

APPROVED

54-20

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 15, 2020

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 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; Andrea St. Germain, Secretary; James Dykeman; Brian Sullivan; and Phillip Morris.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Ken Jenks, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative and Business Services; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Leila Maxwell, Director of STEM; Sherry Santini, Director of Humanities and the Arts; Patrick Riley, Principal, M.E. Small Elementary School; Tracy Post, Yarmouth Board of Selectmen; Holly Poor.

At 5:30 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Update on School Building Project

Mr. Tierney reported that everything is on hold; meetings have been cancelled and that at this point everything is in a holding pattern. Mrs. Woodbury said that because the project is presently in the detailed design period that we should still be in a good position.

Update on Remote Learning Plan and Food Service

Mrs. Woodbury updated the committee on the Dolphin Learning plan. The governor announced the closing of schools beginning on March 17th. Because of the mild winter the 5 snow days were still available and were used for the first 5 days of the schools closing. Much work was done right away to set up remote learning. Rooney Powers and the entire food service team began the Dolphin Drive-Thru Program on March 17th providing meals to our students. Mr. Jenks added that 48,000 meals have been provided by the Food Service Department.

Mrs. Woodbury said that the Commissioner advised districts to focus on enrichment activities during the second week of closure. On March 25th, the Governor extended the stay at home advisory to May 4th. This placed a greater burden on families. Educators were asked to reach out to families. Mr. Jenks described the process of controlled access to buildings so that educators could retrieve items. The health departments of both towns were consulted. He anticipates that there will be one more day of controlled access to buildings.

Mrs. Woodbury said that by the end of the second week of closure the high school was ready to go with online learning. Students at the high school level are already using Google classroom and they already bring their iPads home. It is not as easy in the younger grades; families are differently resourced; some may only have one computer, for instance, and if parents are working from home that would cause a great hardship. Students in grades 3-5 leave their iPads at school on a charging cart. Charging blocks have been ordered and have just arrived. Mrs. Woodbury added that the Technology Department has done a wonderful job getting technology to students; Wixon students had

pick-up day on April 14 and 15. Mr. Jenks added that Chris Machado and JoAnna Watson bagged each student's personal device and Mr. Blake and Mrs. Goode handed them off to families much like the Dolphin Drive-Thru lunch process. Mr. Blake personally delivered several devices to students.

Mrs. Woodbury spoke further of technology and the variability of educator skills. JoAnna Watson very quickly set up training videos and tools. Mrs. Woodbury also quoted the Commissioner's core beliefs during these challenging times to "do no harm" and concentrate on health, safety, and wellness. She followed up by a discussion of the high school seniors; we want to celebrate them and their accomplishments but what would that look like? Also, 3rd grade iPads may be a possibility. Packets for the younger grades may also be in the future. She ended by saying that further information regarding school closing will be forthcoming from the Governor soon.

Jeni Landers asked about MCAS; it has been waived for all grades. Brian Carey thanked Food Service and offered any help they may need. Discussion followed regarding the senior class, grading, learning expectations. Joe Tierney thanked Chris Machado, JoAnna Watson, Rooney Powers, and the entire technology and food service staff. He asked the best way for parents to contact schools which would be via email.

School Committee Business

Consider Change to 2020 April School Vacation:

Mrs. Woodbury discussed eliminating the upcoming April vacation. Currently the learning plan is working well and she felt that any disruption at this point may ruin the momentum already established. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by Brian Sullivan and carried 7-0 on a roll call vote it was:

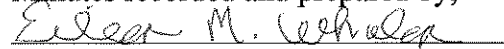
VOTED: To eliminate the April school vacation and continue the remote learning process for April 21-24. April 20 is a legal state holiday (Patriot's Day).

Brian Carey	yes
James Dykeman	yes
Jeni Landers	yes
Phil Morris	yes
Andrea St. Germain	yes
Brian Sullivan	yes
Joe Tierney	yes

Public Comment Period

Tracy Post mentioned that the Yarmouth Annual Town Meeting has been postponed to June 22. Brian Carey spoke about the Annual Dolphin Dash; it was scheduled for April 25 and has been postponed with hopes of holding it later in the summer. Holly Poor is very happy with the support her family has received from the schools. Julie Angiullo has students in 3 different district schools and is very thankful for everything the schools are doing.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,


Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary