

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 30, 2020

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Thursday, July 30, 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; James Dykeman, Jr., Secretary; Brian Carey, Treasurer; Brian Sullivan; Phillip Morris; and Joe Glynn.

Members Absent: Tainan Nunes, Student Representative

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; JoAnna Watson, Assistant Director of Digital Learning and Library Services; Rooney Powers, Director of Food Services; Carole Eichner, Director of Early Learning; Mike Bovino, Principal, Mattacheese Middle School; Tim Blake, Principal, Wixon School; Robert Ciavarra; Paula Savini; Kelly Houston; Patricia Arone; Karen Beauchemin.

At 5:05 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Preliminary Plan for Reopening School

Carol Woodbury, Superintendent
Kenneth Jenks, Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Woodbury reviewed the Reimagining the DY Advantage Preliminary Reopening Plan that the Committee received prior to the meeting. She told the Committee that facets of the plan would result in a change in working conditions for members of the unions. The Reopening Advisory Task Force has met 4 times and plans to meet twice more. Employee and parent surveys have been sent out. The preliminary reopening plan will be submitted to the DESE tomorrow; next week the final plan will be voted upon by the Committee. The goal of the DESE is safely returning as many students as possible to in-person settings to maximize learning and address students' holistic needs. The DESE has issued Remote Learning Guidance for students who will not be attending school in person; as part of a hybrid learning model; or in case changing COVID-19 conditions require a shift to full remote learning as determined by local and state leaders.

The DESE Required Reopening Plans include in-person learning with new safety requirements; hybrid learning; and remote learning. Families may choose remote; students may need to be remote due to being symptomatic or asymptomatic; and we need to be prepared to be fully remote if schools are closed again. The safety, equity and connections between school staff, students, and families are paramount. The school committee will need to establish a policy for families whose child who has been learning remotely and then wishes to return to in-person

learning. We would like to be able to do return them as soon as possible; but no longer than three weeks.

There will be increased accountability during the remote learning experience. Attendance will be taken and students will be graded. MCAS is scheduled for spring 2021.

Ken Jenks spoke of the core requirements; physical distancing (6 feet apart); masks/face coverings for all students PK-12, handwashing and hand sanitizing; and staying home when sick. All guidelines are aligned with the CDC. All cleaning and disinfecting products are EPA approved. The district has purchased personal protective equipment; the ventilation systems have all been checked; windows are being checked and repaired to make sure they are operational. All district families are our partners. The students in grades K-7 will be able to come to school in person if families choose in-person learning. PreK and the high school will need to be on a hybrid model due to distancing requirements.

Mrs. Woodbury shared the staff and family survey results to date. She then shared the professional development that is being planned for teachers. We already have coaches being trained who will then become the trainers. The Dolphin Way will now include masks; handwashing; social distancing; and staying home when sick.

Consistent learning platforms are very important. For preschool – Grade 2 we will use Seesaw; for grades 3-12 we will use Google Classroom. Leila Maxwell spoke of the math and science curriculum; in math we will use *Great Minds in Sync* in tandem with *Eureka*. They have the resources to support students moving forward. In science the district was already researching new resources; they chose *StemScopes* which is a digital platform providing for seamless transitions.

Sherry Santini spoke about the Literacy Collaborative and guided reading. The coaches have taken very innovative approaches including taking screenshots of books for guided reading in order to simulate the in-person experience as much as possible. They also plan to do this with writing. In social studies the work will continue; there is an excellent app on the iPads which students can access at their reading level.

Mrs. Woodbury said that the Commissioner wants schools to assess students in the fall. She said that this would certainly not happen right at the start of school. The Commissioner has also approved a 170 day school year so that staff can receive professional development prior to school starting. District paraprofessionals will also receive training. Students must start school by September 16. The school committee will need to vote to approve a revised school calendar.

She then spoke of School Based Operations; there are a lot of pieces to this. The principals have been working with their teams; the reopening advisory task force has been very helpful. For instance, each school will need a quarantine space separate from the nurse's office.

Ken Jenks spoke about buses and shared a chart showing how students can be physically distanced while on the bus. Everyone on the bus must wear a mask; there will be assigned seats; students must ride the same bus in the morning and the afternoon with no exceptions.

We are awaiting guidance on sports; clubs and activities; after school programs; and before and after school child care.

Carol said that at the next School Committee meeting the Committee will need to vote on three items: The policy statement on return to in-person learning from remote; the revised school calendar; and the reopening plan.

Jeni Landers thanked Carol and Ken and asked for questions from the Committee.

Brian Carey thanked Carol and Ken and said that communication is vital. He is very concerned about funding. Have modular classrooms for the high school been considered? A video library of technology how-tos would be very helpful for parents. We cannot lose sight of music, sports, extracurriculars-we need to teach the whole student.

Brian Sullivan said this has never been attempted before. He is in favor of bringing kids back in person as much as possible. He thanked everyone for their hard work.

Joe Glynn also thanked everyone for their hard work. All districts are starting out the same. He thinks kids really want to be back at school.

Joe Tierney thanked Carol and Ken and all the principals. This is uncharted territory.

Jim Dykeman thanked Carol and Ken for the presentation; he added that the safety of staff and students is the most important thing. Additional federal and state funding will be necessary to make this work.

Phil Morris thanked all for their hard work. He said that communication with parents is very important.

Public Comment Period

Michelle Dunn spoke of the Barnstable reopening plan which mimics the state's phased-in reopening plan. Heidi Ames thinks it would be very helpful for parents to see what a classroom set-up would look like.

Brian Carey added that pictures and videos on the website would be very helpful for parents to make their decisions; Joe Tierney and Joe Glynn agreed.

Vida Morris said that the model in Europe has always been that students stay in the classroom and teachers move from room to room.

Adjourn

At 6:40 p.m., on a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by James Dykeman, and carried 7-0 by roll call vote, it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

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

Minutes recorded and prepared by,

Eileen M. Whalen

Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary