

APPROVED

2-28-22

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 16, 2022

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson; Phillip Morris, Treasurer; Jennifer Rose, Secretary; Tomas Tolentino; Marilyn Bemis; Joe Glynn.

Members Not Present: Grace LePain, Student Representative to the School Committee.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Maria Lopes, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Instruction; Betsy Pontius, Director of STEM; Sherry Santini, Director of Humanities and the Arts; Rooney Powers, Director of Food Service; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Paul Funk, Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School; Michael Bovino, Principal, Mattacheese Middle School; Tim Blake, Principal, Nathaniel Wixon School; Carol Mahedy, Principal, M.E. Small Elementary School; Kevin Depin, Principal, Ezra H. Baker Innovation School; Michelle Dunn, Ray Castano, Emily Gould, D-YEA; Vida Morris; several members of the public.

At 6:32 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Superintendent/Nurse Leader
Review of Revised DESE Guidance
Superintendent Carol Woodbury
Nurse Leader Kristin Dwyer
Dr. Kenneth Colmer

The superintendent gave a brief overview of the Governor's press release regarding ending the mask mandate as of February 28, 2022. She added that she and Kristin Dwyer also participated in a Zoom call with the Commissioner who recommends less masking vs. no masking. For instance, masks will still be required on school buses and in school health offices. She referenced the Covid-19 data sheets that were distributed prior to the meeting. Kristin Dwyer spoke of the declining cases; symptomatic testing; at home test kits; as well as the availability of vaccines and boosters. Mrs. Woodbury said that a layered approach is best including hand washing and staying home when sick. Dr. Colmer is in agreement with the data.

Public Comment

Michelle Dunn said she had surveyed the D-YEA. Of the 55% who responded, 67% were in agreement with the recommendation to end masking on February 28. There were twelve speakers during public comment, eleven of whom were in favor of ending masking on February 28.

School Committee Business
School Committee Discussion & Vote – Masks

Chair Landers asked the Committee for their comments. Joe Glynn agrees with the DESE guidance on ending masking on February 28. He commended the teachers on their hard work. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and also for the emails received. Phil Morris also thanked those attending. Tomas Tolentino thanked those attending as well as those who sent emails prior to the meeting. Marilyn Bemis thanked all who came out to the meeting. Jennifer Rose noted that she has 2 students at the high school and will respect whatever decision is made. Joe Tierney thanked all who came to the meeting as well as those who sent emails. He asked about the MIAA; they will be ending masking on February 28 as well. All students including special needs students will no longer be required to wear masks as of February 28. Superintendent Woodbury said that the district has followed DESE guidelines throughout the pandemic. She said if the committee votes to follow the DESE guidance the need to show respect to those who choose to continue to wear masks is very important. Mr. Tierney added that there are vaccination clinics coming up on both March 10th and March 17th. The district has been very consistent; he does not see any reason to delay. Chair Landers thanked everyone for their emails and for coming to the meeting. She said that this Committee voted to have masks prior to the state mandate. It is not an easy decision. She is concerned about the possible spike in cases after February vacation similar to what happened after the December break. Discussion followed regarding the wording of a possible motion; Superintendent Woodbury suggested that the recommendation would be to follow DESE guidelines.

Phil Morris moved that the Committee follow DESE guidelines regarding masking; Joseph Tierney seconded; and discussion followed.

Mr. Tierney said that he supports the recommendation and that people who choose to wear masks will be able to do so. Tomas Tolentino supports the recommendation; people have to do their part by keeping their students home from school when sick. Marilyn Bemis is in support of the recommendation.

Jeni Landers moved to amend the original motion by specifying March 14th as the date to put the guidelines into effect, Marilyn Bemis seconded and discussion continued.

Joe Glynn said that the proposed amendment changes the spirit of the original motion. Discussion about the amendment to the motion continued. The superintendent said that they can monitor numbers after vacation; if a temporary mask mandate is called for then she would be willing to do that. Kristin Dwyer agreed; between symptomatic testing and the at-home test kits she feels they can monitor any possible spike in cases. Based on this information; Jeni Landers withdrew her amendment. Phil Morris withdrew his motion in its entirety.

On a motion by Tomas Tolentino, seconded by Joe Glynn, and carried unanimously 7-0 by roll call vote, it was

VOTED: That the Committee follow DESE guidelines regarding masking.

Joe Glynn	yes
Phil Morris	yes
Tomas Tolentino	yes

Marilyn Bemis	yes
Jennifer Rose	yes
Joseph Tierney	yes
Jeni Landers	yes

Items Distributed at Meeting

Additional Emails re: Masks

DPH Advisory Updated February 14, 2022

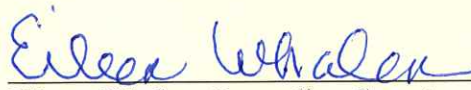
Covid-19 Data as of February 16, 2022

Adjournment

At 8:11 p.m., on a motion by Tomas Tolentino, seconded by Jennifer Rose, and carried unanimously 7-0; it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,



Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary