



**DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**Monday, May 6, 2024**

**Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate/Middle School  
286 Station Avenue  
South Yarmouth, Massachusetts 02664**

**6:30 p.m.**

**THIS MEETING WILL ALSO BE ACCESSIBLE TO VIEW REMOTELY:**

**Channel 22 Live: <https://bit.ly/3IV5MVh>**

**YouTube Live: <https://bit.ly/3CGdOXR>**

**Members:**

Ms. Jeni Landers, Chairperson  
Ms. Jennifer Rose, Vice Chairperson  
Ms. Marilyn Bemis, Secretary  
Mr. Tomas Tolentino, Treasurer  
Mr. Joseph Tierney  
Mr. Phillip Morris  
Mr. Joe Glynn

**Administration**

Dr. Marc J. Smith, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. David Flynn, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations  
Mrs. Maria Lopes, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Instruction  
Rose-Anna Joachim, Student Representative to the School Committee  
Isabella Power, Student Representative to the School Committee

- I. Open the Meeting (6:30)**
- II. Reports and Discussions**
  - i. Student Representatives Report – Rose-Anna Joachim and Isabella Power
  - ii. Japan Field Trip Update – Kris Hansen
  - iii. School Start Time Presentation – Ms. Williams' Grade 11 US History Class
- III. Subcommittee, Representatives, Liaison Report**
  - i. School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen
  - ii. School Building Committee – Joseph Tierney
- IV. Superintendent's Report**
  - i. Recognition of Donations and Acknowledgments
  - ii. EA Shelter Update

- iii. Transportation Update
- iv. FY25 Budget Update

**V. School Committee Business (Enclosure 5)**  
Consent Agenda

**VI. Bills, Requisitions and Payroll**

**VII. Calendars (Enclosure 7)**

**VIII. Public Comment**

**IX. Adjournment**

*\*The items listed to be discussed are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.*

*\*\*Please note: The timeframes listed above are intended to guide the School Committee in their work. It should be understood that the times are approximate, and therefore may occur earlier than noted; and may be taken out of order at the request of the Chair and a vote of the School Committee.*

Should there be a need for clarification on any of the aforementioned, please contact me prior to the meeting to allow sufficient time for further research if necessitated. Thank you. Dr. Marc J. Smith, Superintendent
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**Consent Agenda (Enc. 5)**

**The Superintendent recommends the School Committee approve the following items as presented:**

**Donations:**

Move to accept a donation of \$3000 from Copeland Subaru of Hyannis to the Marguerite E. Small Elementary School as per Ms. Carlson's April 26, 2024 memo.

Move to accept a donation of \$1000 to the Ezra H. Baker Innovation School PTAC from Mr. Frank Seghezzi, Jr. of Dennis Port.

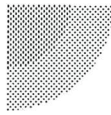
**Minutes:**

April 29, 2024

# Civics Action Project

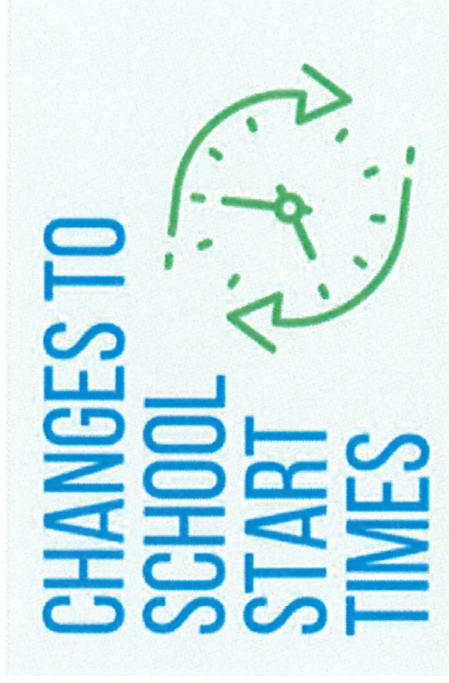
A Later Start Time for DY High School

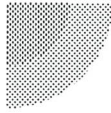




## Civics Action Project - Quick Overview

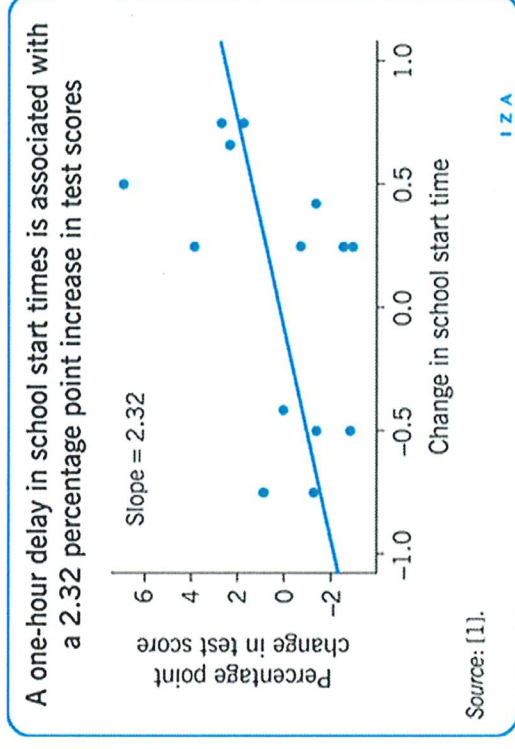
The civics action project is a project social studies classes do to make a change in their community. Our class has decided to pick school start time for our issue. A later school start time has started to take effect in a lot of school districts and schools have seen improvement in performance at school from students. Studies have also proved high school students need more sleep to function through the school day and be more productive.



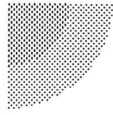


## Why School Start time?

- High school students will get better sleep
  - Circadian rhythm supports a later sleep time and later wake time
  - Students are generally more tired in the morning
- High school students will pay greater attention
  - Districts that have adopted a later school start time have generally better test scores
- High school students' well-being will improve
  - Getting a restful sleep will help with bad moods and cultivate a happier student body



Shapiro, T. M. (2015, August 1). The educational effects of school start times. IZA World of Labor. <https://wol.iza.org/articles/educational-effects-of-school-start-times/long>



## Research

A teen's internal clock shifts two hours once they transition into adolescence. Early school start times do not often correlate with this natural change in a teenager's need for sleep.

Consequences of early high school start time:

- Decreased productivity
- Lower academic performance
- Unable to regulate moods

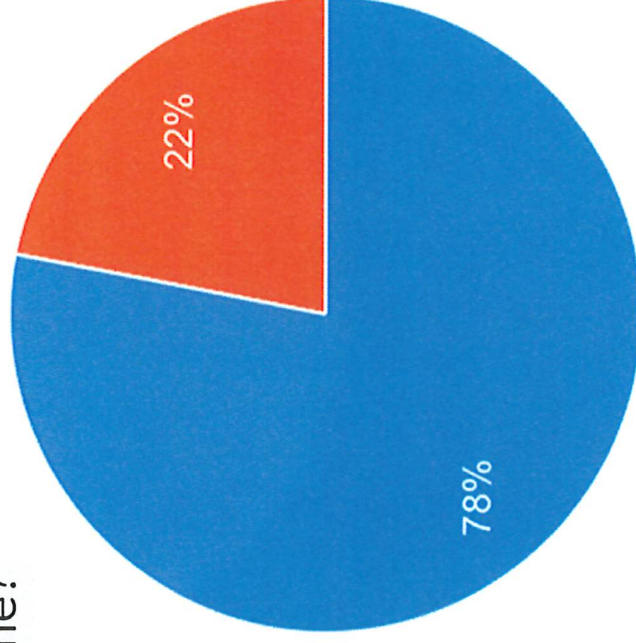
Sources:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/features/students-sleep.htm#:~:text=The%20American%20Academy%20of%20Sleep,10%20hours%20per%20per%2024%20hours.>
- <https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/specialties/sleep-disorder-center/sleep-in-adolescents#:~:text=After%20puberty,%20there%20is%20a,hours%20later%20in%20the%20morning.>

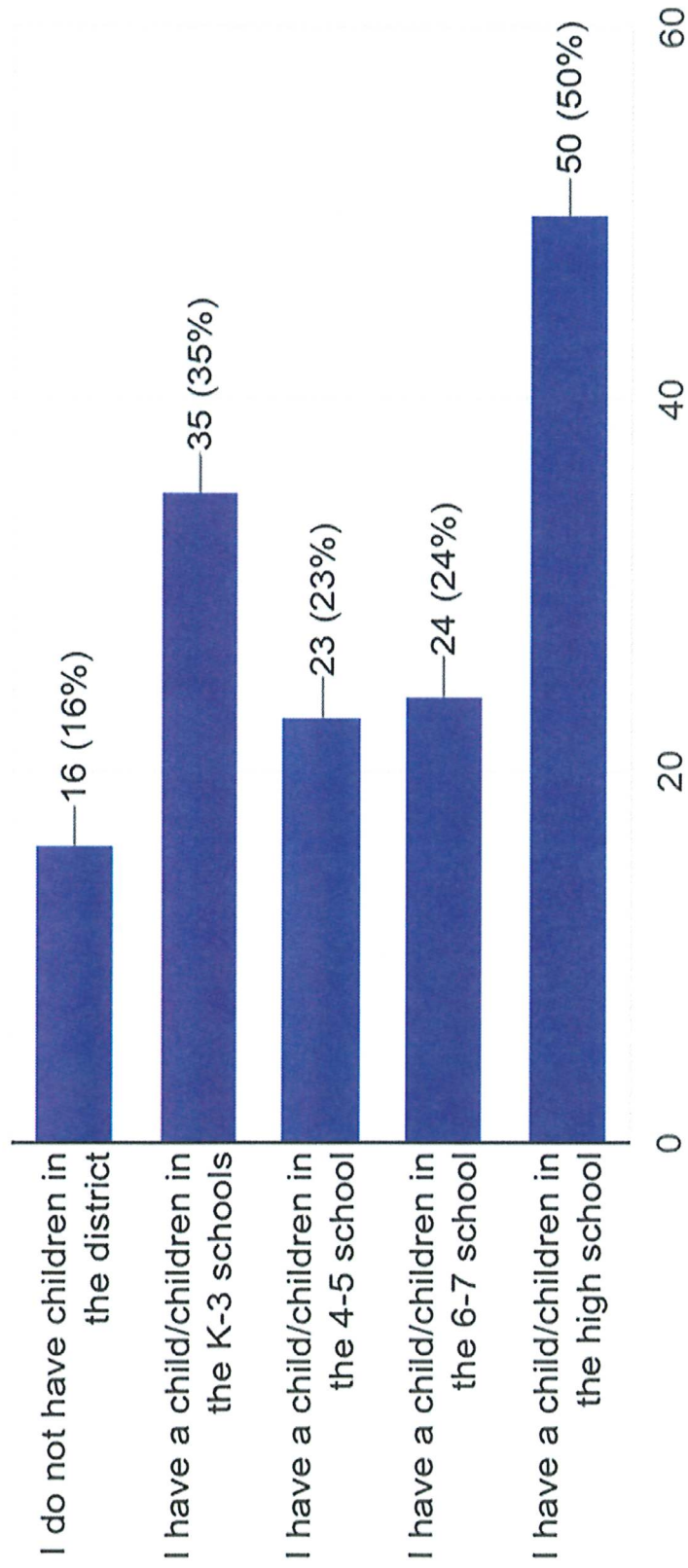
## Survey Results: Parents 100 respondents

Question: In general, would you support the high school starting at a later time?

● Yes  
● No



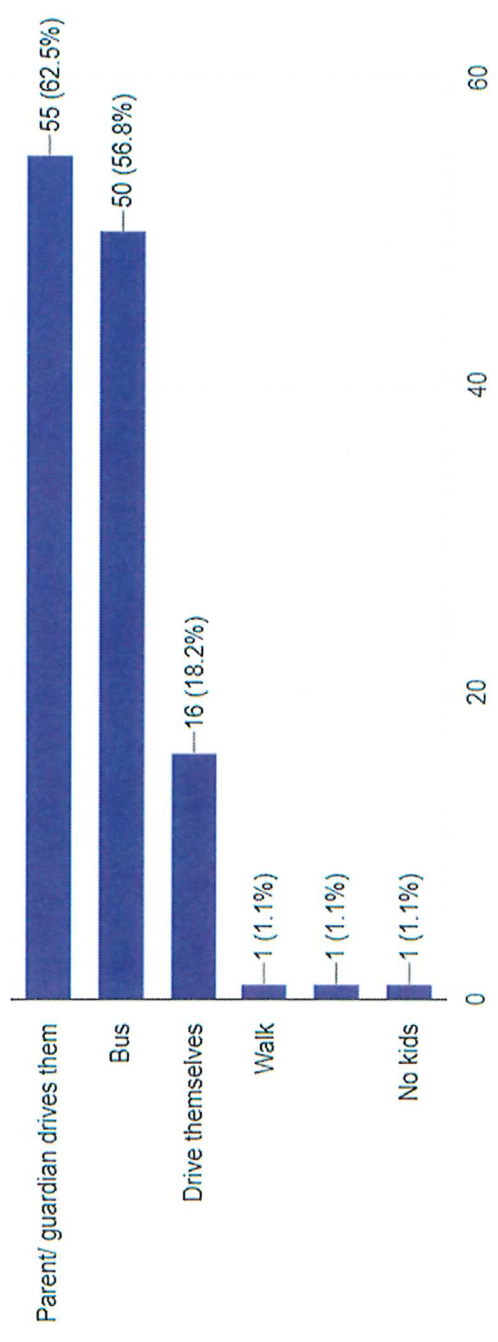
## Survey Results: Parents 100 respondents

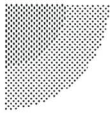




# If you have a child/children in the district, how do they get to school?

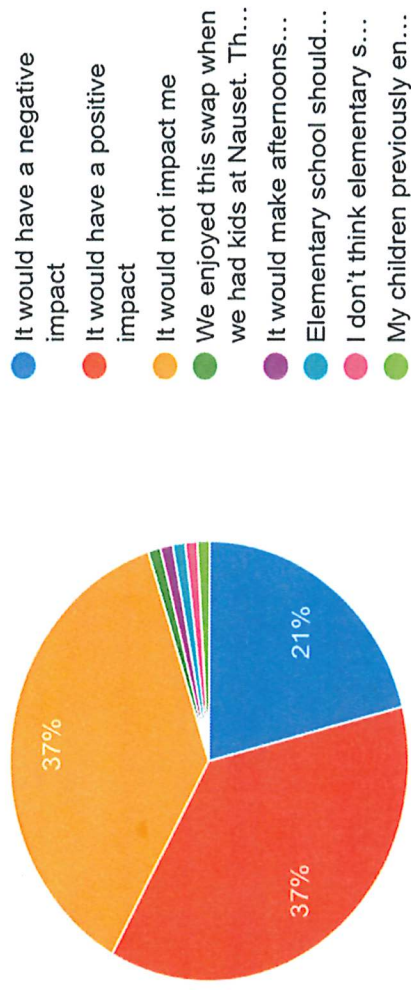
88 responses





## If the high school were to start later, and the elementary started earlier, how would that impact you?

100 responses



- For the majority of adults 74% of them either have a positive or no impact towards high school starting later, 21% of adults would have a negative impact



## Survey Results: Parents Comments

It's hard enough getting my 1st grader in by 9 if it were earlier it would negatively impact my daughter having mornings more rushed than they already are.

With the work load and how late high school students stay up just to complete their assignments, I think it would benefit them academically to be able to sleep a little later and have a later start.

Little kids are up early. The work day starts early. Getting little kids off to school at 9 am is so disruptive to the work day. This would be a very positive change.

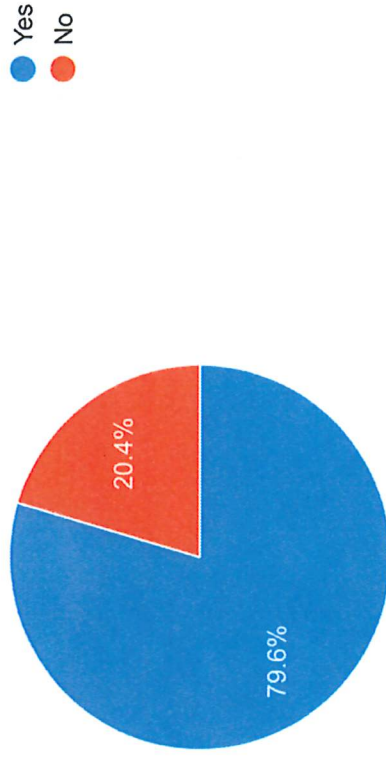
With the work load and how late high school students stay up just to complete their assignments, I think it would benefit them academically to be able to sleep a little later and have a later start.

# Survey Results: Students

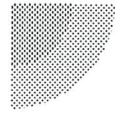
## 186 respondents

In general, would you support the high school starting at a later time?

186 responses



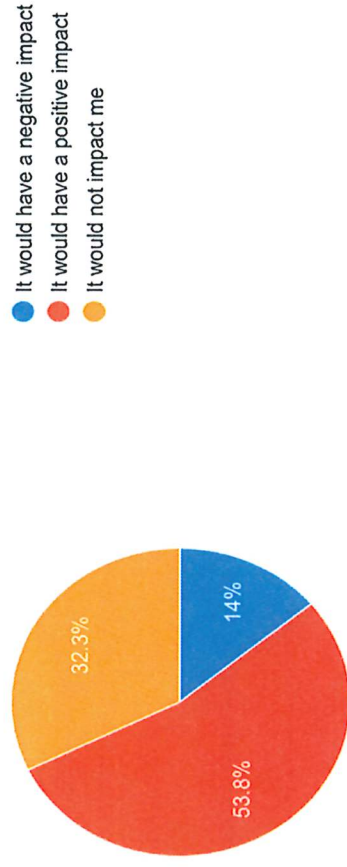
- 80% of students would support a later school start time



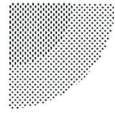
# Survey Results: Students 186 respondents

If the high school were to start later, and the elementary started earlier, how would that impact you? 

186 responses



Overall, results show that students would either be positively impacted or not impacted by having a later school start time



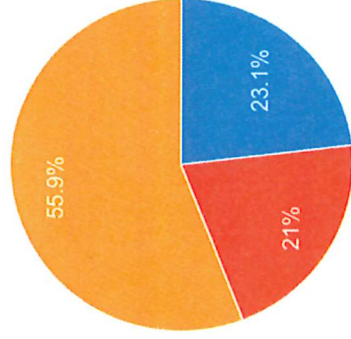
## Survey Results: Students 186 respondents

If you have a job and the high school were to end later than 2:04, how would that impact you?

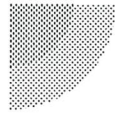
186 responses



- It would have a negative impact on my job
- It would not impact my job
- I do not have an after school job



- Although 23.1% of students mention a possible negative impact on their jobs, the majority of students wouldn't have this issue



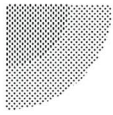
## Survey Results: Students Comments

Even just an hour will significantly change the health of students, we are supposed to naturally wake up to light, it's been scientifically proven, pretty much 90% of the school year we are waking up when it is pitch black and forcing ourselves to actually be awake. It is just not healthy.

Sports practices would get out later since they would be starting later so people would not have a lot of extra time in the day

Studies show that the brain isn't fully awake until 10 am, this impacts our learning because we can't focus clearly on work.

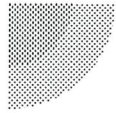
Having less time to practice, go to the gym, and do homework would negatively impact me



## Other Schools on Cape Cod

Both Monomoy and Nauset have altered their start time so that it started later. According to most who have dealt with the time change, it was a very beneficial change. According to Ms. Kmiec, the only major setback that they faced was sports and times, but as we've seen it still ended up fully functioning with little to no impact. Yet Ms. Kmiec still took note that those students who were late, even when given more time, still turned out to be late as often as they would without the change in start time.





## **Conclusion - Why this would be a good idea for DY**

Overall, the benefits of having a later start time outweigh the negatives that comes with it. While there are some definite and difficult issues with the implementation, other schools have managed to overcome these hurdles. The science and the statistics support the enactment of a later school start time for the high school.

# Marguerite E. Small Elementary School

**Carol Mahedy**  
*Principal*



Date: April 26, 2024

To: Dr. Marc Smith  
Superintendent

From: Shannon S. Carlson  
Assistant Principal

Re: Copeland Subaru of Hyannis and AdoptAClassroom.org Donation

Marguerite E. Small would like to thank Copeland Subaru of Hyannis for the generous donation of \$3,000 for the third year in a row that will be used for the 2024-2025 school year. This donation will fund academic resources needed for our students. Building on our collaborative, team-based approach, our school will be working together to select items that best fit the needs of our school community. This is a welcomed and much appreciated donation and we would like to thank the nonprofit organization of [AdoptAClassroom.org](http://AdoptAClassroom.org) and Copeland Subaru of Hyannis for selecting our school!

Best regards,



Shannon S. Carlson

***Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District***

***"Empowering each student to achieve excellence with integrity in a changing world."***

<http://dy-regional.k12.ma.us/marguerite-e-small-elementary-school>

440 Higgins Crowell Road. West Yarmouth, MA 02673-5211

Phone: 508.778.7975

Fax: 508.778.4456

Kevin F. Depin, Principal

Ellen Flanagan, Asst. Principal

# EZRA H. BAKER INNOVATION SCHOOL

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810 Route 28  
West Dennis, MA 02670  
(508) 398-7690

April 29, 2024

Dr. Marc Smith, Superintendent of Schools  
296 Station Avenue  
South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Dear Marc,

I respectfully submit the donation of \$1,000 to our PTAC for review and acceptance by the DY School Committee.

This generous donation is made by Frank Seghezzi Jr, P.O. Box 475, Dennis Port, MA 02639 to assist with camperships for our students.

Once again, I am grateful to Mr. Seghezzi for his generosity.



Kevin F. Depin

Principal

KFD/pm

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>. 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:**

April 29, 2024

#### **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 20<sup>th</sup>; 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,

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Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary

# May 2024

April '24

S M T W T F S  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
 21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
 28 29 30

June '24

S M T W T F S  
 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
 9 10 11 12 13 14 15  
 16 17 18 19 20 21 22  
 23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
 30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6 SC Meeting 6:30	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 SC Meeting 6:30	21	22 1.5 hour early release all grades	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	Notes				



# June 2024

May '24

S M T W T F S  
 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
 12 13 14 15 16 17 18  
 19 20 21 22 23 24 25  
 26 27 28 29 30 31

July '24

S M T W T F S  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 7 8 9 10 11 12 13  
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
 21 22 23 24 25 26 27  
 28 29 30 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3 SC Meeting 6:30	4	5	6	7	8 Graduation Day
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 SC Meeting 6:30	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Juneteenth Holiday No School	27 Last Day of School Half Day for Students	28	29
30	1	Notes				