

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

September 14, 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 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: Mary Beckwith, John Nunes, Chris Oliver, Kathleen Amaral and Elizabeth Coughlin.

Also present: Dr. June Saba-Maguire, James Kiely, Student Representative Amalia DaPonte and Ms. Genthner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW HIRES

Dr. Saba-Maguire offered comments about the energy and enthusiasm the new hires possess and will bring to the Dartmouth community noting it was evident during the reception held for the new teachers just prior to tonight's meeting.

Ross Thibault and Katie Pavao, Executive Directors of Teaching and Learning/Secondary and Elementary Level respectively, introduced the new teachers who gathered for a group photo.

NAME	SCHOOL	POSITION	MENTOR
Charles Allaire	DHS	Math Teacher	Debra August
Sarah Anderson	DHS	Biology Teacher	Peter Bangs
Robert Belliveau	DISTRICT/Elementary	Physical Education Teacher	Paul Pavao
Justin Clark	DHS	Physical Education/Health Teacher	Nicole Simas
Robert Conron	DHS	Special Education Teacher (25/26)	John Breault
Nicole Corbett	DMS	Gr 6 ELA/Social Studies Teacher	Lauren Sagar
Virginia Correia	DHS	World Language Teacher	Lili Chamberlain
Ryan Desmarais	DHS	Physical Education/Health Teacher	Nicole Simas
Amber Dias	Quinn	Gr 5 Teacher	Wendy Candeias
Shaina Ferreira	Potter	Math Coach	Kaelyn Kaulback
Aidan Finnegan	DHS	Early Childhood/Visual Arts Teacher	Morgan Bozarth
Noel Hagenburg	Potter	Special Education Teacher	Michelle Dias
Cade Hanley	DHS	Unified Arts Teacher	Morgan Bozarth
Ricky Jordan	DHS	Guidance Counselor	Nicole Heath
Michael Kenslea	DHS	Biology Teacher	Rosanne Franco

Molly Lindo	DHS	Math Teacher	Marcia Vieira
Miles Linhares	DMS	Gr 7 ELA/Social Studies Teacher	Paul Laconte
Dennis Nobrega	DHS	Physics/Chemistry Teacher	Doug Smith
Kelsey Phillips	Cushman	LTS Speech Language Pathologist	Maryann Sorensen
Elizabeth Powers	DHS	Special Education Teacher	Anna Soares
Jaqueline Ristau	DHS	World Language Teacher	Hilaria Souza
Joshua Rodrigues	DHS	Instructional Technology Specialist	Will Higgins
Jennifer Shaw	DMS	Adjustment Counselor	Lisa Turgeon
Emily Steen	DHS	Special Education Teacher	John Breault
Kate Vachon	DeMello	Literacy Coach	Janine Tavares

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Amalia DaPonte, a DHS Junior and member of the Student Advisory Council, provided a report on activities and other matters happening at Dartmouth High School.

- Student Advisory Council Update
- Senior Sunrise Update
- Summer Reading Discussion Sessions held last Friday
- First DHS Football game was played last Friday
- DHS Open House will take place on Wednesday, September 16th

Resume posted Agenda

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Coughlin moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of August 31, 2026, as written. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Saba-Maguire recommended the following requests to the Committee for its consideration and approval.

- Quinn PTO – 2026-2027 Fundraising Requests
- DeMello PTO – 2026-2027 Fundraising Requests
- DHS PTO – 2026-2027 Fundraising Requests

Mr. Oliver gave comments about the significant amount of fundraising the school PTOs provide to the District and noted it is important to share this information with the Town Select Board and Finance Committee adding without the support of the PTOs a lot of extracurricular activities would not be available to students.

Mr. Nunes noted at the recent Capital Improvement meeting last week and a question was raised about fundraising efforts and that committee is now aware of the support provided by these groups.

Mr. Kiely provided the fundraising information he shared recently with the Capital Improvement committee; the Parent groups raised \$450,534.68 last year to support of students.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to approve the 3 fundraising requests for Quinn, DeMello and DHS PTOs, as submitted. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

SC Policies Section E – Support Services and Section F – Facilities Development – Second Reading and Vote: The Chair stated School Committee Policies Section E *Support Services* and School Committee Policies Section F *Facilities Development* matters are on for a second reading and for the Committee's consideration noting revisions were made to *Policy EFD* per Mr. Nunes' recommendation at the August 31st meeting.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve School Committee Policy Sections E and F, as submitted. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed New SC Policy Section A – Foundations and Basic Commitments – SC Policy ACL – Interacting with Law Enforcement Officers Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement (Protect Act) – Vote: The Chair stated is before the Committee for a reading and a vote tonight.

Dr. Saba-Maguire added the Protect Act was signed into law by the Governor in early August and we, with guidance from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), propose the District's policy which was provided to you in the meeting packet adding the law sets clear expectations for how schools should interact with civil law enforcement including federal immigration enforcement.

Dr. Saba-Maguire stated the main purpose for the policy is to make sure we have consistent procedures across the District insofar as who will serve as the point of contact should a school be approached by federal or civil law enforcement adding this reinforces our commitment that schools should remain safe, welcoming and accessible to all students; the policy guides us to develop the required framework and the accompanying procedures which we are currently working on and which will be presented to our principals at a future Principal Meeting.

Ms. Coughlin suggested that the language in the last sentence ("once adopted by the school district, charter school or collaborative school ...") of the proposed policy be revised to read "once adopted by the school district...."

The Committee agreed with Ms. Coughlin.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the new school committee policy ACL - *Interacting with Law Enforcement Officers Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement (Protect Act)* with the revision from Ms. Coughlin. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Superintendent's Evaluation – Timeline Discussion: The Chair opened discussion on the matter to establish a timeline for the Superintendent's Evaluation noting if we want to use a similar timeline to last year "we" would "work back" from our November 16, 2026 meeting which would be the meeting we share the evaluation publicly adding Mrs. Amaral and Mr. Nunes would likely present "it" to Dr. Saba-Maguire sometime during the week of November 9th.

The Chair asked Mrs. Amaral and Mr. Nunes if October 23rd would work as the deadline for committee members to forward their comments to them.

Mrs. Amaral and Mr. Nunes agreed that date gave them sufficient time to compile the evaluation.

School Committee Norms Discussion: The Chair opened discussion on the matter and asked the committee members if they had an opportunity to review the MASC suggested norms.

Ms. Coughlin stated that the norms are reasonable and that she believes the committee already follows them.

Committee members agreed with Ms. Coughlin's comment.

The Chair asked if the Committee would like any adjustments or revisions or to leave the suggested norms as is.

The Committee agreed not to make any changes at this time.

The Chair added the matter can be revisited at any time.

The Committee agreed a vote was not necessary and noted the MASC's recommendation to review the norms annually; the Committee agreed members should sign the MASC Norms Guidelines.

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

Teaching and Learning

-Dr. Saba-Maguire shared that another "act" has been signed into law as of August 10 concerning statewide requirements regarding how school library materials are selected, how they are challenged and removed while creating new reporting requirements and protections for school employees involved in such areas noting a key change is that materials cannot simply be removed in response to a complaint adding challenges must follow a formal review process adding we will be revisiting the matter through the policy sub-committee; Dr. Saba-Maguire stated the District does have clear policies in place which will be reviewed to make appropriate adjustments.

-First Week of School Update

-DMS and DHS Summer Reading Update; Staff Fall Book Study starts tomorrow

-HR Update/New Hires: 25 licensed teachers; 22 Education Support Professionals, 3 licensed Long-Term Substitutes

Budget and Capital Improvement Update

-Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) September 1st Visit to Dartmouth Middle School (DMS) Update including an update of DMS building replacement project

-Capital Improvement Committee September 9th Meeting Update including brief update of DHS roof Project

Safe and Supportive Schools

-Safety Training Update including first in-service taking place Wednesday will focus some time on "Run, Hide, Fight" protocols

-Updated Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans are being distributed to schools as well as distribution of the new Orange Emergency Bags making sure we have consistent and up-to-date emergency preparedness across the schools

-Fall School Open House Update

-DHS National Banner Recognition from the Special Olympics of North America for 2025 School Year

Family and Community Engagement

-Fall Sports Update including football team home opener this Friday at Memorial Stadium

-Staff Recognition: Liz Voci, Instructional Technology Specialist for the DeMello School, was recognized for her leadership in educational technology and innovation.

Mr. Nunes referred to Dr. Saba-Maguire's earlier comments about the near seamless transition of students going into kindergarten.

Dr. Saba-Maguire responded offering to provide information about the number of kindergarten students who attended PreK.

Mr. Oliver provided an update on and comments about the Town's Joint Budget Advisory Group recent meeting when the committee proposed a common ground educational funding review.

Mr. Oliver reminded the School Committee that he brought up the topic of an audit back in the spring adding he recalls the committee members did not have "much of an appetite" to engage in this type of study.

Mr. Oliver continued noting a six-page Request for Proposals (RFP) was provided just prior to the Budget Advisory Group meeting adding "they" came up with a budget of \$100,000 for the study.

Mr. Oliver expressed his concerns regarding the RFP and stated he has no interest in engaging in this study.

Mr. Oliver stated he and Ms. Coughlin, the other School Committee member who is participating in the Joint Budget Advisory Group, agreed to schedule a Budget Sub-Committee meeting next week to discuss what documents could be shared including the May 2022 district review conducted by a third party analyst, American Institute for Research out of Waltham, noting a comprehensive review of the district is conducted every 6 years.

Mr. Oliver commented the RFP is specific to the school department and no other town department.

Mr. Kiely stated he would share the RFP with School Committee members.

Ms. Coughlin stated the RFP was a draft and the Budget Advisory Group expects changes noting many people did not know where the money for the review would come from.

Mr. Oliver stated legal counsel informed us that the School Committee has the final say on this study.

Ms. Beckwith asked Mr. Oliver and Ms. Coughlin if they got the sense the Town has an "appetite" to spend \$100,000 to study the school department.

Ms. Coughlin stated the matter was not voted at the meeting but she does not believe everyone thinks there is money to spend on the study.

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

-Music/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 on Monday, October 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Media Center at Dartmouth High School and via live stream at www.youtube.com/dhstvmedia.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Ms. Coughlin to adjourn from Open Session at 7:02 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 August 31, 2026
- Consent Agenda Items: PTO Fundraising Proposals (Quinn, DeMello and DHS)
- SC Policies – *Sections E Support Services and Section F Facilities Development*
- Proposed New SC Policy *ACL – Interacting with Law Enforcement Officers Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement (Patriot Act)*
- MASC Protocols and Best Practices for Effective School Committee Meetings