

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, April 11, 2022

APPROVED
4-25-22

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, April 11, 2022, at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Library in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson; Phillip Morris, Treasurer; Marilyn Bemis; Joe Glynn; Tomas Tolentino; Grace LePain, Student Representative to the School Committee.

Members Not Present: Jennifer Rose, Secretary

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Maria Lopes, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Instruction; David Flynn, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Betsy Pontius, Director of STEM; Sherry Santini, Director of Humanities and the Arts; Michael Bovino, Principal, Mattacheese Middle School; Tim Blake, Principal, Nathaniel Wixon School; Meaghan McDonnell, EL Coordinator.

At 6:37 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Reports:

DYRSD School Committee Student Representative – Grace LePain

Grace reported on spring sports, AP exams, and yearbooks. The spring play *The Addams Family* will run on April 29 and 30.

Superintendent Report – Carol Woodbury

Meaghan McDonnell – EL Presentation

District EL Coordinator Meaghan McDonnell, along with Director of Humanities and the Arts Sherry Santini, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the English Learners Program. Ms. McDonnell noted that the district uses an asset-based approach; 13% of district students are multilingual with Portuguese, Spanish and Haitian-Creole being the main languages. There are 25 languages in total represented. Numbers of recent arrivals are increasing; many who could not come due to the pandemic are starting to come now. Dennis-Yarmouth is a Sheltered English Immersion district. 98% of district teachers are SEI endorsed. An ELPAC (English Learner Parent Advisory Council) has been established to help families. Ms. Santini told the committee that there had been an in-person ELPAC meeting just prior to the pandemic which was well-attended and well-received. There are plans for another in-person meeting in the fall. There are ESL classes available for parents. There were translators available for kindergarten registration.

The presentation was followed by questions from the Committee. The members asked how the Committee can help; is there separate funding for adult education for parents; would more staff help? The superintendent said that she would like to hire more EL teachers but that housing for teachers in general is very expensive. Grace LePain asked that with all the extra pressure on the district teachers what is being done to support them. Ms. Santini said that the teachers are SEI endorsed, there are many professional development opportunities and course reimbursement; EL assistants are in the classrooms. Chair Landers advised Grace that if she had further questions she could make an appointment with Ms. Santini. Mr. Tierney thanked Ms. McDonnell and Ms. Santini for their informative presentation. He asked where the newcomers are coming from. Ms. McDonnell called it a “pandemic pause” and that it is not unique to our district.

Policy Review Subcommittee

Superintendent Woodbury recommended that the committee approve several policies at this, the third reading. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Philip Morris, and carried unanimously 6-0 it was

VOTED: To approve Policy JKAA–Physical Restraint of Students, as presented.

On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Philip Morris, and carried unanimously 6-0 it was

VOTED: To approve Policy AC–Non-Discrimination, as presented.

On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Philip Morris, and carried unanimously 6-0 it was

VOTED: To approve Policy AC-R–Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation, as presented.

On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Philip Morris, and carried unanimously 6-0 it was

VOTED: To approve Policy ACAB–Sexual Harassment, as presented.

On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Philip Morris, and carried unanimously 6-0 it was

VOTED: To approve Policy JICK–Harassment of Students, as presented.

On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Philip Morris, and carried unanimously 6-0 it was

VOTED: To approve Policy EEA–Transportation of Students, as presented.

2023-2024 School Year Calendar

On a motion by Joe Glynn, seconded by Phil Morris and carried unanimously 6-0 it was

VOTED: To approve the 2023-2024 district calendar as presented.

Mrs. Woodbury referenced the Information Item included in the packet regarding Mattacheese Middle School Social Studies teacher Brian Monroe's nomination for the William Spratt Award for Excellence. She also congratulated the winners of the Cape Cod 5 mini grants.

School Building Committee Report –Joseph Tierney

Mr. Tierney said that all is going well and that the School Committee had toured the site just prior to this meeting.

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen

Dennis: Marilyn Bemis reported on the budget process and that there is a citizen's petition on the ballot concerning school choice.

Yarmouth: Joe Glynn said that there has been a new precinct added in Yarmouth.

Assistant Superintendent Report – David Flynn

Mr. Flynn said that furniture has been ordered for the new school. He added that there will be an MSBA Statement of Interest for the M.E. Small School on the agenda for the next School Committee meeting.

Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll

Bills, requisitions, and payroll were signed by the School Committee.

Calendars

The upcoming calendars were included in the packet.

Information Item

Mrs. Woodbury referenced this item in her report.

Public Comment

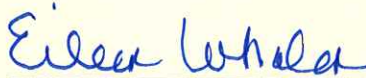
None

Adjournment

At 7:44 p.m., on a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Tomas Tolentino, and carried unanimously 6-0; it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,



Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary