

**DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of a School Committee Meeting**  
Monday, February 7, 2022

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, February 7, 2022, at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Library in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson (left the meeting at 7:38 p.m.); Phillip Morris, Treasurer; Marilyn Bemis; Joe Glynn; Tomas Tolentino; Kristen Stagg, Student Representative to the School Committee.

Members Not Present: Jennifer Rose, Secretary; Grace LePain, Student Representative to the School Committee.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; David Flynn, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Maria Lopes, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Instruction; Betsy Pontius, Director of STEM; Sherry Santini, Director of Humanities and the Arts; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Tim Blake, Principal, Nathaniel Wixon School; Tara Mason and Karen Purcell, DYEA; Vida Morris.

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

**Public Hearing**

A. Naming of the New School – Carol Woodbury, Superintendent

Mrs. Woodbury recommended that the new school be named the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate Middle School with grades 4 and 5 in the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate School and grades 6 and 7 in the Dennis-Yarmouth Middle School.

B. Public Comment

None

C. School Committee Comment

Chair Landers asked for comments from the Committee.

Phil Morris endorses the recommendation of the superintendent. Marilyn Bemis agrees; she felt it signifies a unified school but each with its own identity. Tomas Tolentino referenced an email received by the Committee from Mr. Ean McPherson in support of the recommendation. Mr. Tolentino also supports the recommendation and would like to discuss the possibility of honoring Mr. Kenneth Jenks by naming a part of the building after him. Joe Glynn supports the superintendent's recommendation and would also like to honor Mr. Jenks. He also mentioned honoring Sean Gannon. Joseph Tierney agrees with the superintendent's recommendation as well as honoring Mr. Jenks in some way. He offered the idea of naming the Performing Arts Center after him, noting that Ken always pushed for the arts in the district and was such a big part of the Dennis-Yarmouth community. Mr. Tierney has been in contact with Ken's family and they would be very honored and humbled. Chair Landers agrees with the superintendent's recommendation as well as honoring Mr. Jenks in some way. Superintendent Woodbury is in support of remembering Ken by naming the auditorium the Kenneth T. Jenks Performing Arts



Center. She said that there will be no vote this evening. The vote on the new school name will take place at the February 28<sup>th</sup> school committee meeting.

**D. Close the Hearing**

At 6:50 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, closed the public hearing.

Chair Landers, noting that the public hearing for the presentation of the FY23 budget was not scheduled to begin until 7:20, moved on to other business on the agenda.

**Reports:**

**DYRSD School Committee Student Representatives – Grace LePain and Kristen Stagg**

Kristen Stagg gave the report on the happenings at Dennis-Yarmouth High School. They have begun second semester. There will be an upcoming NHS Blood Drive; senior week activities are being planned; the spring play will be *The Addams Family*. Grace LePain was not present.

**School Building Committee Report –Joseph Tierney**

Mr. Tierney said there had been a recent building committee meeting; all is going well. David Flynn added that staff from both the Wixon and Mattacheese schools had an opportunity to see furniture samples which were set up at the Wixon School.

**School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen**

Dennis: No report.

Yarmouth: No report.

**Superintendent Report – Carol Woodbury**

The superintendent referenced the letter from the Massachusetts School Building Authority that was distributed at the meeting. The Statement of Interest for the M.E. Small School will not be considered. The superintendent then shared some good news about the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the district's winners. She then shared portions of an email that she received from a coach in Mashpee. The coach related that the Mashpee team was on the return ferry along with the D-Y team. Some of the Mashpee team members had an unpleasant encounter with a couple of men on the ferry. Members of the D-Y team along with their coach, Donta Phillips, stepped in and showed kindness to the Mashpee team members and calmed a tense situation. Their willingness to step up was much appreciated.

**School Committee Business**

**Consent Agenda:**

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

VOTED: To approve the following items as presented in the Consent Agenda:

**Donations:**

Move to accept a \$16,000 donation to the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District from the Lyndon Paul Lorusso Foundation to fund scholarships for Dennis-Yarmouth High School graduates.

**Surplus:**

Move to declare as surplus one teacher style desk as per Mr. Bovino's December 2 memo and accompanying photograph.

**Minutes:**

January 24, 2022

At 7:02, Chair Landers called for a recess until the start of the public budget hearing.

At 7:24, Chair Landers opened the public budget hearing.

**Public Hearing**

- A. Presentation of FY23 Budget – David Flynn, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations; Carol Woodbury, Superintendent  
Mr. Flynn gave a PowerPoint presentation about the budget. He reviewed the timeline; town meetings; enrollment data; selected populations; college plans; foundation enrollment; state aid update; cherry sheets. He noted that the towns contribute more than their required contribution. The budget would have the Dennis portion at a 2.498% increase and the Yarmouth portion at a 1.318% increase. Both towns would be below two and a half percent.

Chair Landers thanked Mr. Flynn for his presentation and opened the meeting to Public Comment. Each speaker would be limited to 3 minutes.

B. Public Comment

Vida Morris asked why the Yarmouth portion was less, noting that she cannot recall this ever happening before. Mr. Flynn said the minimum dollar amount increased and this would only be for this year or perhaps 2 or 3 years. She asked if this was about the real estate valuation; Mr. Flynn said it was the same dollar amount. He said that there are new higher foundation budget rates; ELL and low income, it is a direct benefit. He said we should take the good while we can.

Public Comment ended at 7:58 p.m.

C. School Committee Comment

All of the members thanked Mr. Flynn for his presentation.

D. Close the Hearing

At 8:05 p.m., Chair Landers closed the Public Hearing and returned to the remainder of the regular agenda.

**Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll**

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

**Calendars**

The upcoming calendars were included in the packet.

**Item Distributed at Meeting**

Copy of email from Ean McPherson Regarding Naming of New School  
Letter from MSBA re Statement of Interest Status for M.E. Small Elementary School  
FY23 Budget Public Hearing PowerPoint

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

At 8:06 p.m., on a motion by Joe Glynn, seconded by Phil Morris, and carried unanimously 5-0;  
it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,

  
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Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary