

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, January 11, 2021

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, January 11, 2021, via remote technology in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, Section 20.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson; Phillip Morris; Joe Glynn; Jennifer Rose; Tracy Post.

Members Absent: James Dykeman, Jr., Secretary.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Kenneth Jenks, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative and Business Services; Tainan Nunes, Student Representative to the School Committee; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Erin Porter, Michelle Dunn, Tristan Williams, DYEA; Vida Morris; Michelle Conover; Zane Fitzgerald; Sunny Fellman; Muska Yousuf.

At 6:37 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call Attendance:

Joe Glynn	yes
Phillip Morris	yes
Tracy Post	yes
Jennifer Rose	yes
Joseph Tierney	yes
Jeni Landers	yes

Reports

DYRSD School Committee Student Representative – Tainan Nunes: Tainan reported that the students are excited to be back in person at the high school this week. Everyone is cooperating to try to keep COVID cases down by social distancing, hand-washing, and wearing masks. Student Council will be making and distributing cookies to students. Tainan also brought forth a suggestion that the Committee consider having an additional student representative. The idea would be for students in two different grade levels which would bring a different perspective. Chair Landers asked for comments from the Committee. Mr. Morris is in favor of the idea and added that he has been very impressed with all of the student representatives to the Committee. Mr. Tierney asked if both students would attend School Committee meetings; Tainan said that they would both be expected to attend. Joe Glynn is also in favor of the idea and made a motion to add a second student liaison to the School Committee. Phillip Morris seconded the motion and discussion followed. Tracy Post said the item should be listed on the agenda in order to vote. Mr. Glynn withdrew the motion; Mr. Morris withdrew the second. Chair Landers indicated that the item would be on the next School Committee meeting agenda.

Superintendent Report – Carol Woodbury: Mrs. Woodbury began her report with sad news about two colleagues. Jan Murray-Daniels passed away on December 5. Jan was a loyal DY employee since 1992 when she started as a recess monitor, office assistant, and Kindercare provider. Over the years she held many different jobs including teacher assistant, Library Media Specialist Assistant, Technology Secretary, and most recently the Secretary in the Curriculum Office. Jan retired on August 24, 2020. She leaves her husband, son, and three sisters.

Denise Estey passed away on December 27. Denise was a loyal DY employee since 1993. Denise worked in both the M.E. Small and Wixon cafeterias and later became a Special Ed Assistant at Wixon. She joined the high school staff in 2013 and was currently working there as a Special Ed Assistant. Denise is survived by her husband, 3 children (all married), and 4 grandsons. She also leaves a sister and brother. Mrs. Woodbury shared her condolences with the families and friends of Jan and Denise.

- A. Student Opportunity Act Plan: The superintendent reported on the Student Opportunity Act Plan. She reminded the Committee that discussions on this began in February just prior to when schools closed because of the pandemic. She reviewed the presentation which had been shared with the Committee ahead of the meeting. The Student Opportunity Act (SOA) is providing a significant infusion of new funds with every district receiving at least some increase in Chapter 70. In an effort to close persistent achievement gaps, all districts are required to submit three-year evidence-based plans to the Commissioner. Most districts, including Dennis-Yarmouth, will have a “short form” plan. The four statutory requirements for district evidence-based plans are evidence based practices; parent/community engagement; resource allocation plan; and outcome metrics. SOA plans will ask districts to do a few things well; and do the right things. Mrs. Woodbury shared the remainder of the presentation and then summarized the Student Opportunity Act initiatives which are Mental Health Supports; Stipends for Academic Support; and Equity and Inclusion Work. The superintendent made particular mention of the \$100,000 for Equity and Inclusion Work; 35% of our students are students of color and should have the same opportunities as other students. At the end of the presentation Chair Landers opened the meeting to public comment.

Public Comment: Muska Yousuf said the program was very exciting. She said that students cannot be what they don’t see and perhaps a volunteer program of some sort would be helpful. Also, could people donate books for AP courses; it’s a wonderful program and she would love to help. Vida Morris said there was a lot of information to digest. Tristan Williams, Social Studies Department Chair at the high school, said that for students to have access to high level courses that perhaps they could receive stipends instead of having to work after school. Michelle Conover said that long term goals are important, change is needed. Training would have to be thoughtful and realistic.

Chair Landers asked for comments from the Committee. Phillip Morris made a motion to approve the Student Opportunity Act as presented; Joseph Tierney seconded; and discussion followed. Mr. Glynn asked what percentage of the student population was involved. Mr. Morris and Mr. Tierney expressed their support. Chair Landers is in favor of the proposal but added that it might be best to fund programs without repeated costs. Tainan Nunes

agreed with everything being said and felt that the amount of homework in high level courses is a barrier to some students taking those courses. Jennifer Rose suggested that parent awareness of advanced placement courses would be very helpful, especially as a fast approach to college. Tracy Post said the infusion of money is great but how flexible is it. At the conclusion of comments the committee, on a roll call vote 6-0,

VOTED: To approve the Student Opportunity Act as presented.

Joe Glynn	yes
Phillip Morris	yes
Tracy Post	yes
Jennifer Rose	yes
Joseph Tierney	yes
Jeni Landers	yes

- B. 2021 Assessment and Accountability Update: Superintendent Woodbury reviewed the Commissioner's memo which was part of the packet. The competency determination for the Class of 2021 has been modified. Grades 3-8 will have a shortened MCAS testing time. There will be no new underperforming or chronically underperforming districts named this year. The ACCESS testing window has been extended. School districts will have some flexibility scheduling the high school biology MCAS test.

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen:

Dennis: No report.

Yarmouth: Tracy Post reported that 4 interviews for the open Yarmouth school committee position are scheduled for the January 12 select board meeting. Joe Glynn added that there have been several questions about capital budget lists.

Building Committee Report – Joseph Tierney: Mr. Tierney reported that the building committee has not met since the last school committee meeting; bids are still coming in.

Assistant Superintendent Report – Kenneth Jenks:

Initial FY22 Budget Review

Mr. Jenks reviewed the Initial Budget Proposal FY22 PowerPoint that was shared in the packet. He reviewed student enrollment data, selected populations, college plans, key dates, foundation enrollment, Covid-19 update, staffing variables, revenue variables, FY22 Initial Budget, and Initial Budget by DESE Codes. Ms. Post had a question regarding contractual increases; Mr. Jenks will furnish her with that information.

Mr. Jenks briefly spoke about HVAC; staff and students are doing a great job. The guidance is that classrooms should have 5 to 6 exchanges of air per hour.

School Committee Business

- A. Election of Treasurer: Chair Landers called for nominations for the position of Treasurer. Mr. Joseph Tierney nominated Mr. Phillip Morris. Mr. Morris accepted and was elected unanimously 6-0 by roll call vote.

Joe Glynn	yes
Phillip Morris	yes
Tracy Post	yes
Jennifer Rose	yes
Joseph Tierney	yes
Jeni Landers	yes

- B. Consent Agenda: On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Phillip Morris, and carried 4-0 by roll call vote with two abstentions it was voted to approve the following items included in the consent agenda:

Donations

Move to accept a donation of 200 recyclable bags from Stop & Shop, 474 Station Avenue, South Yarmouth, to the Station Avenue Elementary School.

Move to accept a donation of 100 recyclable bags from Stop & Shop, 55 Long Pond Drive, South Yarmouth, to the Station Avenue Elementary School.

Move to accept a donation of 20 children's books from author Liliana Bejarano-Cryer to the Nathaniel Wixon School.

Move to accept an anonymous donation of gift cards totaling \$5,300 to families in need at the Ezra H. Baker Innovation School.

Move to accept a donation of 10 Stop & Shop gift cards totaling \$500 from the Dennis Fire and Police Departments to families in need at the Ezra H. Baker Innovation School.

Move to accept a donation of seventy Target gift cards totaling \$1750 from Fill a Back Pack, Inc. to families in need at the Ezra H. Baker Innovation School.

Move to accept a donation of dictionaries to the third graders at Ezra H. Baker Innovation School from the Hyannis Elks Lodge #1549.

Surplus

Move to declare as surplus 2 filing cabinets, 2 wall mount display cases, 5 plastic/metal chairs, 1 wooden chair, and 1 long white computer station from Marguerite E. Small Elementary School.

Minutes

December 7, 2020

Joe Glynn	yes
Phillip Morris	yes
Tracy Post	abstain
Jennifer Rose	abstain
Joseph Tierney	yes
Jeni Landers	yes

Mr. Morris said that he was very impressed with and appreciative of the donations.

Calendars

The upcoming calendars were included in the packet.

Bills and Requisitions

Bills and requisitions will be signed at the District offices by the Committee.

Information Items:

National Honor Society Induction Program

Letter from the Education Cooperative

Items Distributed Electronically Prior to the Meeting:

Student Opportunity Act Plan 2021-2023

Student Opportunity Act Plan 2021-2023 PowerPoint

Public Comment

Muska Yousuf wanted to state for the record that she is in favor of a recall provision for school committee members. Vida Morris had a question about the budget slides; Chair Landers advised her to call Ken Jenks. Erin Porter discussed her concerns about returning to school. Michelle Dunn discussed HVAC concerns. Zane Fitzgerald mentioned the need for transparency; that there is no right or wrong answer; and that more information is better. He asked about batch testing. Superintendent Woodbury said there was an upcoming webinar on batch testing. Not every school district is chosen to participate; there should be more information by January 15. Sunny Fellman expressed her support for a recall provision for school committee members.

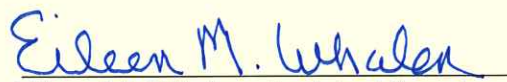
Adjourn

At 8:50 p.m., on a motion by Phillip Morris, seconded by Joseph Tierney, and carried 6-0 by roll call vote it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Joe Glynn	yes
Phillip Morris	yes
Tracy Post	yes
Jennifer Rose	yes
Joseph Tierney	yes
Jeni Landers	yes

Minutes recorded and prepared by,


Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary