

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, November 15, 2021

APPROVED

12-6-21

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, November 15, 2021, at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Library in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson; Phillip Morris, Treasurer; Jennifer Rose, Secretary; Joe Glynn (left meeting at 7:50); Tomas Tolentino; and Marilyn Bemis.

Members Not Present: Grace LePain, Student Representative to the School Committee.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Maria Lopes, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Instruction; David Flynn, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Betsy Pontius, Director of STEM; Sherry Santini, Director of Humanities and the Arts; Brenda Burke, Assistant Director of Student Services; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Paul Funk, Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School; Kendra Bennett, Assistant Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School; Michael Bovino, Principal, Mattacheese Middle School; Tim Blake, Principal, Nathaniel Wixon School; Michelle Dunn, D-YEA; Vida Morris.

At 6:32 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Reports:

DYRSD School Committee Student Representatives – Grace LePain and Kristen Stagg

Grace LePain was not present. Kristen Stagg reported that the volleyball team has made the Top 4. *The Odd Couple* will be performed this coming Friday-Saturday-Sunday. The National Honor Society is tutoring via Zoom. Everyone is looking forward to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Superintendent's Report – Carol Woodbury

School Performance Reviews (Grades 6-12)

Mike Bovino, Principal of Mattacheese Middle School, began his report with an overview of the school mission statement. They want to prepare students to be lifelong learners and give them skills so that they can advocate for themselves. He reviewed staffing; MAP formative assessments; and MCAS scores. They tried to keep everything as normal as possible last year. This year they have extra staff, an ELA and a Math block, advanced ELA and Math. There are three 6th grade teams and four 7th grade teams. Students are moving through the building this year; last year teachers moved from class to class. There is a focus on increased communication. Mattacheese and Wixon have begun collaborating on professional development. A question and answer session followed.

Mr. Morris asked how they are maintaining the cohort model; each team is its own cohort. Mr. Glynn thanked Mr. Bovino for his presentation and asked about career pathways and opportunity grants. Mr. Bovino said that he and Dr. Funk have begun conversations on this topic. Mr. Tolentino asked if the extra block for math will get the math scores higher; this is a very big concern across the district. Mr. Tierney asked about what happens when the ESSER funds are gone? Superintendent Woodbury said it is important to fill in the learning gaps; the students need the supports right now. Chair Landers thanked Mr. Bovino for the presentation and also expressed concern about the math scores.

Paul Funk, Principal of Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, along with Kendra Bennett, Interim Assistant Principal, gave a review of last year. They were in a hybrid model from the beginning. They took a shared leadership approach, there were volunteer committees and he praised the teachers for their involvement. He reviewed the AP scores which compared impressively with the state scores. He then reviewed the MCAS scores. For this school year there has been an addition of two Deans of students who have been crucial to the success of this year. They connect with the students; support academic progress; as well as communicate with parents. He also reviewed the very successful STEM week and along with the grants that have been applied for. A question and answer period followed.

Ms. Bemis thanked Paul for his presentation and asked if there is a bridge plan for the current 8th and 9th graders. Paul said that more time in math class has been instituted; students now have math every day. There are 2 resource room teachers, one in math and one in writing. Mr. Glynn congratulated Dr. Funk on the successes. Mr. Tolentino thanked Dr. Funk and asked if all students are able to take advantage of opportunities. Paul said that the Equal Opportunity Schools program has dropped barriers for students wishing to take AP classes. Ms. Rose wanted to extend her thanks to the volunteer committees for making last year's school year a success. She was concerned about the 8th grade program. The 8th graders had a more difficult time with the Zoom aspect of learning than the upperclassmen. Mr. Morris complimented Dr. Funk on the shared leadership approach. Superintendent Woodbury said that the longer the student is with us, the better they do. We can get you there. Using MAP growth assessments we are able to fill in gaps and accelerate learning.

Extending the School Day for Grades 4-7 beginning in FY23

The superintendent referenced the contract language which was included in the packet. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Joe Glynn, and passed unanimously 7-0 it was:

VOTED: To send a letter notifying the DYEA of our desire to implement a longer school day for grades 4-7 in FY 23 in accordance with Article VI, Section 6.4F of the Parties 2020-2023 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Power Outage – October 2021 Storm

Mrs. Woodbury referenced the letters of thanks included in the packet from Sandy Cashen, Facilities Manager, to Ken Elliot, Wiring Inspector, Town of Yarmouth; Deputy Chief Sawyer, Yarmouth Fire Department; and Michael Walker, MACC Manager; for their help during the October 2021 storm and the ensuing power outages.

Superintendent Woodbury shared that the Topping Off Ceremony for the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate Middle School was a big success. Also, Officer Nicholas Pasquarosa, School Resource Officer at the high school, was recently honored by the Massachusetts Sons of the American Legion. The superintendent said that we are very fortunate to have Officer Nick as part of the D-Y family.

School Building Committee Report –Joseph Tierney

Mr. Tierney gave a brief report on the Topping Off Ceremony. State representatives were there who were instrumental in the success of the project. He also gave a "shout out" to Sandy Cashen whose excellent work does not go unnoticed.

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen

Dennis: Marilyn Bemis said that there will be a special town election on December 7th regarding the new fire station.

Yarmouth: Joe Glynn said that the selectmen will be meeting tomorrow and will discuss the traffic light.

Assistant Superintendent Report – David Flynn

1. Enrollment and Revenue: Mr. Flynn referenced the information included in the packet including October 1st enrollment; school choice; foundation enrollment; revenue budget; and regional school transportation.
2. Administration Building Construction Cost Estimate: Mr. Flynn referenced the memo included in the packet. After a brief discussion, Tomas Tolentino moved that that the School Committee authorize the District to contract with Rowse Architects to perform a professional Construction Cost Estimate for the needed repairs to the administration building at a cost not to exceed \$4000. Phil Morris seconded the motion and discussion followed. After a brief discussion, Chair Landers asked for a roll call vote. The motion passes 6-0 with Mr. Glynn not present for the vote.

Phil Morris	yes
Marilyn Bemis	yes
Tomas Tolentino	yes
Jennifer Rose	yes
Joseph Tierney	yes
Jeni Landers	yes

School Committee Business

Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Jennifer Rose, seconded by Tomas Tolentino, and carried unanimously 6-0, it was VOTED: To approve the following items as presented in the Consent Agenda:

Donations: Move to accept a donation of an HP Laptop to the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District from Mr. Gregory Scinto as per Mr. Bryant's November 9, 2021 memo.

Surplus:

Move to declare as surplus sixteen assorted heavy (broken) tables as per Mr. Bovino's November 5, 2021 memo with accompanying photographs.

Minutes:

November 1, 2021

Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll

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

Calendars

The upcoming calendars were included in the packet.

Public Comment

Michelle Dunn wanted to share two topics, ESSER funds and their use and the Fair Share Amendment. She also would like to see programs added at the 4th and 5th grade level to help struggling students in math. Vida Morris had questions about the enrollment figures presented by Mr. Flynn as well as the extension of the school day; Superintendent Woodbury suggested she call the office for specifics.

Adjournment

At 8:14 p.m., on a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Jennifer Rose, and carried unanimously 6-0; it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,

Eileen M. Whalen

Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary