

APPROVED

9-24-20

**DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of a School Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 10, 2020**

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Thursday, September 10, 2020, at Station Avenue Elementary School in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts and via remote technology in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, Section 20.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson; Brian Carey, Treasurer; Brian Sullivan; and Phillip Morris.

Members Logged in as Present: Joe Glynn.

Members Absent: James Dykeman, Jr., Secretary.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Kenneth Jenks, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative and Business Services; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee.

**Open the Meeting:** At 5:07 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

**School Reopening**

Carol Woodbury, Superintendent  
Kenneth Jenks, Assistant Superintendent

Updates to HVAC, Busing, and Technology:

Mr. Jenks said that he has additional information to share since the Committee last met. He began with the buses. He explained that surveys were sent out to families requesting a commitment to either ride the bus or get a ride to school. A follow-up survey went out 8/23; there are still 50% of our families who have yet to respond. Follow-up calls are being done by each school to those who have not responded. This has put the district in a challenging position; the bus company has not been able to schedule all the students on buses. The bus company can schedule all of the elementary students on buses so that they can start school on September 16<sup>th</sup> as planned. The other three schools, Wixon, Mattacheese, and the high school will begin remotely for the first 3 days, September 16, 17, 18 and then begin in-person on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

HVAC: The district has a subcontractor, ENE, which handles repairs and maintenance to the HVAC system. The DESE supports but does not mandate the HVAC study that the Massachusetts Teachers Association is in favor of. There were about a dozen state-approved vendors that the district could choose from; they chose Consulting Engineering Services (CES). It was determined that the systems have adequate capacity for air exchange/volume. In the short term, cleaning, sanitizing, changing filters and changing filters are all being done. Mr. Jenks did a walk through with DYEA representatives and the principal of the building. Any deficiencies



are being addressed; the systems are working. *Labco* will go to individual classrooms to test and measure. Classes will be relocated if necessary. Work is continuing; appropriate due diligence, the facilities department has done a great job.

Superintendent Woodbury said she has been in touch with Department of Education's operations person. It is important to look at the whole picture; what strategies are being used to reduce risk. Physical distancing (3 feet is recommended; the district is using 6 foot distancing); masking; cohorts; cleaning, hygiene, sanitizing; mitigation strategies for ventilation such as open windows, box fans, air purifiers.

Chair Landers thanked Carol and Ken for their presentations and asked for questions and comments from the Committee.

Phil Morris mentioned the energy maintenance plan put into place many years ago and how it has helped. He also expressed his appreciation to the many parents who have sent him emails.

Brian Carey expressed his frustration that so many families did not respond to the survey regarding transportation. He also expressed his frustration about the district having to pay \$52,000 for the HVAC study. He mentioned the many emails he has received from parents and that the majority of families want their children in school.

Joe Tierney expressed his appreciation to the many parents who sent emails. He also thanked the educators, food services, and the facilities department. He felt that if the bus routes are ready prior to the 21<sup>st</sup> that the students should return then.

Brian Sullivan said that the worst is behind us. He expressed his frustration that the bus company did not get the routes done in time.

Chair Landers said she would do her best to respond to the many parent emails she has received. She suggested that parents contact their child's principal or assistant principal with school-specific questions. PreK-3 will begin in person on September 16<sup>th</sup>; grades 4-12 will be remote on September 16, 17, and 18. All students will begin their regular schedules on September 21, 2020. She did not feel any vote is needed.

Brian Sullivan asked if the Committee should vote in support.

Superintendent Woodbury clarified information about the bus company. Usually the bus company schedules their runs beginning with the high school, then the middle school, then the elementary schools. She specifically asked them to schedule the elementary students first so that they would be able to return to in-person schooling.

On a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by Phil Morris, and carried 4-2 by roll call vote, it was

VOTED: To begin in person schooling on September 16, 2020 for Grades PreK-3 at Ezra H. Baker Innovation School, Station Avenue Elementary School, and Marguerite E. Small

Elementary School. Grades 4-12 will begin remotely on September 16, 17, and 18 with the entire district returning to in-person schooling on September 21, 2020.

Brian Carey	yes
Joe Glynn	no
Phillip Morris	yes
Brian Sullivan	no
Joseph Tierney	yes
Jeni Landers	yes

Brian Carey asked that a future agenda item be considered regarding the MIAA launch of athletics and what would happen if the district were to go fully remote.

#### **Public Comment**

Ms. Houston expressed concern about the HVAC report; Michelle Conover said that there have been issues with the bus company in the past; Mr. Fitzgerald felt that the process has failed; Vida Morris felt that parents could take responsibility to get their children to school.

#### **Items Distributed at Meeting**

Consulting Engineering Services (CES) Ventilation Systems Assessments for:  
Dennis-Yarmouth High School  
Mattacheese Middle School  
Nathaniel Wixon School  
Station Avenue Elementary School  
Marguerite E. Small Elementary School  
Ezra H. Baker Innovation School

#### **Adjourn**

At 6:24 p.m., on a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Brian Sullivan, and carried 6-0 by roll call vote it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Brian Carey	yes
Joe Glynn	yes
Phillip Morris	yes
Brian Sullivan	yes
Joseph Tierney	yes
Jeni Landers	yes

Minutes recorded and prepared by,



Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary