

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

August 31, 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: Mary Beckwith, John Nunes, Chris Oliver, Kathleen Amaral and Elizabeth Coughlin.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes to approve the Regular Session Minutes of July 20, 2026, as written. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

SC Policies Section E – Support Services and Section F – Facilities Development – First Reading: The Chair asked Dr. Saba-Maguire if she had anything she would like to say on the matter.

Dr. Saba-Maguire asked Mr. Kiely to speak on the matter since he has led the work.

Mr. Kiely referred committee members to the packet of information regarding “our” most recent policy sub-committee review which was included in the meeting packet and explained the timeline included therein noting the timeline would have 9 school committee policy sections complete leaving the sub-committee with 3 sections remaining to review adding the hope is to have this process completed by the end of this calendar year allowing us to devote time to other pressing matters.

Mr. Kiely asked the committee if they had any questions and/or thoughts with the timeline.

Mr. Oliver stated his support for the timeline and thanked the sub-committee and Mr. Kiely for their work.

Mr. Kiely addressed SC Policy Section E – *Student Services* and explained the changes made noting some changes were made to align with Massachusetts School Committee Association (MASC) policy language.

Mr. Kiely noted the committee was provided a summary of the changes that were made to each of the policies as well as a draft of each policy wherein the changes are highlighted.

Mr. Kiely asked committee members if they had any questions or further changes to be made.

Mr. Nunes noted policy EFD – *School Nutrition Program Charge Policy* in the next to the last paragraph in the last line it appears there are some words are missing.

Mr. Kiely thanked Mr. Nunes for his comments and stated this is a first read of these policies so we can make a “suggested change” for the next read and hopefully vote at the next school committee meeting.

Mr. Kiely continued noting the sub-committee proposes to eliminate SC Policy EBCFA which is no longer a MASC recommended policy adding the policy addressed “face coverings” which was specifically applied for the COVID era.

Mr. Kiely stated the policy sub-committee proposes two new policies ECAF which is *Security Cameras in Schools* and EEAA *Walkers and Riders* both policies follow MASC model policy.

The Committee offered no further comment on Section E changes.

Mr. Kiely addressed SC Policy Section F noting it is a brief section and the policy sub-committee recommends a revision to one policy, SC Policy FA – *Facilities Development Goals* and we are using MASC recommended language for the change in policy FA.

The Committee offered no comment on the Section F change.

SC Policy JKAA –Physical Restraint Prevention and Behavior Support Policy– Vote: Mr. Kiely addressed the matter noting it is being taken out of order because of time constraints placed on the change by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Mr. Kiely stated SC Policy JKAA is now entitled *Timeout Seclusion and Physical Restraint of Students* and noted the Committee just revised the policy last November but DESE made some changes and they are reflected here as well as MASC model language for this section.

Mr. Kiely stated the difference in Sections E and F and Policy JKAA is that Sections E and F are a first read and we, the policy sub-committee, are recommending this Committee vote on Policy JKAA tonight to meet the DESE requirement that we have the correct policy in place for the start of school.

Dr. Saba-Maguire noted that Laurie Dionisio and Kim Redlon, Executive and Assistant Director of Student Services respectively, went over policy JKAA in detail during the leadership retreats this summer so that our school leaders have a thorough understanding of the policy as well as the enactment of the policy and they in turn will speak to the faculty adding the changes will not have a impact on what our current policy is.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve School Committee Policy JKAA – *Timeout Seclusion and Physical Restraint of Students* as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

The Chair asked that members be prepared to vote on Sections E and F at the next meeting.

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

- Convocation Update: positive energy about the year ahead noting the theme for this year is *You are the Key* adding she will provide a copy of the slide deck in the *Week-in-Review* update that will start up this coming Friday noting we intend to include the slide deck on the website as well.
- HR Update: we are in a very strong position having hired approximately 48 new staff.
- Update on Kindergarten Enrollment: currently we have approximately 206 students. DeMello – 52 students (class size 17); Potter 58 students (class size 19); and Quinn 100 students (class size 22) citing specialized programming and stating Quinn has full time Education Support Professionals assigned to each kindergarten classroom.
- Teaching and Learning Update: Katie Pavao and Dr. Thibault, Executive Directors of Teaching and Learning/Elementary and Secondary Education respectively, provided an update on curriculum and professional development work that was performed over the summer months and what work will continue and start in the new school year; it was noted that Mary Francisco was hired as the new administrative assistant for their office. Katie Pavao reported that After School Programming at the elementary level will be implemented this year starting in October. Dr. Thibault referred to the end of year faculty survey regarding professional development opportunities noting the need to provide professional development to support PDPs for DESE license recertification purposes; lead teacher update and continued partnership with Teaching and Learning Alliance; Wade Institute partnership update which works with the middle school science department; summer school update noting 75 students participated in credit recovery; prek-12 curriculum review update specifically to start work around our mathematics curriculum prek-12 to keep our alignment with our district strategic plan so we can have vertical and horizontal alignment in mathematics we planned and delivered our 2-day orientation program for our approximate 25 new teachers who will be here to meet the Committee on September 14th.
- Ms. Dionisio and Ms. Redlon provided an update on the Extended School Year program which their department (Student Services) facilitates each summer the new structure of the program was well received per the feedback; staffing changes, interview, education support personal, community coach for Atlas was hired; presentations were prepared on the new JKAA policy and given to district leadership over the summer as well as working on our own practices de-escalation and restraint procedures and we are switching our program to a program called Safety Care which required much planning; plans to review curriculum over the coming school year; 27 students with an Individual Education Plan (IEPs) transferred into the district.
- Jonathan Gallishaw, Executive Director of Technology, provided an update of his department's work over the summer which included upgrades to the servers; network components through all the district buildings; Pam King and John Kelly refitted approximately 4500 computers/Chromebooks; breaking in a new Data Specialist, Cathy Banville, which includes State reporting; new instructional technology specialist hired for the high school and we added new cameras in the library media center at the high school.
- Budget and Capital Improvement Updated: Mr. Kiely reported we closed out FY26 with \$10.37 left; working on DESE on End-of-Year (EOY) Report and we will prepare a Final EOY Report for a future school committee meeting; Budget Advisory Group meeting scheduled for

September 9th to review an efficiency request for proposals; maintenance and custodial staff have been busy preparing the schools for the upcoming school year; working with Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) consultants in the schematic design phase regarding the DHS school roof project and provided a timeline for the project process noting the estimated target date for the project to begin would be spring/summer 2028; we have been contacted by MSBA which will be conducting a senior study review on the replacement of the Dartmouth Middle School building and they will be in Dartmouth tomorrow and we will find out more about where they are in the process we are 1 out of 34 projects being considered; Capital Improvement Planning Committee is meeting September 9th to discuss their plan for the October Town Meeting adding we have a number of remaining FY27 capital improvements requests from the FY27-FY36 Capital Improvement plan this Committee approved and I am preparing an update for the CIP committee; relative to transportation a plea to the general public to be patient as we start a new year.

Mr. Nunes asked about the new school bus that was brought up last spring that Senator Montigny was working on getting us money to purchase.

Mr. Kiely responded we are grateful to Senator Montigny for “earmarking” money for this purpose as well as to the state legislature for approving and the governor for signing on; we know it is coming adding Senator Montigny’s office has recently told us the money will be given to the Department of Ed and the Department of Ed is going to create a grant system by which we are going to apply for it and get it but we have not heard anything yet about that process being set up. We have been fortunate that Tremblay’s Bus Company has been gracious to allow us to use one of their buses and explained how that works currently.

-Family and Community Engagement Update including opportunities for families to tour Schools; thank you to DCTV and *Dartmouth Week* for their work with and focus on the Dartmouth school district.

-Safe and Supportive Schools Update including improving facilities which provides a safe environment for our students.

Report of the Chair: The Chair thanked committee members for participating in the annual workshop held last week noting one item MASC suggested that we include on a future meeting agenda is to review our norms. The Committee agreed to add the matter to the next meeting agenda.

-MASC email regarding DESE Guidance relative to *The Protect Act* as well as the MASC model policy noting the next steps are for Dr. Saba-Maguire to draft a policy for us to approve fairly quickly.

-Superintendent Evaluation process noting we all have evidence of progress towards last year’s goals and most of us have met with Dr. Saba-Maguire and we have the evaluation form noting what we are evaluating is in red type - our next step is to develop a timeline to provide your input into the evaluation form and to submit those forms to the superintendent evaluation sub-committee by a time to be determined at the next meeting with a tentative presentation date of November 16th.

-MASC conference sessions have been released

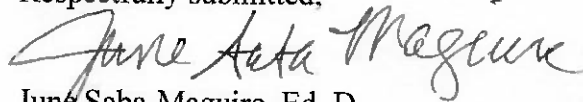
Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting:

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, September 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to adjourn from Open Session at 6:39 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 Session Minutes for July 20, 2026
- SC Policies – Sections E *Support Services*
- SC Policies – Section F *Facilities Development*
- SC Policy JKAA – *Physical Restraint and Behavior Support*