

**DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of a School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, March 20, 2023**

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, March 20, 2023, at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Library in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Joseph Tierney, Chairperson; Jeni Landers, Vice Chairperson; Jennifer Rose, Secretary; Tomas Tolentino, Treasurer; Phillip Morris; Marilyn Bemis; Joe Glynn; Student Representative Kristen Stagg; Student Representative Rose-Anna Joachim.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; David Flynn, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Maria Lopes, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Instruction; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Sherry Santini, Director of Humanities and the Arts; Betsy Pontius, Director of STEM; Brenda Burke, Assistant Director of Student Services; Kelly Mooney, Assistant Director of Student Services; Michelle Dunn, DYEA; Sarah Manion; Stephanie Goley.

At 6:34 p.m., Joseph Tierney, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

**Reports:**

**A. Student Representative Reports – Kristen Stagg and Rose-Anna Joachim**

Kristen reported on the latest news from the high school. Auditions for *Chicago the Musical* continue; the Gershwin concert was wonderful and because of Dolphin Time there were three performances instead of the usual two. Rose-Anna reported that the Food Festival was a standing room only event in the cafeteria with many foods from different cultures. There was an AP Fair recently where prospective students could sign up to shadow an AP student in class. She also reported that Dennis-Yarmouth's Breanna Braham broke the Indoor and Outdoor open 200 Meter record and she ran a 25.78 at the New Balance Indoor Nationals.

**B. Superintendent Report – Carol Woodbury**

Mrs. Woodbury began her report by sharing that the Dennis-Yarmouth Unified Weight Lifting team placed second. She then introduced Sarah Manion and Stephanie Goley.

Calmer Choice Presentation – Sarah Manion and Stephanie Goley

Sarah Manion, Co-Executive Director and Stephanie Goley, Mindfulness Coach, gave a presentation on the Calmer Choice Program. The presentation was followed by questions from the School Committee. Mr. Glynn asked if there might be an opportunity to study results. Mr. Morris is very appreciative of both the program and the presentation. Mr. Tierney thanked Sarah and Stephanie for their very informative presentation.

**C. School Building Committee Report – Joseph Tierney**

Mr. Tierney said that the weekly meetings are continuing; all is going well. Mrs. Woodbury said the ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Flynn said the auditorium seats should be finished about a week and a half prior to the ribbon cutting. The ribbon cutting will be open to everyone.

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

Dennis: Jeni Landers said the Dennis Select Board voted to send a letter to the School Committee regarding cutting the budget.



Yarmouth: Joe Glynn said that the school budget will be on the select board's agenda for Tuesday evening.

E. Assistant Superintendent Report – David Flynn

FY2024 Budget

Mr. Flynn presented the FY2024 Budget. He reviewed the Foundation Budget; Required Spending; Municipal Revenue Growth Factor; Required Spending Calculation; Property Wealth and Income; and Local Assessments. Mr. Flynn's presentation was followed by questions and answers from the committee. The Excess and Deficiency fund has not been certified. Mr. Flynn does not think that using the Excess and Deficiency funds is good practice. Ms. Bemis asked what E & D funds are used for. Mr. Flynn said that in the past the school committee has voted that the funds be used for the OPEB fund; and also for making the first interest payment on the new school. Mr. Glynn added that using the E & D funds toward OPEB saved the town's money by improving the school district's bond rating. Mrs. Woodbury said that the district used to be overly reliant on Excess and Deficiency. She also said that they have done their due diligence going through the budget to find reductions. Chair Tierney said that the new school operating costs are unknown at this time.

School Committee Business

A. Superintendent Search

Chair Tierney said he has reached out to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) who will guide and provide technical assistance to the school committee in their superintendent search.

Jeni Landers moved that the School Committee create a superintendent search committee for the purpose of advertising the vacancy, screening and interviewing initial candidates, and proposing final candidate(s) to the School Committee for vetting and hiring and all relevant purposes thereto. And that the membership of that search committee shall include the school committee chair, the school committee vice chair, and one other school committee member; three parents (one elementary, one DYIMS, one high school); one principal; one teacher; one administrator; and one non-teacher staff member and that the chair be empowered to make the appointments to the search committee after seeking letters of interest. Joe Glynn seconded and discussion ensued. Mr. Tierney said that there will be an expedited timeline and those who wish to be a part of the search committee should be available and able to commit to a lot of meetings. Upon seeing no further discussion, Chair Tierney called for a roll call vote on the motion. The motion carries unanimously, 7-0.

Phillip Morris	yes
Marilyn Bemis	yes
Tomas Tolentino	yes
Joe Glynn	yes
Jeni Landers	yes
Jennifer Rose	yes
Joseph Tierney	yes

Consent Agenda

On a motion by Jeni Landers, seconded by Phillip Morris, and carried 7-0, it was

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

**Donations:**

Move to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,054,679.49 from the Estate of Irene M. McInnis to the DYRSD Scholarship Fund.

**Minutes**

March 6, 2023

**Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll**

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

**Calendars**

The upcoming calendars were included in the packet.

**Items Distributed at Meeting**

March 15, 2023 Letter from Chris Lambton, Dennis Select Board Chair

Calmer Choice Presentation

FY2024 Budget Presentation

**Public Comment**


None

**Adjournment**

At 8:20 p.m., on a motion by Jeni Landers, seconded by Phillip Morris, and carried unanimously 7-0; it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,



Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary