

APPROVED

1-14-19

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of a School Committee Meeting

Monday, December 17, 2018

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, December 17, 2018, at the Station Avenue Elementary School, South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson; Brian Carey, Treasurer; James Dykeman, Jr., Brian Sullivan; and Phillip Morris (arrived 6:40).

Members Absent: Andrea St. Germain, Secretary

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; G. Anthony Morrison, D-YRHS Principal; Tim Blake, Nathaniel Wixon School Principal; Kevin Depin, Ezra Baker Innovation School Principal; Pat Riley, Marguerite E. Small Elementary School Principal; Michelle Dunn, Mary Loebig, Eileen Terwilliger, Jennifer Linberg, Judson Graham, Jen Legge, Tara Mason, Jessica Looney, Eileen Lepain, Dennis-Yarmouth Educators Association; Pat Plucinski, D-YRSAA; Tracy Post, Yarmouth Board of Selectmen; Vida Morris; Curt Sears.

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

Reports

Student Representative Jack Carder reported that sports are up and running; Interact helped with the Rotary holiday party; and that the Jazz Band & Chorus would be performing on Tuesday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the high school.

Assistant Superintendent Ken Jenks gave a PowerPoint presentation on Developing the FY20 Budget. He discussed timelines, key dates, budget approach, enrollment, revenue assumptions, and budget drivers. Brian Carey asked if the committee would receive zero based budgeting; and would the budget calendar be shared with both towns. Ken Jenks said yes. Joe Tierney asked to have foundation enrollment figures for the next school committee meeting. Ken Jenks asked for clarification; foundation enrollment is defined as what each town is financially responsible for. This information will be available for the next meeting. Phil Morris discussed the regional agreement and the impact of leavers to charter schools. Jeni Landers said that this is her third cycle; the past 2 budgets have been level service. She is concerned about an override.

M.E. Small Statement of Interest: Ken Jenks reviewed a December 12, 2018 letter from the MSBA which determined that the M.E. Small Elementary School will not be invited into the Eligibility Period at this time. He said that there is usually a multiple year waiting period

and that in order to stay in the queue; MES should repeat the Statement of Interest process in 2019.

Brian Carey requested a review of the needs of the M.E. Small School by April. A brief discussion followed; Jim Dykeman emphasized that capital repairs have been sacrificed in the past due to operating expenses.

Carol Woodbury asked for clarification; is the committee looking for a professional assessment or more of a laundry list. Brian Carey said he would first like a “Ken and Carol” estimate to be followed by a professional estimate.

Superintendent-Carol Woodbury

ELA Curriculum Update-Sherry Santini

At 7:03 p.m. Sherry Santini presented an English Language Arts Curriculum Development Update. She defined a guaranteed and viable curriculum as ensuring that all students have an equal opportunity to learn, access to highly effective teachers, and access to the same content, knowledge and skills in each class. Curriculum is not the binder on the shelf. A book is a curricular resource. Teachers are always assessing; a lesson plan is a guide, not a step-by-step recipe. K-5 teachers teach all subjects. She further discussed the process; the district writing prompts are scored using an MCAS based rubric. The next steps include a K-7 Scope & Sequence in January 2019; analyzing winter benchmark data for instructional purposes in February 2019; creating K-7 grade level curriculum descriptors in the Spring of 2019; and continue unit consolidation in eDoctrina (ongoing).

Jeni Landers thanked Ms. Santini for the presentation; calling it important and timely. She mentioned that the state report mentioned inconsistencies; what are we telling parents?

Ms. Santini said that all teachers will have their information in eDoctrina.

Brian Sullivan asked if curriculum was aligned from top to bottom; are there inconsistencies in classrooms; the MCAS scores have to improve. Students appear to be at different levels when they begin the following school year and the teacher must spend the first few months adjusting. He would like some accountability. Phil Morris asked for a continued partnership; the committee wants to be supportive. Brian Carey says this is a very important topic; we must have online accessible curriculum by late April or early May. Joe Tierney asked if grade level standards by the DESE are accessible online; Ms. Santini said that they are. Jeni Landers said that flexibility is required; it is not a traditional curriculum. Brian Sullivan said that student achievement has to improve.

Carol Woodbury said that work is being done on the website and it is expected to be ready in January or February. Teachers must implement with fidelity and customize what they are doing. Teachers need support; we have 2 directors in content areas, a special education director, and principals. Professional development is not just writing it down and handing it to them. This is important work.

DYRSD

DYRSD Building Committee Update: Joe Tierney reported that he attended the December 12 MSBA meeting along with Carol Woodbury, Ken Jenks, and Dan Knapik. Carol Woodbury reported that we have a green light to begin work. A brief discussion followed regarding project timelines; there was no objection to the project moving forward at this time.

Regional Agreement: Jeni Landers reported that she met with the Board of Selectmen chairs from each town along with Cleon Turner regarding the Regional Agreement. She related that the meeting went well; a particular sticking point is the division of capital costs. Brian Carey would like both towns to be contacted regarding getting an article on the upcoming town meetings. He would like to see what a proposed split would mean in actual dollars; that this would be a big step toward showing that this is important to the committee. Brian Sullivan agreed that capital costs are the issue and agreed with requesting a placeholder on the town warrants. Phil Morris cautioned that any changes to the Regional Agreement should be reviewed by the district's attorney.

School Committee Liaisons – Brian Carey, Dennis: Brian Carey reported that there will be a recount of the vote; the date is expected to be January 10th.

School Committee Liaisons – Joe Tierney, Yarmouth: Jeni Landers reported that there is a need for a new liaison to the Town of Yarmouth. Joe Tierney said it is expected that there will be a Yarmouth recount as well. He also said that Dan Knapik attended the December 12 MSBA meeting and was able to address the board.

Jeni Landers announced the Jazz and Chorus concert to take place at the high school on Tuesday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment: Michelle Dunn, D-YEA President, related that the union was very supportive of the recent vote; including working phone banks, sending postcards, showing their level of commitment. She was followed by Mary Loebig, Eileen Terwilliger, Sue Curley, Jen Linberg, Judson Graham, Jen Legge, and Eileen Lepain who reported that teachers have volunteered their time for many things including writing grant proposals, letters of recommendation, attending sporting events; and spent money out of pocket for classroom supplies, fundraisers, and Christmas funds.

School Committee Business

On a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by Brian Sullivan, and carried 6-0, it was:
VOTED: To approve the following items included in the consent agenda:

Donations: Move to accept twenty winter coats, forty eight hats and gloves/mittens from the Masonic Angels Foundation.

Move to accept a donation of field trip buses from an anonymous donor.

Minutes: 11/5, 11/19

Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll

DYRSD

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

Information Items

Letter from Yarmouth Substance Awareness Committee 3rd annual Sticker Shock Event;
Letter of thanks to Dennis-Harwich Lions Club regarding first grade vision exams;
Letter of thanks to Barnstable-Yarmouth Lions Club regarding first grade vision exams;
Memo from the Superintendent with attachment regarding Stabilization Fund.

Calendar

The next school committee meeting will be January 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Station Avenue Elementary School.

Items Distributed at Meeting

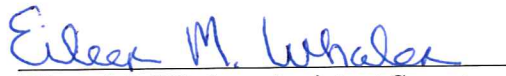
Memo with attachments from the superintendent to the committee regarding Notice to Proceed – Design Development Phase
PowerPoint Presentation: English Language Arts Curriculum Development Update

Adjournment

At 9:25 p.m., on a motion by James Dykeman, seconded by Brian Sullivan, and carried 6-0, it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,


Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary