

**DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of a School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, September 19, 2022**

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, September 19, 2022, at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Library in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Vice Chairperson; Tomas Tolentino, Treasurer; Jennifer Rose, Secretary; Phillip Morris; Marilyn Bemis; and Joe Glynn.

Members Not Present: Joseph Tierney, Chairperson; Student Representative Kristen Stagg.

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; Betsy Pontius, Director of STEM; Michael Bovino, Principal, Mattacheese Middle School; Tim Blake, Principal, Nathaniel Wixon School; Pam Fee, School Psychologist, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School; Michelle Dunn, DYEA; Paul Hilton, Patrick Murphy, Cape Cod Collaborative.

At 6:30 p.m., Jeni Landers, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

**Reports:**

Student Representative Report – Kristen Stagg

Kristen had a field hockey commitment so was unable to attend the meeting. She sent a report about the start of the school year at the high school which Vice Chair Landers read: Fall sports are in full swing; club meetings have begun; Dolphin Time has gone well so far; auditions for the play *Animal Farm* went well and rehearsals start on Wednesday. Marching band will have their first competition on Saturday at Blackstone.

Superintendent Report – Carol Woodbury

1. Therapy/Emotional Support Dog: Introducing Dr. Pam Fee and Tully  
 Superintendent Woodbury introduced Dr. Pam Fee, School Psychologist, and Tully, the new therapy/emotional support dog at the high school. Dr. Fee shared that Tully started on the first day of school and is doing very well. Aside from spending time with students who come to see Dr. Fee, Tully has visited the WAVE program where she will help the students with social skills. She has visited the medically fragile program where she will help the students practice fine motor skills (holding the leash, treats, etc.). There are plans for her to visit the Alternative Learning Program and Advanced Placement classes. Tully is very comfortable with the students and receives a lot of attention. The committee followed up with a few questions and comments. Tully is a hypoallergenic breed; she comes to school every day; she goes into the halls with Dr. Fee during passing time to become acclimated to all of the students; she has not yet visited the students during lunch in the cafeteria.

2. Paul Hilton – Cape Cod Collaborative Services



Superintendent Woodbury introduced Paul Hilton and Patrick Murphy from Cape Cod Collaborative Services. Mr. Hilton and Mr. Murphy gave a Power Point presentation on the Cape Cod Collaborative. It is an all-district partnership across the Cape and is an extension of all the Cape's schools. Prior to the meeting Mr. Hilton distributed packets to the Committee which included a copy of the Power Point presentation; the Articles of Agreement; and the most recent Annual Report. Mr. Hilton explained the advantages of the Collaborative including better opportunities for staff and students as well as shared costs. Dennis-Yarmouth is a founding member of the Cape Cod Collaborative which began in 1975. They continually reassess curriculum and staff. Mr. Hilton described the various programs in Sandwich and Osterville. It is not a private school. He mentioned that D-Y has fewer students in the programs than they have in the past. The Waypoint program will be moving into the Laurence MacArthur building sometime in January. The Collaborative meets periodically with Sherry Santini, Director of Humanities and the Arts; Superintendent Woodbury; Assistant Superintendent Flynn; Assistant Superintendent Lopes; and School Committee member Phillip Morris. Some of the other programs sponsored by the Collaborative include an advanced study program at Mass. Maritime; the annual All Cape in Service Day; Virtual High School; and many professional opportunities.

The presentation was followed by questions from the Committee. Mr. Morris welcomed Mr. Hilton and Mr. Murphy and said he is honored to be on the Board of Directors for the Cape Cod Collaborative. It is an impressive organization and supports good programs. Vice Chair Landers asked about the decreased D-Y enrollment and asked if that is a trend across the Cape. Mr. Hilton indicated that it is the exception this year.

Vice Chair Landers and Superintendent Woodbury thanked Mr. Hilton and Mr. Murphy for the presentation. Mrs. Woodbury added that the Collaborative is working to help special education teachers receive waivers through Bridgewater State University; this is happening all across the Cape. Mr. Morris told the committee that digital copies of the Collaborative meeting minutes are available.

### 3. Transportation of Students Policy and Practices

Superintendent Woodbury referenced the memo which was included in the packet. As indicated in the memo, bus transportation can be very challenging. Families move; new students are added; for instance. Additional group stops have been added this year. Also, not every child uses the bus. It is hoped that some of the stressors could be alleviated by asking families to sign up for a bus pass. There will be no charge. It is anticipated that this will be a mid-year change, coinciding with the opening of the new intermediate-middle school. Another idea is to establish group stops that remain the same from school year to school year. Assistant Superintendent Flynn said that some students never ride the bus and that utilizing a bus pass system will identify those students right from the start, thereby making things more efficient. He noted that the order of the elementary school bus stops may change because all of the buses will be leaving directly from D-YIMS for the elementary school run. The Committee followed up with questions. Vice Chair Landers would like the district to let families know about any bus changes as soon



as possible. Ms. Landers added that she likes the idea of regular stops from school year to school year.

4. Good News

Superintendent Woodbury announced the retirement of Sandy Cashen, Facilities Director, thanking her for her 32 years of service to the district. Mrs. Woodbury indicated that under the Building Committee report there is an item on the agenda to amend the School Building Committee Membership roster naming David Flynn as the MCPPO for the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate School project. Ms. Cashen will remain on the Building Committee. The first furniture delivery date for the new school is October 17<sup>th</sup>. She then shared the dates for the upcoming open houses. She indicated that there are daycare openings for staff at the elementary schools. Mr. Tolentino added that there are currently 63 students on the Station Avenue waiting list for daycare.

Superintendent Woodbury shared Good News from all around the district:

**Ezra Baker Innovation School**

The school year has started well! This September, we welcomed 343 Pre-K through third grade students! This is quite a jump from our last year's opening, due largely to the addition of a fourth Pre-Kindergarten classroom for 3 and 4 year old learners! We are eagerly awaiting our first in person Open House since 2019 on Thursday, September 22nd, beginning at 6:00 PM. Our year is in full swing, including daycare both before and after school. As we begin our 11th year as an Innovation School, we are excited to share our revamped set of core values:

**Our Core Belief:**

All students will learn and excel in a school environment that:

- Honors their Academic, Physical, Social, and Emotional Needs,
- Embeds and Practices Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and
- Values Arts Education and Community Service

**M.E. Small Elementary**

MES is buzzing with excitement for the start of the school year! It is wonderful to welcome our students, families, and staff back to school! Our staff has been hard at work preparing for these first couple of weeks and we are establishing our routines and expectations! With this excitement, we are enjoying many opportunities to connect with our families and community partners!

Open House is scheduled for September 20th from 6-8 PM! Families and students will have the opportunity to visit the school to meet their teachers, check out classrooms, and learn about some of our school and community resources. Our school behaviorist, social worker, and instructional coaches will be available to meet our families as well as members of our Parent-Teacher Organization. In addition, the West Yarmouth Library, Nutrition Education-Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, Girl Scouts and CILA- Cape International Language Academy are joining us!



We are looking forward to an author visit with Ana Crespo who will share her story, *The Sock Thief*! This is the same book that our students voted for Mrs. Mahedy to read at our MES Reading Night last March! Ana Crespo will also share a sneak peek at her new book, *Lia and Luis*, and highlight the writing process for our students! This author visit is scheduled for October 12th and October 13th! Our school was awarded The Amber Brown Grant that made this author visit possible! This grant comes from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, a national organization. It is given to one school per year in the whole country! We are so fortunate that MES was chosen!

Marguerite E. Small would also like to thank Copeland Subaru of Hyannis for the generous donation of \$3,000 that will be used for the 2022-2023 school year! This donation will fund academic resources needed for our students. Building on our collaborative, team-based approach, our school is determining the specific resources by grade level teams. This is a welcomed and much appreciated donation and we would like to thank the nonprofit organization of AdoptAClasroom.org for selecting our school!

We have much to look forward to and enjoy at the start of the 2022-2023 school year! Most importantly, our students have brought back such life to the building and we are so proud of all that they do! Thank you!

#### **Station Avenue Elementary**

We were able to open up both morning and afternoon daycare and are hoping to be able to accommodate more students in the near future.

Our September 8 Open House was very well attended. It was great to see so many of our families. A wonderful evening at SAE!

#### **Nathaniel Wixon School**

Wixon launched our month long Snack Drive during the month of September. The Snack Drive is our community service project launched annually on Patriots Day, September 11.

Wixon is registered for Pjammin for Cancer Friday, September 23. This is an event to raise money for pediatric cancer.

The annual PTO sponsored Fun Run is September 30. Kids will be outside this year to complete this fun event.

#### **Mattacheese Middle School**

This past week Mattacheese had its Fall Open House. This evening was a great success starting off with a presentation by Mr. Bovino to a full auditorium of both guardians and students. Then families followed their student's schedule allowing them to meet all of their teachers.

On Friday 9/16 Mattacheese had its first all school event! This event was the capstone of our Summer Reading program. Before the end of the year last year students selected a book that interested them that they got to enjoy over the summer. On Friday a staff

member facilitated a book discussion with the students focused on the selected book. We were excited to be able to welcome 11 community members from various organizations who also joined our Mattacheese book group discussions.

#### **Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School**

- The traffic pattern has been good for drop off;
- We have had great attendance at all our athletic events;
- A successful implementation of new schedule and Dolphin Home/Time;
- The auditions and casting for Animal Farm went very well;
- Sports and marching band season are underway;
- The Dolphin Dash is set for October 15 and registration is open on [racewire.com](http://racewire.com);
- The band and color guard have worked hard all summer and are set for another great year!

#### **School Building Committee Report – Joseph Tierney**

##### **Vote to Amend Membership**

On a motion by Phillip Morris, seconded by Joe Glynn, and carried unanimously 6-0, it was

**VOTED:** To amend the School Building Committee roster to list David Flynn as the MCPPO (Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official).

Vice Chair Landers inquired about fencing around the field closest to Station Avenue. Mr. Flynn said that they are in the process of getting prices from local vendors. The on-site vendor gave a price that was much too high.

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

**Dennis:** No report.

**Yarmouth:** No report.

Vice Chair Landers asked if the superintendent has received any response to her memo to the Boards of Selectmen regarding the closings of Mattacheese Middle School and the Nathaniel Wixon School; she has not.

#### **Assistant Superintendent Report – David Flynn**

##### **Recap of Opening of School**

Mr. Flynn thanked Ms. Cashen for her many years of service to the district, making note of the summer work done by the maintenance department in getting the schools ready for opening including the changing of all the air filters, floors washed and waxed, etc. He also added his support of the bus pass system.

#### **School Committee Business**

##### **Consent Agenda:**

On a motion by Phillip Morris, seconded by Tomas Tolentino, and carried unanimously 6-0, it was



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

**Surplus:** Move to declare as surplus 10 trapezoid tables; 2 computer work tables; 1 easel; 1 computer table; and 1 overhead projector at the Station Avenue Elementary School as per Mr. Crowell's September 6, 2022 memo.

**Minutes**

August 29, 2022

**Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll**

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

**Calendars**

The upcoming calendars were included in the packet. Vice Chair Landers noted the early release day on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Items Distributed at Meeting**

Cape Cod Collaborative Power Point Presentation

Cape Cod Collaborative Articles of Agreement

Cape Cod Collaborative Annual Report 2020-2021

**Public Comment**

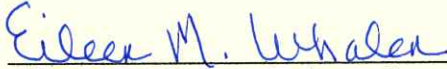
None.

**Adjournment**

At 7:22 p.m., on a motion by Tomas Tolentino, seconded by Phillip Morris, and carried unanimously 6-0; it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,

  
Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary