

APPROVED

11-17-22

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, October 17, 2022

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, October 17, 2022, at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Library in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

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

Members Not Present: Joseph Tierney, Chairperson; Jennifer Rose, Secretary.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Maria Lopes, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Instruction; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Betsy Pontius, Director of STEM; 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; Carol Mahedy, Principal, Marguerite E. Small Elementary School; Kevin Depin, Principal, Ezra H. Baker Innovation School; Michelle Dunn, DYEA; Dawn Colton-Mund.

At 6:32 p.m., Jeni Landers, Vice-Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Vice Chair Landers asked for a motion to move the Consent Agenda to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate Dawn Colton-Mund who will present on the D-YRHS German Club Exchange Trip to Germany.

On a motion by Phillip Morris, seconded by Joe Glynn, and carried unanimously 5-0 it was

VOTED: To change the order of the agenda by moving the Consent Agenda to the beginning of the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Field Trip Approval:

Approval of DYH Foreign Language Exchange trip to Germany (April 11-23, 2023).

Dawn Colton-Mund, retired Foreign Language Department Chair from Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, presented on the proposed Foreign Language trip to Germany this coming April. Ms. Colton-Mund said she has already spoken to the school in Germany and they hope for a reciprocal visit next October. She said because of the high costs of flights the price of the trip may be a bit higher than usual but should be about \$1800. Scholarships and fundraisers are already in the works. Health and travel insurance are included. Ms. Colton-Mund will chaperone along with Rebecca Horn, high school foreign language teacher.

On a motion by Tomas Tolentino, seconded by Phillip Morris, and carried unanimously 5-0, it was

VOTED: To approve a Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School home-stay trip to Germany. The proposed dates of the trip are April 11-23, 2023 and participating students would miss school from April 11-14, 2023 in order to participate in the exchange.

The Committee also voted to approve the Minutes of the October 3, 2022 meeting.

Reports:

Student Representative Report – Kristen Stagg and Rose-Anna Joachim

Kristen reported that fall sports are starting to wrap up. It is STEM week at the high school; there have been many speakers and there is an Alumni Board up with graduates who are working in STEM fields. The schedule for the two half days this week will be ABCD one day; EFGH the next. National Honor Society selections will be coming up; Capstone meetings with Lisa Fedy have begun, Credit for Life is Friday which is also Dress for Success Day. Rose-Anna reported on the Dolphin Dash; Pep Rally; Spirit Week; Homecoming; and 8th grade elections.

Superintendent Report – Carol Woodbury

MCAS Presentations

Kevin Depin, Principal, Ezra H. Baker Innovation School

Carol Mahedy, Principal, Marguerite E. Small Elementary School

Peter Crowell, Principal, Station Avenue Elementary School – Mr. Crowell was unable to be present so will give the Station Avenue Elementary Report at the November 7th meeting.

Mr. Depin began his report by telling the Committee that this is his 37th year in the district and his 27th year as principal of the Ezra H. Baker Innovation School. He outlined the vision for the school, shared pictures, and thanked the many helpers in the community. Mr. Depin then reviewed the demographics for the Baker school; there are 345 students in total. He then reviewed the MCAS results for the third graders. There were many bright spots including that the selected populations outperformed the state averages. Other bright spots at the Baker School include a third early education classroom; lots of community partnerships including the local libraries. The 2020-2021 Parent Group donated \$6000 toward refurbishing the courtyard. Whitten Landscaping volunteered their time to create a beautiful amphitheater; Stonewood Products donated the paver material. Mr. Depin will get pictures to share with the Committee. First, second and third graders have field trips scheduled for the fall. Mr. Depin spoke of the road to recovery where acceleration is encouraged while gaps are acknowledged. They have designed a system to provide support for struggling learners within the initial days of the 2022-2023 school year. They have also added a third English Language Learner Teacher to support those who are learning English as well as their core academic subjects. The committee followed with questions/comments/thanks to Mr. Depin for his presentation.

