

APPROVED

12-17-18

**DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of a School Committee Meeting**  
Monday, November 19, 2018

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, November 19, 2018, at the Station Avenue Elementary School, South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson; Andrea St. Germain, Secretary; Brian Carey, Treasurer (arrived at 6:45); James Dykeman, Jr., Brian Sullivan; and Phillip Morris.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Ken Jenks, Assistant Superintendent; Jack Carder, Student Representative to the School Committee; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Carole Eichner, Director of Early Learning; Maria Lopes, Director of Pupil Services; Leila Maxwell, Director of STEM Instruction; Sherry Santini, Director of Humanities & the Arts; Ann Knell, Mattacheese Middle School Principal; Tim Blake, Nathaniel Wixon School Principal; Peter Crowell, Station Avenue Elementary School Principal; Kevin Depin, Ezra Baker Innovation School Principal; Pat Riley, Marguerite E. Small Elementary School Principal; Mike Bovino, Mattacheese Middle School Assistant Principal; Sheryl McMahon, Dennis Board of Selectmen; Tracy Post, Yarmouth Board of Selectmen; Norm Holcomb, Yarmouth Board of Selectmen; Lindsey Pepin, Cape Cod Vet Center; Michelle Dunn, Cookie Stewart, Hilary Medeiros, Christie Millar, Lindsay Bryant, Erin Porter, Tara Mason, Beth Verani, Sandy Boudreau, Erin Hall, Dennis-Yarmouth Educators Association.

At 6:35 p.m., the meeting was called to order by Jeni Landers, Chairperson.

**Recognition**

On behalf of Director Jocelyn Howard, Ms. Lindsey Pepin from the Cape Cod Vet Center presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District in recognition of their hosting the Veteran's Expo 2018. 100 Cape Cod veterans learned of their benefits and received healthcare as a result of attending the expo.

**Public Comment**

Michelle Dunn of the Dennis-Yarmouth Educators Association read a statement and thanked those teachers who were in attendance for their strong showing of support. She said that negotiations began 1 ½ years ago and that there will be a mediation meeting on Thursday, November 29, 2018.

**Reports**

Student Representative Jack Carder said that the NHS blood drive was very successful; the fall play Antigone is exceptional; the field hockey team has been crowned state champions.

Superintendent's Report-Carol Woodbury: The superintendent announced that the presentation would be Part 2 of the FY18 MCAS & Accountability Report; School Reports. She said that this is a new accountability system with new components. She asked for

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questions to be held until the end of the presentation. The presentation began with the three PreK-3 Elementary School principals.

Patrick Riley, M.E. Small School, discussed the accountability indicators, language arts and mathematics achievement were all discussed followed by the school improvement efforts. They will focus on writing; coaches will model strategies for teachers. Kindergarten has an enrichment block every day. In math all teachers are consistently using Eureka. The 18-19 goal in both ELA and math is for MES students to achieve at or above the state average in grade 3 MCAS.

Peter Crowell, Station Avenue Elementary, discussed the modest increase in ELA; they had set a goal of 50% but found that to be too ambitious. The 18-19 ELA goal will be for an increase from 39% to 50% for the number of students meeting or exceeding expectations. Teachers met last spring to discuss the needs of returning students; from day one they will use the Push In Model for reading support. In math they will continue to use the coaches for support. The 18-19 goal is for an increase from 50% to 60% for students meeting or exceeding expectations. PLCs will focus on looking at assessment data and connection to instruction.

Kevin Depin, Ezra Baker Innovation School, discussed the school improvement efforts including weekly meetings to discuss students, enrichment groups, raising the bar for all students. The 18-19 ELA goal is for all Grade 3 students to meet or exceed state averages on MCAS. The 18-19 math goal is for all Grade 3 students to meet or exceed state improvement targets for all subgroups on MCAS.

Discussion followed regarding the math scores as compared to the ELA scores. Each of the schools has a literacy coach. A baseline test is given in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade so that students that need extra help can be identified. Jeni Landers felt that tracking students is necessary.

This was followed by presentations from the Nathaniel Wixon School, Mattacheese Middle School, and Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School.

Tim Blake, Nathaniel Wixon School, discussed cultural improvements, reinstating consistent expectations for students, respect, and kindness, all designed to improve the school environment. Students are no longer pulled from core subjects. Every day 90 minutes for English, 60 minutes for math. Maintained musical opportunities. Collaboration of staff in best practices.

Ann Knell, Mattacheese Middle School, discussed ensuring grade level standards are part of daily instruction, alignment to standards and expectations, and increased rigor within the classroom. Students are struggling with idea development and conventions, craft and structure, key ideas and details, and the use of multiple texts for analytical writing. Improvement efforts will include using various data sources to identify students in need of interventions, target improved fluency and reading comprehension, and continue word generation. District writing prompts happen 3 times per year. Improvement efforts in math include continuing with the implementation of the Eureka lesson plan format; Math X (a

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second period of math); planning for gaps in learning, and the continuation of 3 benchmark assessments throughout the year.

Tony Morrison, D-YRHS, discussed the continued use of common formative assessments, data analysis of MCAS results, and preparation for next generation MCAS.

Discussion followed regarding Word Gen, absenteeism, curriculum frameworks. Brian Carey said that Wixon and Mattacheese have a lot of work to do; they lay the foundation for what lies ahead; we need to be there for every student. He thanked Tim Blake for his efforts at improving the climate at Wixon. Brian Sullivan said that the committee will give whatever they need; drastic immediate change is needed. Joe Tierney echoed both Brian Carey and Brian Sullivan's comments; change is needed, updates in progress are necessary throughout the year. Phil Morris said that middle school is the most difficult. Jim Dykeman said the committee is supportive but is unhappy with the scores; what is the explanation for the low scores.

DYRSD Building Committee Update: Joe Tierney provided an update and discussed the timelines. The vote is December 4<sup>th</sup> and the polls are open from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. December 12<sup>th</sup> is the date for schematic approval. The committee has been meeting for 2 years; both PMA and Perkins Eastman are top notch. If the vote fails they will have 120 days to act. Phil Morris thanked Mr. Tierney for their hard work. Carol Woodbury added that every additional year would add on 5% to the cost of the building. They looked at multiple sites including Mattacheese Middle School and Nathaniel Wixon School. If the vote does not pass the \$45 million will go somewhere else.

School Committee Liaisons – Brian Carey, Dennis: The school vote is December 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. He briefly discussed the regional agreement.

School Committee Liaisons – Joe Tierney, Yarmouth: Discussed the two informational public forums about the new school building. To lose \$45 million is hard to swallow. A brief discussion followed regarding the regional agreement.

### **School Committee Business**

On a motion by Phil Morris, seconded by Joseph Tierney, and carried 7-0, it was:  
VOTED: To approve the following items included in the consent agenda:

Donations: Move to accept a \$1000.00 grant donation to the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School German Club to be used for four German Club scholarships valued at \$250.00 each.

Move to accept a donation of outside picnic tables for Station Avenue Elementary School from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Penna of South Yarmouth.

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### **Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll**

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

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### **Information Items**

A letter of thanks from Station Avenue Elementary School to Mr. and Mrs. Ryan of South Yarmouth for disposing of older, poor condition picnic tables as well as helping with the garden beds.

A letter of thanks from Station Avenue Elementary School to Mrs. Ernst of West Yarmouth for help with the shed and garden beds.

### **Calendar**

The next school committee meeting will be December 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Station Avenue Elementary School.

### **Items Distributed at Meeting**

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District 2018 School Accountability Review  
"Salute To Scouting" Program Honoring Coach Paul Funk

### **Adjournment**

At 9:10 p.m., on a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by Andrea St. Germain, and carried 7-0, it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,

  
Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary