

APPROVED

1-23-23

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, January 9, 2023

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, January 9, 2023, at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Library in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Joseph Tierney, Chairperson; Jeni Landers, Vice Chairperson; Jennifer Rose, Secretary; Tomas Tolentino, Treasurer; Phillip Morris; Marilyn Bemis; Joe Glynn; Student Representative Kristen Stagg; Student Representative Rose-Anna Joachim.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Maria Lopes, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Instruction; David Flynn, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Betsy Pontius, Director of STEM Instruction; Sherry Santini, Director of Humanities and the Arts; Paul Funk, Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School; Michael Bovino, Principal, Mattacheese Middle School; Timothy Blake, Principal, Nathaniel Wixon School; Michelle Dunn, DYEA; Tim Whelan; Lisa Whelan; Brian Carey; Christine Carey; Chris Flanagan; Traci Wyse; Jennifer Edwards; Tshauni Brown; Rose-ana Meritus; Samyra Nascimento; Gavin Pelletier; Cody Ritchie; Jim Plath.

At 6:36 p.m., Joseph Tierney, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Recognition – Representative Timothy R. Whelan

Chair Joseph Tierney and Superintendent Carol Woodbury presented Representative Whelan with a Champion of Students plaque and thanked him for all of his work to help the district. In particular, Mr. Tierney mentioned Representative Whelan's efforts behind the scenes regarding the new Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate/Middle School. Phil Morris, Jeni Landers, and Marilyn Bemis along with Brian Carey and Paul Funk followed with thanks and congratulations. Mr. Whelan thanked Superintendent Woodbury and the School Committee for the honor.

Reports:

Student Representative Report – Kristen Stagg and Rose-Anna Joachim

Kristen reported that the term ends January 31st; Winter Percussion and Guard are working hard. Rose-Anna reported on sports and the upcoming band concert on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Superintendent Report – Carol Woodbury

Town Seal Committee Presentation

Jennifer Edwards and Traci Wyse

Superintendent Woodbury introduced Ms. Edwards and Ms. Wyse along with several students involved in Voices Heard. Ms. Wyse said that Voices Heard is a student-led group. Rose-ana Meritus said that the idea is for all students to feel included. Gavin Pelletier spoke of the interactive mural at the M.E. Small Elementary School. Samyra Nascimento spoke of how important translation is for new students. Tshauni Brown spoke of a new mural called Storm Cloud. They are all very involved in welcoming new bilingual students. Cody Ritchie spoke of the Sensory Lagoon at the high school library. Cody said going to the Sensory Lagoon is like

hitting a “reset button.” Superintendent Woodbury said she is very proud of the school and the district. She also congratulated Anne Peak and Marc Pena on their work on the Town Seal Committee where they are equal voting members.

Policy Review Subcommittee (Enclosures)

Superintendent Woodbury informed the Committee that the Policy Review Subcommittee met recently to review several policies. Those policies are now for review by the full committee at this meeting. The subcommittee recommended adoption of the MASC-recommended policy updates. The superintendent said that one of the factors for updating the policies was the Acts of 2022, #117; new federal guidance on traits historically associated with race. Also, many of the policies were updated to read parent/guardian. Dave Flynn reviewed the financial policies.

- a. JIC – Student Discipline (2nd reading)
- b. JICA - Student Dress (2nd reading)
- c. AC Non Discrimination including Harassment and Retaliation (2nd reading)
- d. AC-R Non Discrimination including Harassment and Retaliation (2nd reading)
- e. GBA – Equal Employment Opportunity (2nd reading)
- f. GCF – Professional Staff Hiring (2nd reading)
- g. JB – Equal Educational Opportunities (2nd reading)
- h. JFBB – School Choice (2nd reading)
- i. DA – Fiscal Management Goals (2nd reading)
- j. DB-1 – Regional School District Annual Budget (2nd reading)
- k. DB-1-R – Budget – Apportionment of Expenses for Regional Schools (2nd reading)
- l. DBC – Budget Deadlines and Schedules (2nd reading)
- m. DBD – Budget Planning (2nd reading)
- n. DBG-1 – Budget Adoption Procedures for Regional Schools (2nd reading)
- o. DBJ-1 – Regional School District Budget Transfer Authority (2nd reading)
- p. DD – Grants, Proposals, and Special Projects (2nd reading)
- q. DEC – Federal Funds Supplement not Supplant Policy (2nd reading)
- r. DH-1 – Regional School District Bonded Employees and Officers (2nd reading)
- s. D1 – Fiscal Accounting and Reporting (2nd reading)
- t. DIE-1 – Regional School District Audits (2nd reading)
- u. DJE – Procurement Requirements (2nd reading)
- v. KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools (2nd reading)

School Building Committee Report – Joseph Tierney

Mr. Tierney reported that progress continues; furniture is in, etc. Discussion followed regarding public tours of the school and an official ribbon cutting ceremony. Mrs. Woodbury spoke of holding a ceremony when the weather is a bit nicer and the auditorium is open; perhaps a Saturday morning in the spring.

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen

Dennis: No report.

Yarmouth: Joe Glynn said that budget review will begin at the selectmen meeting tomorrow.

Assistant Superintendent Report – David Flynn

Preliminary FY2024 Budget Proposal

Mr. Flynn referenced the Preliminary FY2024 Budget Proposal PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was given to each member prior to the meeting. Because Massachusetts has a newly elected governor the state has an additional five weeks to release the Governor's proposed budget (March 1, 2023). The Governor's proposed budget includes Chapter 70 Aid, Charter School Aid; Transportation Aid; School Choice Estimate; Foundation Enrollment; Minimum Required Contribution from Towns; Charter School Estimate; School Choice Assessment; and Special Education Assessment. Mr. Flynn said that the budget prioritizes level service with current staffing. He noted that the initial budget increases would include salaries (the teachers' union contract expires 6-30-23); Special Education Out of District Tuition has had a 14% increase for FY2024. Regarding transportation, the FiveStar bus contract expires 6-30-23 and there is a SPED driver shortage state-wide. There may be increases in both health and property insurance. The cost of utilities at the new school are unknown at this time. At this time Mr. Flynn is proposing a 6.16% increase in the budget. He will have more information for the Committee at the next meeting in 2 weeks. Discussion followed; Superintendent Woodbury said the budget can go down but once it is voted it cannot go up.

School Committee Business

On a motion by Phillip Morris, seconded by Joe Glynn, and carried 7-0, it was

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

Donations

Move to accept a \$15,000 donation from the Lyndon Paul Lorusso Foundation to the DY Mini Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships for Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School students from the Class of 2023 who plan to further their education.

Move to accept a set of dictionaries to the third graders of Station Avenue Elementary School from the Hyannis Elks Lodge as per Mr. Crowell's December 12th letter.

Move to accept a \$1000 donation from the Robert Cooke Memorial Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation to fund two German Club Scholarships at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School.

Move to accept a donation of 9 boxes of paper to the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Art Department from Barnstable Canvas, The Tivey Family.

Minutes

November 21, 2022

Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll

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

Calendars

The upcoming calendars were included in the packet.

Information Items

- a. Letter of Thanks to D-YRHS from the MIAA
- b. Letter of Thanks to Station Avenue Elementary School from the Yarmouth Food Pantry
- c. Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest Status

Superintendent Woodbury took a moment to acknowledge Mary O'Connor, Athletic Director at the high school regarding the recent very successful Unified Basketball Tournament, which was referenced in the Letter of Thanks from the MIAA. The superintendent told the committee about the Power of One ceremony at SAE referenced in the letter of thanks from the Yarmouth Food Pantry. Also, the MES Statement of Interest was rejected by the MSBA; the next opportunity to apply is this January.

Items Distributed at Meeting

Preliminary FY2024 Budget Proposal Presentation

Public Comment


None

Adjournment

At 8:13 p.m., on a motion by Tomas Tolentino, seconded by Joe Glynn, and carried unanimously 7-0; it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,


Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary