ms. Beckwith – Yes.

Respectfully submitted,


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

Open Session - Documents/Exhibits

- Agenda
- Brief
- Consent Agenda – DPS Summer Sports Camp, Dig Green and SMEC Lease
- Regular and Executive Session Minutes for March 23, 2026
- Regular and Executive Session Minutes for March 31, 2026