Ms. Mahedy began her report on the Marguerite E. Small Elementary School by telling the Committee she has been with the district for 29 years; this is her second year as principal at M.E. Small. She outlined the vision for the school, along with the demographics. She shared the results of the MCAS. She shared bright spots of the results including a 9% increase in math scores in students Meeting/Exceeding Expectations from the 2021 results. There was an English Language Arts 10% increase in students Meeting/Exceeding Expectations from the 2021 results.

Bright spots beyond the test were an author visit from Ana Crespo whose visit was funded by the Amber Brown Grant – M.E. Small is the only school in the country to receive the grant. Portuguese and Haitian Creole interpreters were present at the recent PTO meeting. The first Coffee Connection of the school year is scheduled for Friday; this is where parents of EL learners can meet and chat over coffee at the beginning of the day. This has always been very successful and well-attended and Ms. Mahedy is happy that they are able to continue this tradition. She added that the road to recovery includes having interventionists for in the moment needs. The idea is to fill in the gaps in learning; not go backwards. Clearly articulated expectations are very important. Ms. Mahedy's report was followed by questions/comments/thanks from the Committee. Mr. Tolentino asked about the Eureka math. One teacher in each grade is piloting the new Eureka math and sharing out. Ms. Bemis would like a summary report from all of the schools stating who we are, how we respond, etc. Vice Chair Landers asked if the third graders in the schools help out with the PreK students. Ms. Mahedy said the 3rd graders are paired with the STAR students in related arts. Mr. Depin said that the 3rd grade leaders are asked to walk the PreK students to specials, dismissal, etc. and they all really love it.

After the MCAS presentations, Superintendent Woodbury continued her report. At the October 3rd meeting the Committee had received a memo regarding the upcoming 16th Human Rights Academy. She explained that the high school has had an active Human Rights Club for quite a while and that they will be attending this important event per usual. The Dolphin Dash took place Saturday and was very successful. Mrs. Woodbury also reported that she accompanied Dr. Funk and Athletic Director Mary O'Connor to the Massachusetts Volleyball Hall of Fame breakfast where high school coach Dru Sisson was inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame. The superintendent then shared an email with the Committee which praised the Dennis-Yarmouth High School football team's excellent sportsmanship at a recent game vs. Falmouth. Both the superintendent and Dr. Funk are very proud of our students and appreciated the kind email very much. Mrs. Woodbury then shared many pictures of the progress at the new Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate-Middle School.

School Building Committee Report – Joseph Tierney

School Building Pictures: Superintendent Woodbury incorporated the report on the school building pictures into her report.

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen

Dennis: Vice Chair Landers said that the fall town meeting will take place on October 25th.

Yarmouth: Mr. Glynn reported about early voting and that there is a lot of information on the town website.

Assistant Superintendent Report – David Flynn

No report.

School Committee Business

a. Fair Share Amendment Resolution

Vice Chair Landers referenced the memo from the superintendent and accompanying information included in the packet. Marilyn Bemis had asked for this item to be included on the agenda to follow up on the prior vote where it was indicated the committee would further review the information. The resolution is the same as many of the committees across the state. Phillip Morris moved that the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee supports the proposed Fair Share Amendment that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and would dedicate the funds raised by this tax to quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation. Tomas Tolentino seconded the motion and discussion followed. Mr. Glynn feels that this issue should be left up to the voters; he does not want to say if he is for or against. He said that if the School Committee passes the resolution he will have to support it. He is concerned about any political matter being discussed as a body. Tomas Tolentino feels it is important for the towns to know where the School Committee stands on this issue; it is not making policy. Seeing no further comments Vice Chair Landers called for a roll call vote. The resolution passes 4-0 with one abstention.

Phillip Morris	yes
Marilyn Bemis	yes
Tomas Tolentino	yes
Joe Glynn	abstain
Jeni Landers	yes

Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll

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

Calendars

The upcoming calendars were included in the packet. Vice Chair Landers made note of the two upcoming early release days for parent-teacher conferences.

Public Comment

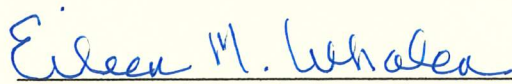
None.

Adjournment

At 7:48 p.m., on a motion by Tomas Tolentino, seconded by Marilyn Bemis, and carried unanimously 5-0; it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,


Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary