

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
DARTMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

March 6, 2023

The warrants for bills payable were reviewed and signed by the School Committee.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Nunes at 6:30 p.m. in the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center. The Chair stated the meeting is streaming live on the Dartmouth High School Media YouTube channel and noted the meeting is being videotaped for future broadcast over DCTV Channels 9 and 18.

On a roll call the following members were present: Mr. Nunes, Mrs. Waite, Mrs. Amaral, Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Oliver.

Also present: Mr. Kiely and Mrs. Genthner.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kerry DeJesus, English Language Education Teacher at the DeMello and Potter schools, made comments pertaining to collective bargaining. Standing with Ms. DeJesus were Kelly D'Ambrosio, Kerry Kagan and Kristin Daggett.

Renee Vieira, Co-President of the Dartmouth Educators Association, made comments pertaining to collective bargaining.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Regular Session Minutes of February 13, 2023 as written. The motion passed: 4-0. Mrs. Waite abstained.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 13, 2023 as written, with the stipulation that they be held until the matters under consideration are finalized. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Phoenix Dalla Costa, a senior at Dartmouth High School, was unable to be present at tonight's meeting; a student report was not provided.

PRESENTATIONS

Spotlight on Kids – Joseph DeMello Elementary School: Mr. Kiely invited Ms. Elizabeth Correia and Mr. Adam Hill, Principal and Assistant Principal of the DeMello School respectively, to make their presentation.

Ms. Correia and Mr. Hill began with a PowerPoint presentation - included in the meeting packet - which provided a brief overview of what the school has been working on for the past six months; a continuation of the school's focus on learning loss due to the pandemic particularly in literacy and math.

Ms. Correia described initiatives for literacy and math and the positive affects they are having to support student learning.

Mr. Hill provided information pertaining to community partnerships - such as the school's partnership with the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, the Harvest Farm/Southcoast Y and the DeMello Community through Community Meetings and P.B.I.S. programs such as "Leader of the Pack" and "Student of the Month."

Liz Voci, Instructional Technology Specialist at DeMello and Cushman schools, commented that two years of COVID protocols had a major impact on authentic opportunities for communication, collaboration and cooperation for students as well as staff.

Ms. Voci explained the decision making behind the creation of STEM TEAMS which was launched this fall.

Ms. Voci aired a video wherein teachers and students participated in STEM TEAM activities.

Ms. Voci explained STEM Champions and invited DeMello "STEM" champions to speak about their experiences: second grader Adilynn Scott, fourth grader Maeve Firth, and fifth grader Bennett Kertscher.

The students thanked the Committee for its support and presented members with STEM champion medals which students designed and created with the school's 3D printer.

18-22 Year Old Transition Program: Mr. Kiely invited Elizabeth Town, Pupil Support Services Administrator; Lori Jodoin, Assistant Pupil Support Services Administrator; Ryan Shea, Principal of Dartmouth High School (DHS); John Breault, Lead Teacher of the Special Education Department at DHS and Ashley Kocur-Pierpont, Special Education Teacher at DHS to make their presentation regarding the proposed *18-22 Year Old Transition Program* and to address concerns expressed by the Committee at its last meeting.

Mrs. Townson provided a PowerPoint presentation –included in the meeting packet – to assist in highlighting the decision-making process as well as describing the components of the transition program noting the agreed upon name for the program is A.T.L.A.S. (Advancing Towards Life After School).

Mrs. Townson indicated how the transition program links to the 2022-2023 district priorities: fostering a sense of belonging, providing appropriate instruction and monitoring understanding.

Mrs. Townson reviewed the logistics of the program: who the program will serve (18 to 22 year old students); what will the program do (transition program that aligns with the district mission "Quality education for all"); where will the program be housed (at DHS and at community sites); and who will staff the program (a Special Education teacher and 2 teacher assistants.)

Mrs. Townson reported monthly planning meetings have been held since September 2022 noting the next meeting is tomorrow.

Mrs. Townson reviewed future goals.

Mrs. Townson stated her colleagues are here to answer any questions the Committee may have at this time.

Mrs. Amaral asked if there has been discussion around partnering with UMASS/Dartmouth or Bristol Community College (BCC).