

**DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of a School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, December 7, 2020**

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, December 7, 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: 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; Mike Bovino, Principal, Mattacheese Middle School; Will Rubinstein; Vida Morris.

At 6:50 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

**Reports**

DYRSD School Committee Student Representative – Tainan Nunes: Tainan reported on the happenings at the high school. The senior class recently held a fund raiser, Pie it Forward; which raised over \$800.00. Winter sports have started. Principal Paul Funk has established the Principal's Leadership Council; students who wish to join should contact Dr. Funk. The math team is very strong this year. The school has an ESports team; they play sports and video games and play teams from all over the state. People can watch on Twitch. Next week is ugly sweater week.

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen:

Brian Carey, Dennis: Mr. Carey reported that Jennifer Rose of Dennis will be taking over his seat on the school committee. He said that this will most likely be his last meeting. He thanked the members of the committee; the superintendent and assistant superintendent. He also acknowledged Representative Tim Whelan for all of his help with the MSBA and the new intermediate/middle school. He ended by thanking his wife Christina and their sons for their support during his ten-year tenure on the School Committee.

Joseph Tierney, Yarmouth: Mr. Tierney reported that Brian Sullivan has stepped down from the school committee and that nominations will be taken for a replacement until the end of the year. The selectmen will choose the replacement. Tracy Post has offered to step in. Mr. Tierney also mentioned an upcoming public forum regarding the wastewater project.

Building Committee Report – Joseph Tierney: Mr. Tierney reported that the bid process continues.

On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by James Dykeman, and carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote, it was

VOTED: To appoint Mr. Gary Barber to the school building committee.

Assistant Superintendent Report – Kenneth Jenks: Mr. Jenks gave a brief overall update. The budget is being finalized. This has been a year requiring patience. Cleaning, sanitizing, and maintenance are ongoing. Bus windows and classroom windows will need to be open during the cold weather; students and staff should dress accordingly.

Superintendent Report – Carol Woodbury: Mrs. Woodbury gave the committee an update on COVID-19. We have been very fortunate to be able to keep schools open. Three new classrooms opened as of today at the M.E. Small Elementary School for students returning to in-person learning. The return of remote students has not gone as quickly as we would like because of the 6-foot distancing. There has been no school-based spread. The superintendent gave a shout-out to District Nurse Leader Kristin Dwyer. Kristin is involved in the handling of every suspected COVID case. When there has been a confirmed case families have been very cooperative and understanding about the need to quarantine and go remote. The superintendent repeated the need for bus and classroom windows to be open to let air circulate. She also reminded everyone to remain vigilant about wearing masks, washing hands, and socially distancing.

At this time Chair Landers thanked Mr. Carey for his service to the district. Mr. Brian Sullivan has resigned from the Committee effective December 4, 2020; she thanked him for his service to the district.

### **School Committee Business**

#### Committee's Response to Public Comments from November 16, 2020 Meeting:

Phillip Morris: Mr. Morris reiterated that communication, responding to issues and reassurance are all very important.

Joseph Tierney: Mr. Tierney expressed concern that Mr. Glynn was not in attendance at the meeting. He said that elected officials should uphold what is asked of them. He suggested that Mr. Glynn step down from his position.

Tainan Nunes: Tainan said that prejudice, racism, and the targeting of a particular group are unacceptable. He said that he is not about cancel culture but that people should be held accountable for the words they say.

Brian Carey: Mr. Carey said he wished Mr. Glynn were present at the meeting. He said that the committee is not the enemy.

Jeni Landers: Chair Landers said that Mr. Glynn's posts reflect badly on the school committee even if they are his own personal posts. She said that it is unfortunate that he has not attended the last two meetings.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

**Donations**

Move to accept with gratitude 24 gift cards valued at \$25.00 each for a total of \$600.00 to families in need at Mattacheese Middle School from "Create the Good" courtesy of Katie Mullen and Stephanie Flynn.

Move to accept with gratitude a \$1000.00 grant from the Andrews Family Fund of West Dennis to be used for STEM activities at Mattacheese Middle School.

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**Calendars**

The upcoming calendars were included in the packet.

**Bills and Requisitions**

Bills and requisitions were signed by the Committee.

**Public Comment**


Vida Morris complimented the committee and administration on the opening of schools. Sunny Feldman (via Zoom) said she would have liked the opportunity to talk directly to Joe Glynn. Muska Yousuf (via Zoom) said she is very disappointed and that the students of Dennis-Yarmouth are watching.

**Adjourn**

At 7:58 p.m., on a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by Joseph Tierney, and carried 5-0 it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,

  
Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary