

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

July 20, 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 Mary Beckwith at 5:30 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: Elizabeth Coughlin, Chris Oliver, John Nunes and Mary Beckwith. Kathleen Amaral was not in attendance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 8, 2026, as written. The motion passed: 4-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 8, 2026 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters under consideration are complete. The motion passed: 4-0.

Mrs. Amaral joined the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Student Handbook Update - Vote: Ms. Beckwith asked Dr. Saba-Maguire to address the matter.

Dr. Saba-Maguire invited Kim Redlon, Assistant Director of Student Services, to highlight some of the changes noting Ms. Redlon represented “us” from the District Level on the Handbook Committee and added a conversation was had with the Union regarding including teaching staff on the handbook committee.

Ms. Redlon provided a brief review of revisions that are made annually to the student handbook ensuring it matches regulations, laws and policies.

Ms. Redlon stated next year a more “robust” committee will take a “deeper dive” to ensure all of our levels – elementary, middle and high –are aligned.

Ms. Redlon provided a list of committee members from this year and a timeline for the past year's meeting schedule.

Ms. Redlon provided update highlights noting some of the information was not changed but rather reorganized including but not limited to the following: add in visual of Strategic Plan Dashboard; organize and re-word Bus Arrival/Dismissal information; add in visual of Portrait of a Learner; organize and re-word Academic Resources; add Cell phone usage; re-word Student dress code section; organize and re-word Student Discipline; change A.L.I.C.E. to Run, Hide Fight.

Dr. Saba-Maguire added the high school is working on an addendum; this will be shared publicly once it is "where we need it to be."

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to approve the handbook for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

SEPAC Parent Survey Results: Dr. Saba-Maguire reminded the Committee this is an annual survey and we update you by providing the results noting the survey was done at the end of the school year.

Laurie Dionisio, Executive Director of Student Services, provided a brief overview of the results of the 2025-2026 SEPAC Parent Survey.

Mrs. Dionisio briefly explained what SEPAC is and that they are charged with advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities.

Mrs. Dionisio reported the survey window was shorter than usual which likely impacted the response rate: 24 responses for a 2% rate of participation of families of students with 504s and IEPs.

Mrs. Dionisio provided an overview of family responses noting there is work to be done on follow-up communication and 504 plan support adding an explanation of the difference between an individualized education plan (IEP) and a 504 accommodation: the law and district processes.

Mrs. Dionisio provided information about areas of growth: timelines, consistency of practices and collaboration with families.

Mrs. Dionisio stated she is happy to report that at the heart of the program's success are teachers and staff.

Mrs. Dionisio concluded with a "Roadmap for Improvement": including 504 accommodation training and implementation fidelity; look for opportunities to increase communication and partnerships with families and administration; future SEPAC topics.

Surplus Equipment – Vote: Mr. Kiely reviewed items listed in the memorandum which was included in the meeting packet and stated "we" recommend the Committee vote to declare the items as surplus so that we can dispose of them according to the Town's policy.

Mr. Kiely stated the items will eventually be auctioned off.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the four items as presented by the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations as surplus and allow “them” to dispose of these items. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

South Coast Educational Collaborative (SCEC) – Quarterly Report (4th Quarter): Dr. Saba-Maguire provided an overview of the SCEC quarterly report which was included in the meeting packet noting it included the Department of Elementary and Secondary’s (DESE) audit of the collaborative’s finances.

Dr. Saba-Maguire stated the report indicated the audit found the collaborative to be financially stable and provided brief explanation for some of the findings.

Dr. Saba-Maguire reported the District has 8 students who span multiple grade levels who participate in SCEC adding other areas the District might partner with the collaborative specifically professional development and outside services.

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

- Update on recent MASS conference
- Update on mandates regarding regulations that have been passed related to “timeout” and “seclusion” which will be discussed at the August meeting.
- Update on Principals’ conference
- Teaching and Learning Update: professional development plans for the 2nd year of the new literacy curriculum; Math Curriculum review will begin and updates will be provided to the Committee of its progress; “unpacking” staff survey data; curriculum summit update; update on extended school year program noting 150 students are participating; update on credit recovery program noting 83 students are participating; update on DHS student led robotics camp supervised by DHS faculty members: Sam Brodsky and Gary Lauher
- Update on Kindergarten Enrollment
- Update on Central Administrators Retreat including a chance to reflect on where we were, where we are and where we are going which allowed us to update our progress monitoring relative to the strategic plan and we will present to the Committee at a meeting in the fall
- Budget and Capital Improvement Update: Mr. Kiely gave a brief overview of maintenance projects happening this summer at the schools.
- HR Update
- Family and Community Engagement Update

Report of the Chair: The Chair noted Michael Shea is stepping down from his seat as one of Dartmouth’s members on the School Committee for the Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School and asked for a volunteer to serve on the appointing committee which will be looking for his replacement. Mr. Nunes volunteered to serve and Mr. Oliver will be the backup. The Chair asked members to send notification to the Superintendent’s office of their intention to attend the MASC/MASS Annual Joint Conference in November as well as to forward matters they wish to have addressed at the August workshop noting her interest is on the role of sub-committees and clarification on the consent agenda.

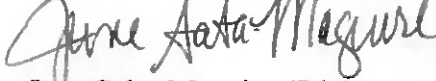
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting:

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, August 31, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to adjourn from Open Session at 6:22 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 June 8, 2026
- Student Handbook Revisions (2026-2027)
- 2025-2026 SEPAC – Parent Survey Results
- Memo – Surplus Equipment
- Memo – Summer Maintenance Projects
- South Coast Educational Collaborative Vote (Quarterly Report – 4th Quarter)