

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, December 4, 2023

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, December 4, 2023, at the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate/Middle School in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

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

Members Not Present: Joseph Tierney.

Others Present: Dr. Marc Smith, Superintendent of Schools; David Flynn, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Maria Lopes, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Instruction; Betsy Pontius, Director of STEM Instruction; Sherry Santini, Director of Humanities and the Arts; Kendra Bennett, Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School; Michael Bovino, Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Middle School; Tim Blake, Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate School; Carol Mahedy, Principal, Marguerite E. Small Elementary School; Peter Crowell, Principal, Station Avenue Elementary School; Kevin Depin, Principal, Ezra H. Baker Innovation School; Ken Girouard, Assistant Principal, Station Avenue Elementary School; Kelly Bohl, Assistant Principal, Station Avenue Elementary School; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee.

At 6:00 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Executive Session

On a motion by Tomas Tolentino, seconded by Phillip Morris, and carried unanimously 6-0 by roll call vote, it was

VOTED: The Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee will enter into Executive Session, to return to Public Session, for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. (DYEA Level IV Grievance)

Joe Glynn	yes
Phillip Morris	yes
Tomas Tolentino	yes
Jennifer Rose	yes
Marilyn Bemis	yes
Jeni Landers	yes

At 7:00 p.m., the Chair reopened the Public Session.

Reports and Discussions

Student Representatives Report – Rose-Anna Joachim and Isabella Power

Rose-Anna reported on the pep rally, winter sports, Indigenous Day, the National Honor Society Induction, and the Esports playoffs.

MCAS Presentations:

Superintendent Smith gave a brief overview of the format for the presentations. This evening the three elementary schools as well as the intermediate school will present. At the December 18th meeting the middle and high schools will present. He said that the MCAS tests are summative, not formative. We get data in the fall for the previous year's students. It is one year in isolation, but there are ways to look for trends and patterns. We are looking over 5 years of data that spans over 6 years. Because of Covid there was no test in 2020. The 2021 MCAS test had common items only. We are going to see differences. This is a reflection of the school district; not a reflection of the students. It is important to know how we are serving all students. Dr. Smith added that everyone has been working very hard and perhaps we need new strategies.

Peter Crowell, Principal, Station Avenue Elementary School

Mr. Crowell presented on behalf of Station Avenue Elementary School. The presentation was also included in the packet. He said that the NWEA test was a clear predictor of what the MCAS results would be. He also went through results of several groups such students on IEPs/504s, Low Income, English Learners. He ended the presentation with action steps such as identifying students who are projected to score Partially Meeting Expectations on MCAS and work to get them skill-specific literacy instruction; allocation/reallocation of teachers; classroom walkthroughs.

Kevin Depin, Principal, Ezra H. Baker Innovation School

Mr. Depin presented on behalf of the Ezra H. Baker Innovation School. He referenced the information included in the packet. The instructional focus will be to align classroom instruction in each grade level; implement learning walks; focus on writing in ELA; Implement the Eureka-2 math curriculum which is improved and streamlined; provide instruction with native speaking peers as much as possible; and embark on professional development in the area of co-teaching.

Carol Mahedy, Principal, Marguerite E. Small Elementary School

Ms. Mahedy presented on behalf of the Marguerite E. Small Elementary School. She reviewed all of the information that was in the packet. She feels that with the middle of the year coming, they will be able to use the tests to improve on the prediction. The instructional focus will be to devote time, resources, and professional learning to literacy and math curriculum implementation; coaching, learning walks, and explicit feedback; deliver equitable learning opportunities for all students; and delve into data to discover whom it represents and deliver what they need.

Timothy Blake, Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate School

Mr. Blake presented on behalf of the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate School. He referenced the information included in the packet. He is concerned about gaps in achievement. In math, the instructional focus will be on providing staff with a goal focused on the most problematic standard which is fractions. The goal in ELA will focus on writing. Other instructional focus will be on inclusive practices; increased EL staffing; and learning walks.

Dr. Smith concluded this evening's MCAS presentations by saying that the Leadership Team has been having ongoing conversations about MCAS; that it levels the playing field.

Amendment of Lease Agreement Between the Town of Dennis and the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District

Superintendent Marc J. Smith

Dr. Smith referenced the Lease Agreement that was included in the packet. The Agreement captures the pumping station, solar panels, and CVEC agreement in one document. If the Committee votes to approve, the Dennis Select Board will vote at their meeting tomorrow night.

Phillip Morris moved to accept the Amendment of Lease Agreement between the Town of Dennis and the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District; Jennifer Rose seconded, and discussion followed. Dr. Smith said that the amendment has been reviewed by legal counsel. Mr. Flynn said that the only school district items remaining at the Wixon School at this time were some old records which are to be shredded by the end of the week. He also said that the remaining furniture items were all donated to the International Re-use Network. Those items were shipped to schools in Dakar, Senegal in Africa.

Upon seeing no further discussion, Chair Landers called for a vote. The motion passes 6-0.

Subcommittee, Representatives, Liaison Report

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen

Yarmouth: No report.

Dennis: No report.

Policy Review Subcommittee

Superintendent Smith recommended that the Committee take action on several policies at this, the third reading. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Phillip Morris, seconded by Tomas Tolentino, and carried unanimously 6-0 it was

VOTED: To approve Policy EFE – Civil Rights Complaint Policy for Child Nutrition Programs, as presented.

On a motion by Jennifer Rose, seconded by Marilyn Bemis, and carried unanimously 6-0 it was

VOTED: To approve Policy IGA/IGD – Curriculum Development and Adoption, as presented.

On a motion by Jennifer Rose, seconded by Marilyn Bemis, and carried unanimously 6-0 it was

VOTED: To remove Policy IL – Evaluation of Instructional Programs.

The Committee took no action on Policy IMA – Teaching Activities/Presentations.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Marc J. Smith

Acknowledgments: This was already discussed in the Student Representative Report.

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony: This was already discussed in the Student Representative Report.

Entry Plan Update: Dr. Smith updated the Committee on his Entry Plan. He will be meeting with the Marguerite E. Small Elementary School staff on December 6th as part of his continuing focus group meetings. He will be hosting a Zoom meeting for parents on December 13th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. There will be another opportunity for parents on January 16th. Superintendent Smith has chosen different dates and times in order to accommodate parents' schedules. He had previously met with ELPAC for a listening session.

Consent Agenda

On a motion by Phillip Morris, seconded by Tomas Tolentino, and carried unanimously 6-0 it was

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

Minutes:

November 6, 2023

November 20, 2023

Bills and Requisitions

The warrants were signed by the committee.

Calendars

The upcoming calendars were reviewed. Chair Landers reminded the Committee of the MASC workshop coming up on January 8th.

Items Distributed at Meeting

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony Program

Proposed Ezra Baker Pumping Station Location

Public Comment


None. Mr. Glynn announced that Dennis-Yarmouth alum Kyle Pina has made the Forbes Magazine 30 under 30.

Adjournment

At 8:40 p.m., on a motion by Tomas Tolentino, seconded by Jennifer Rose, and carried unanimously 6-0; it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,


Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary