

**DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of a School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, November 16, 2020**

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, November 16, 2020, at Mattacheese Middle School, West Yarmouth, Massachusetts. Because of the Governor's order limiting indoor public gatherings to 25 persons the public was invited to participate in the meeting via Zoom technology.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson; James Dykeman, Jr., Secretary; Brian Carey, Treasurer; and Phillip Morris.

Members Absent: Brian Sullivan; Joe Glynn.

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; Carole Eichner, Director of Early Learning; Leila Maxwell, Director of STEM; JoAnna Watson, Assistant Director of Digital Learning; Eileen Terwilliger; Margy Marhrdt; Jen Legge; Emily Cross; Joanne Guerrero; Luis Guerrero; Jonah Shea; Tracy Post, Yarmouth Board of Selectmen.

At 6:40 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order. The Chair inquired as to whether Mr. Glynn was present via Zoom; there was no reply.

**Opening Remarks Addressing Racism**

Members of the School Committee

Phillip Morris: Mr. Morris spoke of diversity, being open, and letting others be heard.

Joseph Tierney: Mr. Tierney spoke of racial injustice and that we have a long way to go. Face to face conversations are better than one-dimensional social media.

Brian Carey: Mr. Carey spoke of being accountable for what you say even if the First Amendment gives you the right to say it. He found the comments on Facebook very disturbing to him and to many others.

James Dykeman: Mr. Dykeman said he was at a loss for words; these comments have no place in society.

Jeni Landers: Ms. Landers expressed her disappointment that this incident has happened. The school committee does not tolerate racism. She spoke of the Diversity & Inclusion subcommittee. The committee's hands are tied regarding the social media post. Voters do have a voice. She reiterated that racism will not be tolerated.

**Reports**

DYRSD School Committee Student Representative – Tainan Nunes: This is D-Y Spirit Week and students are enjoying it. After school programs are starting.

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen:

Brian Carey, Dennis: Mr. Carey said that today is the deadline for nominations to replace his seat on the School Committee.

Joe Tierney, Yarmouth: The Yarmouth Special Town Meeting is Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at Mattacheese Middle School.

Building Committee Report – Joseph Tierney: The next meeting is this Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom technology. The 90% design submission phase will be voted on at this meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Report – Kenneth Jenks: No report.

Superintendent Report – Carol Woodbury: Mrs. Woodbury updated the committee on Covid-19; the staff has done a wonderful job and everyone is working very hard. The boards of health of both towns have been very helpful. She also referenced the email included in the packet from The Law Office of Muska Yousuf.

Phil Morris asked the Chair for permission to speak; he wanted to give credit to all of the election workers who worked so hard on Election Day.

### **School Committee Business**

Diversity & Inclusion Committee: Chair Landers spoke about the districts that already have a Diversity & Inclusion Committee. She plans on reaching out. She also plans on reaching out to the local community for their input.

### Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by Joseph Tierney and carried 5-0 it was voted to approve the following items included in the consent agenda:

### **Donations**

Move to accept 200 disposable face masks from Mr. John Reed of the Hyannis Rotary International Club.

Move to accept a donation of \$100 from Ms. Kathy Douglass to the Nathaniel Wixon School Library to purchase books.

### **Surplus**

Move to declare as surplus three metal volleyball net bases at the Station Avenue Elementary School.

### **Minutes**

November 2, 2020

### **Calendars**

The calendars were included in the packet.

### **Bills and Requisitions**

Bills and requisitions were signed by the Committee.



**Items Distributed at Meeting**

Cape Cod Collaborative Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2020

**Public Comment**

Several members of the public commented both in person and on Zoom. Comments included: What can be done; is there a recall process; public servants should be good role models and be held accountable for what they say; there should be a mechanism for removal from office; there is a MASC code of ethics. Many people thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak out.

An SAE parent mentioned the great job being done in remote learning but expressed concern about there being no related arts program at this time.

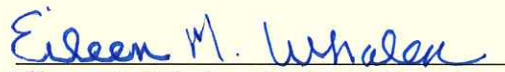
Brian Carey said that the racism issue is unfinished business and would like to see it on the next School Committee agenda.

**Adjourn**

At 7:43 p.m., on a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by James Dykeman, and carried 5-0 it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,

  
Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary