

APPROVED

5-6-24

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of a School Committee Meeting

Monday, April 29, 2024

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, April 29, 2024, at the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate/Middle School in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chair; Jennifer Rose, Vice Chair; Marilyn Bemis, Secretary; Tomas Tolentino, Treasurer; Phillip Morris; Joe Glynn; Student Representatives Rose-Anna Joachim and Isabella Power.

Members not Present: Joseph Tierney.

Others Present: Dr. Marc Smith, 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; Kevin Depin, Principal, Ezra H. Baker Innovation School; Pat Plucinski, DYRSAA.

At 6:31 p.m., Chair Jeni Landers called the meeting to order.

Reports and Discussions

Student Representatives Report – Rose-Anna Joachim and Isabella Power

Rose-Anna reported on several items including *The Little Mermaid* which played at the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate Middle School this past weekend and was enjoyed by all. Sports are at the mid-way point. The last term has just begun at the high school; many students will be taking Advanced Placement tests and finals. Prom and senior week are coming up. Students who attended the recent field trip to Japan reported that it was a wonderful time and culturally immersive. Civics Day takes place next Wednesday.

Isabella reported on the winter percussion trip to Ohio; the art club field trip to Provincetown; and the upcoming NEASC visit to the high school. Next week is Teacher Appreciation Week.

Math Curriculum Implementation Update – Betsy Pontius, Director of STEM

Mrs. Pontius presented an update on the math curriculum implementation. She reviewed the pathway, high quality implementation which included learning walks, professional learning sections, and coaching the coaches. She then reviewed observation and feedback and the core actions. She then shared the early impacts and the projected proficiency data which have been positive in almost all areas. She also shared implementation efforts. Teachers feel supported by leaders and report strong relationships with their colleagues. Next steps include connecting what we have learned to the greater work on strategic planning. Professional learning experiences should benefit instructional leaders, educators, and coaches. Mrs. Pontius' presentation was followed by questions and comments from the Committee. Chair Landers asked about MAP testing which takes place 3 times per year and then the MCAS; how are the individual student math scores then handled. Mrs. Pontius shared that the Student Profile Data follows them. Superintendent Smith said there is teacher level data, school level data, and district level data. It

is important to look at trends and patterns to see if perhaps coaches need to be redeployed in certain areas. It is very intentional.

FY25 Budget – “Plan B” Options – Superintendent Marc Smith

Superintendent Smith gave a presentation on “Plan B” options in the event the override in Yarmouth does not pass. The Committee asked for this information at the April 8th School Committee meeting. The superintendent shared the steps already taken by the Committee as well as what is left. He shared the financial impact if the override does not pass which would result in a \$1,273,000 reduction in the operating budget. Dr. Smith then presented three possible options to reduce the budget. Questions and discussion followed. The superintendent said that it is his job to present the facts. Chair Landers said that it is the school committee’s budget and the committee wants it to pass. Mr. Glynn said that presenting the facts; being fiscally responsible; and student achievement are all important. Chair Landers asked Pat Plucinski, President of the DYRSAA, if she had any comments. Ms. Plucinski said that there is a postcard campaign underway to get the budget passed.

Subcommittee, Representatives, Liaison Report

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen

Dennis: No report.

Yarmouth: Mr. Glynn said that the Yarmouth Town Meeting is tomorrow evening at the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate Middle School beginning at 6:00 p.m. People should enter through the Kenneth T. Jenks Performing Arts Center entrance.

Superintendent’s Report

Recognition of Donations and Acknowledgments

The superintendent acknowledged and thanked the Dennis Union Church for their generous donation of hygiene supplies to the Dennis-Yarmouth Middle School. He also announced two new scholarships that the Committee will be asked to vote on this evening. One is the McGinnis Scholarship which will provide eight (8) scholarships at \$5000 each as well as the Friends of DY Football Scholarship. Chair Landers added that the DY Football Scholarship is also open to cheerleaders.

Superintendent Evaluation Process – Evidence Presentation

- Progress on Superintendent Goals
- Focus Indicators

Superintendent Smith reported to the Committee on his 2023-2024 Evaluation Evidence Submission. He reported on the focus indicators that were approved by the Committee on February 5, 2024 including (1) New Superintendent Induction Program (NSIP); (2) Math Curriculum Implementation K-12; (3) Effective Entry and Direction Setting; and (4) District & School Safety Planning. As part of his presentation, the superintendent included the Superintendent Goal Document that was approved by the Committee on September 18, 2023 as well as the Mid-Year Progress Report Presentation that was presented to the Committee at the February 12, 2024 meeting.

Under Goal #1, New Superintendent Induction Program, Dr. Smith shared that NSIP meets

monthly over Zoom or in person in Marlborough. The superintendent also meets monthly with his NSIP coach. NSIP has provided professional learning, coaching, and practice to develop and hone skills at utilizing multiple sources of evidence related to student learning to set district goals and improve organizational performance. NSIP has also supported working with school and district leaders to monitor student progress as a district and report that information to stakeholders. He also shared the December 18th School Committee presentation of DYMS and DYHS MCAS and MAP data along with the Curriculum Directors Data presentation. He also shared a sample agenda, sample presentation, and a strategy development tool that was shared at the most recent NSIP meeting. He then shared the specific connections to the focus indicators including data collection and coaching visits.

Under Goal #2, Math Curriculum Implementation, the superintendent shared that working with Betsy Pontius, Director of STEM Instruction, he has established systems to ensure that all instructional staff implement effective and rigorous standards-based units of instruction. The superintendent also shared the October 23rd School Committee agenda that included Mrs. Pontius' presentation which is tied to Goal # 2. Mrs. Pontius is scheduled to present an update at this evening's meeting. Dr. Smith then shared the specific connections to the Focus Indicators including the Instructional Practice Guide (IPG) which provides clear and explicit "look-fors" for high quality curriculum implementation.

Under Goal #3, Effective Entry and Direction Setting, the superintendent shared that the purpose of his entry process has been to assess the district's most critical needs and identify the strategies and goals that will address those needs most effectively. These themes will be used to help set the strategic direction for the district as well as be used as the framework for the district's next strategic plan. He also shared links to his entry plan which was approved on August 7, 2023; updates on the entry process (November 6 and December 4, 2023); and the completed plan presented on April 8. Dr. Smith then shared the connections to Focus Indicators including effective communication systems that include ways of contacting and connecting with families who speak home languages other than English. Translators were available for family focus groups. He also shared links to an example of a family survey as well as examples of family communication.

Under Goal #4, District and School Safety Planning, Dr. Smith shared that the main tasks associated with this goal have been to establish a Safety Team made up of members from each town's public safety officials as well as school staff. The Safety Team has established a regular monthly meeting schedule; the superintendent shared an example of an agenda. The team meets once a month. The group has worked on standardizing evacuation procedures and procedures for accounting for students. The team decided on one standard approach and created a "cliff notes" version that could be used with all staff. The superintendent then shared the connections to Focus Indicators including best practices for structuring and facilitating a meeting with clear purpose and focus. The team uses the MCPOA School Security Best Practices Guide; a link to the guide was included in the superintendent's report. The Safety Team has also debriefed specific situations that have arisen during the school year and developed new protocols. District-wide consistency is necessary for school safety and security. The purpose of the team is to address this need. Future goals include capital planning, further procedure development, and assessing training needs.

Following the superintendent's presentation Chair Landers reminded the committee that forms are due to Eileen by the next meeting on May 6th. She also said that if there are any questions the Committee should reach out directly to Dr. Smith. Eileen will resend the evaluation forms and instructions to the Committee.

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 in the consent agenda.

Donations:

Move to accept a donation of women's hygiene products to the Dennis-Yarmouth Middle School from the Dennis Union Church as per Mr. Bovino's April 8, 2024 memo.

Move to approve the McGinnis Scholarship as per Dr. Smith's memo of April 29, 2024.

Move to approve the Friends of DY Football Scholarship as per Mrs. Saucier's memo of April 24, 2024.

Minutes:

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Bills, Requisitions and Payroll

The warrants were signed by the Committee.

Calendars

The upcoming calendars were reviewed. It was noted that the last day of school is June 20th; it is a half day for students.

Public Comment


No comment.

Adjournment

At 8:22 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