

APPROVED
3-13-24

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2024

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, February 12, 2024, 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; Student Representative Rose-Anna Joachim; Student Representative Isabella Power.

Members not Present: Phillip Morris; Joe Glynn.

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; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Betsy Pontius, Director of STEM; Michelle Dunn, Susan Williams, DYEA; Vida Morris.

At 6:34 p.m., Chair Jeni Landers called the meeting to order.

Reports

Student Representatives Report – Rose-Anna Joachim and Isabella Power

Rose-Anna reported on events at the high school including the 100th day of school; Valentine cards made by the World Languages clubs; the upcoming Black History Month celebration; and February vacation. Isabella spoke of the winter sports senior night; the Washington DC trip; and the upcoming Spring musical, *The Little Mermaid*.

FY25 Budget Update

Superintendent Marc Smith

Assistant Superintendent David Flynn

Dr. Smith referenced the FY25 Budget Presentation which was distributed at the meeting.

Discussion followed regarding upcoming school committee meeting dates; the March 4th meeting remains on the schedule but there may be a need for an additional meeting; perhaps on March 6th. A brief discussion followed. Superintendent Smith then began the presentation outlining the overall goal; factors influencing the budget; and the initial budget proposal. Mr. Flynn continued the presentation including the Chapter 70 State Aid; cherry sheet revenue and charges; net state aid; and budget increases. Dr. Smith then reviewed the steps taken so far including class size normalization; programs not offering results; other “offsets;” level funding for non-contractual obligations; and including State Aid and Assessment information not previously available. He then reviewed the additions/reductions as well as a program review. Significant funds have been expended on Tier 2 and Tier 3 instruction; this has not proven effective. We are currently paying an outside service for speech and language pathology. Dr. Smith said that Paraeducators were added both in the libraries and nurses offices in order to comply with COVID spacing requirements, etc. The current reality is that these positions are no longer necessary. Dr. Smith added that the SRO position for the 4th and 5th grades is the only one on the Cape.

Mr. Flynn then continued the presentation; the result of steps taken; the town assessment methodology; municipal growth factor; required spending calculation; property wealth and income; and local assessments. He then reviewed per pupil expenditures across the Cape; staffing levels; per pupil spending. Mr. Flynn then discussed using Excess & Deficiency to help offset the gap. He said it is similar to free cash in a town budget. The Department of Revenue allows and encourages up to 5% of our annual budget to be reserved in E & D; we have a high bond rating that is directly tied to a healthy balance. He described how using E & D creates a structural and ongoing deficit if used to offset operating expenses.

The budget presentation was followed by questions and comments from the Committee.

Mr. Tierney would like 2 SROs to remain at the high school. Superintendent Smith said that the second SRO was added to the DYIMS facility just this year after a conversation he had with Chief Lennon; and to keep one full time officer would be the equivalent of cutting two teachers; if an officer is eliminated that officer would still have a job within the police department.

Chair Landers asked for clarification on the Property and Wealth slide showing a community's ability to pay.

Subcommittee, Representatives, Liaison Report

School Building Committee Report – Joseph Tierney

No report.

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen

Yarmouth: No report.

Dennis: No report.

Superintendent's Evaluation

Superintendent Marc Smith

Mid-Cycle Progress Update

Dr. Smith gave a mid-cycle update on his progress on his approved 2023-2024 goals; the presentation is included in the packet.

Goal 1, Professional Practice Goal, New Superintendent Induction Program: Dr. Smith participates in monthly NSIP sessions which support entry planning work as well as overall leadership skills. The superintendent also meets individually with his coach either in-person or virtually. He shared links to recent agendas and samples of public communications.

Goal 2, Math Curriculum Implementation: Dr. Smith works with the Director of STEM to organize and implement learning walks; he has participated in each walk (9 or 10 thus far); and established expectations for the leadership team's participation in the walks. Dr. Smith also shared the meeting structure he has established including the D-Y Instructional Leadership Team which is comprised of principals and central office leaders responsible for supporting instruction; including the implementation of the math curriculum.

Goal 3, Effective Entry and Direction Setting: Dr. Smith has met with a variety of stakeholders including faculty groups, families, leaders, School Committee members, and community

members. He shared that he held family sessions over Zoom so that transportation and childcare would not be barriers to participation. Translation services were also provided for family sessions. He also shared links to the staff focus group questions; a school choice letter and survey; and links to the school committee MCAS presentation and all budget presentations. He will be sharing his entry findings with the Committee within the next 4-6 weeks.

Goal 4, District and School Safety Planning: Dr. Smith has established a joint school safety team with the help of the Chiefs of Police and Fire of both Dennis and Yarmouth. The Safety Team meets monthly. A need for an incident command structure, as well as training for key personnel, are two areas of action for the team. He also shared some recent meeting agendas.

Superintendent's Report

Recognition of Donations and Acknowledgments

Revised School Year Calendar 2023-2024

Dr. Smith referenced the letter and draft 2023-2024 calendar which was included in the packet; the correct last day of school is June 26, 2024 with 5 snow days.

On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Jennifer Rose, and carried unanimously 5-0, it was

VOTED: To approve a revised School Year Calendar 2023-2024 as per Dr. Smith's February 12, 2024 memo which was included in the packet.

Dr. Smith thanked the Yarmouth Rotary Club for their donation of personal care items to Dennis-Yarmouth High School.

School Committee Business

Consent Agenda

On a motion by Tomas Tolentino, seconded by Joseph Tierney, and carried unanimously 5-0 it was

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

Donations:

Move to accept a donation of personal care items to Dennis-Yarmouth High School from the Yarmouth Rotary Club as per Mrs. Bennett's February 5, 2024 memo.

Bills, Requisitions and Payroll

The warrants were signed by the Committee.

Calendars

The upcoming calendars were reviewed.

Items Distributed at Meeting

FY 2025 Budget Presentation

Public Comment

Susan Williams asked that the Committee reconsider cutting the medical assistants; she says they are essential to the operation of the nurses' office.

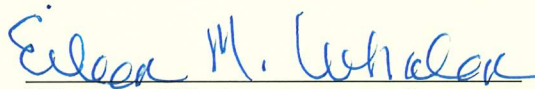
Vida Morris said that the Excess and Deficiency Fund belongs to the taxpayers. She asked about the capitalization fund that was established two years ago. She says it is the responsibility of the committee to fix the budget situation that has been created.

Adjournment

At 8:20 p.m., on a motion by Tomas Tolentino, seconded by Joseph Tierney, and carried unanimously 5-0; it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,



Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary