

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, December 16, 2019

APPROVED

1-6-20

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, December 16, 2019, at the Station Avenue Elementary School in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Brian Carey, Treasurer; James Dykeman, Jr.; Brian Sullivan; and Phillip Morris.

Members Absent: Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson; Andrea St. Germain, Secretary; Tainan Nunes, Student Representative.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Ken Jenks, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative and Business Services; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Carole Eichner, Director of Early Learning; Maria Lopes, Director of Pupil Services; Leila Maxwell, Director of STEM Instruction; Sherry Santini, Director of Humanities Instruction; Paul Funk, Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School; Tim Blake, Principal, Nathaniel H. Wixon School; Patrick Riley, M.E. Small School; Kevin Depin, Ezra H. Baker Innovation School; Tracy Post, Yarmouth Board of Selectmen; Chris Flanagan, Dennis Board of Selectmen; Alice Parece and Ayanna Smith and their families; Geoffrey Jamiel and family; Larry Johnson; Robert Grazer; Michelle Dunn; Vida Morris.

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

Recognition

Tim Blake, Principal, Nathaniel Wixon School, told of how Mr. Wayne Bergeron came to the Wixon School and gave an assembly about homelessness. Students were then invited to write an essay about the subject. He then introduced two Wixon students, Ayanna Smith and Alice Parece, who each read their essay for the committee. The committee thanked the students for a wonderful job and each received an Above and Beyond certificate from Mrs. Woodbury and the School Committee.

Bob Grazer and Larry Johnson from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Voice of Democracy, were in attendance to present an award, check, and citation from Representative Whelan to Geoffrey Jamiel for his *What Makes America Great* essay. Geoffrey read his essay and received an Above and Beyond certificate from Mrs. Woodbury and the School Committee. Geoffrey will now move on to the district level of the Voice of Democracy competition.

Reports

DYRSD School Committee Student Representative – Tainan Nunes

The student representative was absent; no report.

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen – B. Carey, Dennis; J. Tierney, Yarmouth

Brian Carey, Dennis: No report.

Joe Tierney, Yarmouth: Mr. Tierney was absent; no report.

Assistant Superintendent Report – Ken Jenks

1. Town of Dennis Herbicide/Pesticide Management Policy on Town Owned Property

Mr. Jenks referenced the information in the packet. Sandy Cashen and Steve Faucher have been moving away from Round-Up type products. He felt that the district is ahead of this issue.

2. Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District 2019 Statement of Interest Status

Mr. Jenks referenced the letter in the packet. The M.E. Small School will not be invited into the MSBA's eligibility period at this time. The district will reapply in 2020.

3. FY21 Budget Planning

Mr. Jenks referenced the Draft FY21 Budget Calendar that had been distributed to the Committee at the meeting. The Finance/Capital Planning Subcommittee met on December 9th. He also referenced the "On the Desktop" article which was distributed to the Committee which describes the Student Opportunity Act which Governor Baker recently signed into law. He made particular mention of the special education circuit breaker changes, pointing out that it is subject to appropriation.

Mrs. Woodbury brought to the Committee's attention that under the Student Opportunity Act each district must develop an evidence-based three-year plan with certain areas that the district would be required to address.

Mr. Jenks told the Committee that a soft freeze has been instituted. Several maintenance contracts are coming up for renewal. Cape Cod Municipal Health Group did not increase the rates last year; it is unknown if or what the increase may be this fiscal year.

4. FY21 Capital Planning

Mr. Jenks referenced two handouts; the FY 2021 Capital Budget Request Form and the Town of Dennis Capital Request FY2021. He said that the new school building will require about five million dollars in reductions. He also mentioned the need for a full-fledged capital plan for the district. Mr. Dykeman is concerned that we have already invested in a capital plan 3 or 4 times in the past and instead suggested perhaps talking to the towns to see if they would support it. Phil Morris was in agreement with Jim Dykeman. Brian Carey said a better job must be done to keep people informed. A tiered plan is necessary, a capital project list with a debt exclusion override. He pointed out that the Station Avenue Elementary is the newest district building and very little has been spent on its upkeep, for instance.

Superintendent Report – Carol Woodbury

Mrs. Woodbury began her report by referencing the December 4, 2019 DESE letter regarding the Amendment to the Regional Agreement that was included in the packet.

1. Strategic Plan 2019-2023: Mrs. Woodbury referenced the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District Plan Overview 2019-2023 and the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District Action Plan 2019-2023. She spoke about the strategic plan and meeting with Ruth Whitner. She talked of the pillars of success. The strategic initiative is to create and execute a 3 year facilities plan. Each expected outcome will have its own plan. She would like to bring the plan before the Committee in January for a vote. Progress will be monitored; it is very clear what we are working on.

The superintendent summarized a recent phone conversation with the MSBA. Because of the one year delay in starting the new building there will have to be approximately five million dollars cut from the original budget. The owner's project manager will be asked to make suggestions for cuts; the list of cuts will then be brought before the Building Committee for discussion. We have not received anything in writing as of this date from the MSBA. Mr. Morris, Mr. Carey, and Mr. Dykeman all expressed their frustration at the delay and that it will be the students who suffer.

1. Good News

EHBi

Mr. Depin is out of a job, and Morning Announcements just got a whole lot more exciting at EHBi! Second and third grade students have started to make a morning news show that is watched every morning, in every classroom, in the school! Students share the menu, pledge the flag, and provide interesting facts to start the day! Each broadcast ends with a student showcase to highlight student work. This week, we see grade three students sharing their weather reports. The daily news show is spearheaded by our library team, Ms. Barton and Ms. Cohen! Follow us on Twitter to catch the latest news!

Our Holiday concert is set up for this Thursday, December 19th, at 10:00 a.m. Each grade has prepared selections to share with family and friends. The concert will end with a school dance and sleigh ride! We can't wait!

MES

Last week at MES we had an All School Meeting with Deputy Chief Steven Xiarhos as our guest of honor. We surprised him with a slide show of the many events that he had been a part of at MES during the meeting and presented him with a banner that was signed by students and staff. Deputy Chief Xiarhos presented Mr. Riley and MES with a flag pin that he has worn on his uniform for many years. The pin will be proudly displayed in our school!

Chief Frank Fredrickson also reached out to us to send some Grade 3 students over to YPD for the open house for Deputy Chief's last day of work. We did our final "Flag Friday" at the Yarmouth Police Department with Deputy Chief Xiarhos, who was happily surprised that we came over to do the Pledge of Allegiance. It was an honor to be asked to be a part of his special day.

We also had STEM night last week that was very well attended by families.

NHW

The Wixon PTO put on our first Book Fair of the year. The PTO set up the Book Fair on a Sunday afternoon and offered families a chance to participate in a Concert wear swap. Families were able to donate concert clothes that are often not worn too much. We are happy that some families took advantage of the swap. Our first Holiday concert was Thursday night as the Grade 4 Band, Chorus, & Orchestra played to a packed house at Wixon. All students did great at their first concert at Wixon! This week will be a busy week. All are invited to Alice in Wonderland Wednesday night at 6:30; the Grade 5 Winter Concert Thursday night at 7:00; and there is still time to sign up for Winter Wonderland. Join the Wixon kids and Mr. Carey in some epic fun.

SAE

Mrs. Sweeney our Librarian and Technology teacher engaged all of her classes in the Hour of Code. Station Avenue Elementary is continuing the Angel Program under the direction of Social Worker Laurie Richardson which supports our SAE families.

MMS

Thank you to Ms. Colgan's students who received this thank you note from the Department of Veterans Affairs: "Please accept my sincere thanks on behalf of our Veteran patients for the many kind and thoughtful cards that you crafted and sent to us in November for Veterans Day. The patients were very happy to receive them and are very appreciative when someone remembers and goes out of their way for them. Your cards touched them and let them know that they are not forgotten. The morale of the patient is always raised when they receive words of thanks and good wishes from young people; it acknowledges their service and commitment to keep our Nation free."

Our 7th grade concerts (both during the day and the evening) were performed last Wednesday to a full and appreciative crowd. Tomorrow, Tuesday the 17th, our 6th grade concerts at 9:30 and 7:00.

Mattacheese will be hosting the M.E. Small concert this Wednesday in the Mattacheese Auditorium.

This afternoon the students who are part of the MMS Newscasts met with staff from the Cape Cod Media Center. We hope to form a relationship that benefits both groups. As always, Mattacheese Matters is published every Friday. Please visit the Mattacheese website to stay informed on all of the latest happenings. Dates and times are included in the publication. On Wednesday, December 11th, the Lion's Club announced the winners of the 2019 Peace Poster contest. The theme for this year's contest was Journey of Peace. The Dennis-Yarmouth district won first, second, and third place. Mattacheese won second place with sixth-grader Max Ross' entry. The first place and third place winners were from the Wixon School. Congratulations to all the students that participated. This Friday, December 20th, at 1:30 in the Mattacheese Auditorium there will be an All School Assembly, Road to Success Panel Talk. As always families are welcome.

DYRHS

Named to the Boston Herald All-Scholastics for fall:

Geoffrey Jamiel, Football

Mark Pawlina, Football

Lucy Swanson, Volleyball

Named to the Boston Globe All-Scholastics for fall:

Geoffrey Jamiel, Football

Lucy Swanson, Volleyball

The Winter Concert was outstanding; our students did an incredible job. The play *The Skin of Our Teeth* was extremely well done; our students did a fantastic job.

The annual gingerbread house contest will take place this week; this has always been a huge event with all proceeds going to support Habitat for Humanity. Last year we had 25 teams compete in the contest and we expect this year's contest to be the same. Mrs. Woodbury added that the Interact club was a big help with the Rotary Christmas party.

School Committee Business

A. Consent Agenda:

On a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by James Dykeman, and carried 5-0, it was

VOTED: To approve the following items as presented in the Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of Donations

Move to accept with gratitude various donations to the D-YRHS Athletic Department in memory of Bob Stead per Dr. Funk's memorandums dated November 26, December 3, December 5, and December 6, 2019.

Move to accept with gratitude a generous gift of \$100 to defray school lunch debt from an anonymous donor.

Move to accept with gratitude a donation of tiles to the second grade students at Station Avenue Elementary School from Mr. Mark Dolata of Mid-Cape Home Center.

Minutes

Move to accept the minutes of December 2, 2019.

Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll

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

Calendars

The next school committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 2020, at Station Avenue Elementary School.

Items Distributed at the Meeting

DESE Letter re Amendment to Regional Agreement December 4, 2019
Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District Plan Overview 2019-2023
Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District Action Plan 2019-2023
On the Desktop – November 27, 2019 re Student Opportunity Act
Draft FY21 Budget Calendar December 2019
FY 2021 Capital Budget Request Form Town of Dennis
Capital Request FY2021

Public Comment Period

Tracy Post, Yarmouth Board of Selectmen, said that an updated capital expense plan would be very helpful in order for the selectmen to be informed. Vida Morris asked about the SOI; the superintendent explained that the governing body is the School Committee.

Executive Session

At 7:55 p.m., on a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by James Dykeman and carried 5-0 by roll call vote, it was

VOTED: To enter into Executive Session, not to return to Public Session, to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto (School Safety).

Brian Carey	yes
James Dykeman	yes
Jeni Landers	yes
Phillip Morris	yes
Brian Sullivan	yes

Minutes recorded and prepared by,



Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary