

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, October 7, 2019

APPROVED

11-18-19

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, October 7, 2019, at the Station Avenue Elementary School in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Andrea St. Germain, Secretary; James Dykeman, Jr.; Brian Sullivan; and Phillip Morris.

Members Absent: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson; Brian Carey, Treasurer.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Kenneth Jenks, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative and Business Services; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Carole Eichner, Director of Early Education; Maria Lopes, Director of Pupil Services; Leila Maxwell, Director of STEM Instruction; Sherry Santini, Director of Instruction for Humanities and the Arts; Paul Funk, Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School; Ann Knell, Principal, Mattacheese Middle School; Tim Blake, Principal, Nathaniel H. Wixon School; Kevin Depin, Principal, Ezra H. Baker Innovation School; Peter Crowell, Principal, Station Avenue Elementary School; Patrick Riley, Principal, Marguerite E. Small School; Michelle Dunn; Vida Morris; Curt Sears.

At 6:30 p.m., James Dykeman called the meeting to order.

Reports

DYRSD School Committee Student Representative – Tainan Nunes

The student representative was absent; no report.

Superintendent Report – Carol Woodbury

2019 MCAS and Accountability Results

Mrs. Woodbury showed a PowerPoint presentation on the 2019 MCAS and Accountability results. She began with an overall explanation of the results then followed by reviewing each school's results. She explained that the state sets targets for the schools. She invited the 3 elementary school principals to expand on the topic:

Peter Crowell, Station Avenue Elementary:

Mr. Crowell said that they had set a math target goal which they almost reached at 59%. He said that the math coach, Betsy Pontius, is working with the PLCs on pacing and refining. In ELA they exceeded the target; each year builds on the prior year. They have spent time regrouping students to support the neediest readers in a timelier manner. Staff meeting time is being spent discussing specific students and their needs.

Patrick Riley, MES Elementary:

Mr. Riley discussed the math performance. He felt that the gaps are closing. He said this is a whole school issue; not a third grade issue. STEM Director Leila Maxwell will join Mr. Riley in classroom observations to help evaluate next steps. In ELA he said they are making overall gains and are closer than 2 years ago. There is much to do including pacing, units of study, and frequency of data sharing.

Kevin Depin, Ezra H. Baker Innovation School:

Mr. Depin said they met their goals in ELA and they are closing in on state averages. It is about the details; patterns can be seen starting in kindergarten. They had a strong performance in math and exceeded state averages although not every group met targets.

Questions and discussion followed. Mr. Riley announced an upcoming math fair and pasta dinner in November. The committee thanked the principals for their presentations.

Mrs. Woodbury then reviewed the results for grades 4-12 and invited those principals to speak.

Tim Blake, Principal, Nathaniel H. Wixon School:

Mr. Blake said there was some improvement in ELA; he felt that the attendance at Wixon is good. He will be observing classes with Sherry Santini, Director of Humanities and the Arts. There was some improvement in math as well.

Ann Knell, Principal, Mattacheese Middle School:

Mrs. Knell was pleased with improvements. They are calibrating observations; what standard is being taught. They have had one benchmark in math so far this year. Students can get extra help in math RTI.

Paul Funk, Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School:

Dr. Funk said that this is the first time the 10th graders used technology to take the test. He commended the teachers; in particular Amy Chausse who piloted an intro to physics course which resulted in those students scoring in the 97% advanced and proficient range on the science MCAS. He said that overall there is room for improvement but that they are on the right track.

Discussion followed and the committee thanked the principals for their presentations.

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen – B. Carey, Dennis; J. Tierney, Yarmouth

Brian Carey, Dennis: Mr. Carey was absent; no report.

Joe Tierney, Yarmouth: Mr. Tierney was absent; no report.

Assistant Superintendent Report – Ken Jenks: No report.

School Committee Business

Consent Agenda

On a motion by Phillip Morris, seconded by Andrea St. Germain, and carried 4-0, it was VOTED: To approve the following items as presented in the consent agenda:

Acceptance of Donations

Move to accept with gratitude a donation of school and craft supplies to the Station Avenue Elementary School from Ms. Laurie Canning of South Yarmouth.

Minutes

September 23, 2019

Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll

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

Calendars

The next school committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Station Avenue Elementary School. Mr. Dykeman made note of the early release days for parent-teacher conferences on October 22 and 24. Dennis and Yarmouth will hold town meetings on Tuesday, October 29, at 7:00 p.m. The MASS/MASC Annual Conference will take place November 6-9 in Hyannis. The high school fall play takes place November 22-24.

Information Items

Special Education Press Release October 1, 2019
Town of Yarmouth Flu Shot Clinic November 21, 2019

Items Distributed at the Meeting

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Proclamation - Food Service Workers' Recognition Week
Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District 2019 District Accountability Review

Public Comment Period

Vida Morris questioned the term "teaching to the test." Mrs. Woodbury said that there are state standards that all schools in Massachusetts must follow concerning what students are required to know and be able to do. Teachers use the standards set by the State of Massachusetts to teach their students.

Adjournment

At 8:25 p.m., on a motion by Phillip Morris, seconded by Andrea St. Germain and carried 4-0, it was VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,



Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary