

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, February 22, 2021

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, February 8, 2021, via remote technology in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, Section 20.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson; James Dykeman, Jr.; Secretary; Phillip Morris, Treasurer; Joe Glynn; Jennifer Rose; Zane Fitzgerald.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Kenneth Jenks, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative and Business Services; Tainan Nunes, Student Representative to the School Committee; Grace LePain, Student Representative to the School Committee; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Carole Eichner, Director of Early Learning; Tracy Post, Yarmouth Select Board; Vida Morris.

At 6:33 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call Attendance:

Jennifer Rose	yes	Joseph Tierney	yes
James Dykeman, Jr.	yes	Joe Glynn	yes
Zane Fitzgerald	yes	Jeni Landers	yes
Phillip Morris	yes		

Reports

DYRSD School Committee Student Representatives – Tainan Nunes; Grace LePain

Grace LePain reported on the happenings at the high school. The Math Team will hold their final meet this week. Grace wished to acknowledge Math Team Coach Ben Thompson who distributed goodie bags to the team members, both in-person and remote. This made the last meet very special and the students were most appreciative. Volleyball and football are both starting. Tainan Nunes reported that the Ambassadors are planning a virtual step-up day for the 7th graders. Part of the planning included distributing a questionnaire to those students. The ambassadors will answer their questions as part of a video montage.

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen

Dennis: No report

Yarmouth: Joe Glynn reported that the feasibility study was again discussed.

Building Committee Report – Joseph Tierney

There have been no new meetings; nothing additional to report.

Assistant Superintendent Report – Kenneth Jenks

A. Bond Anticipation Notes-Middle School Project

Mr. Jenks introduced Lynne Welsh of UniBank. Ms. Welsh said that there is great news on the bids.

On a motion by Phil Morris, seconded by James Dykeman, and carried 7-0 by roll call vote, it was

VOTED to approve the sale of \$38,562,540 2.00 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes (the "Notes") of the District dated March 1, 2021, and payable October 6, 2021, to Morgan Stanley & Co., LLC at par and accrued interest, if any, plus a premium of \$440,769.83.

Zane Fitzgerald	yes	Jennifer Rose	yes
James Dykeman	yes	Joe Glynn	yes
Joseph Tierney	yes	Jeni Landers	yes
Phil Morris	yes		

Discussion followed regarding the excellent 0.86 percent interest rate and that timing is everything. Ms. Welsh believes that the market will hold up.

On a motion by Phil Morris, seconded by James Dykeman, and carried 7-0 by roll call vote, it was

VOTED: To approve all the ancillary motions as written in the agenda and below.

Further that we hereby determine, in accordance with G.L. c. 70B, that the amount of the cost of the construction of the middle school project authorized by a vote of the District adopted on October 18, 2018 and approved at a district-wide election held on December 4, 2018 not being paid by the school facilities grant is \$71,660,087 and we hereby approve of the issuance of notes and bonds in such amount under said G.L. c. 70B.

Further that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Notes, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated February 9, 2021, and a final Official Statement dated February 16, 2021, each in such form as may be approved by the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer, as the case may be, are hereby ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further that the District Treasurer and the Chair of the Committee be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a significant events disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the District, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Notes for the benefit of the holders of the Notes from time to time.

Further that we authorize and direct the District Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures and significant events disclosure procedures in such forms as the District Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Notes and to comply with relevant securities laws.

Further that any certificates or documents relating to the Notes (collectively, the “Documents”), may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be regarded as an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same document; delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page to a Document by electronic mail in a “.pdf” file or by other electronic transmission shall be as effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart signature page to such Document; and electronic signatures on any of the Documents shall be deemed original signatures for the purposes of the Documents and all matters relating thereto, having the same legal effect as original signatures.

Further that each member of the Committee, the District Secretary and the District Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

Zane Fitzgerald	yes	Jennifer Rose	yes
James Dykeman	yes	Joe Glynn	yes
Joseph Tierney	yes	Jeni Landers	yes
Phil Morris	yes		

B. FY22 Budget Update

Mr. Jenks presented an update on the FY22 budget. The final adoption date is March 8; the amount can be decreased right up until town meeting. Once voted at the March 8 meeting it cannot be increased. He reviewed the PowerPoint slides including the Regional Agreement, Per Pupil Costs, Cherry Sheet, and Staffing Variables. He said that the tentative budget was adopted 2-8-22. He then discussed the ESSER grants; OPEB; DESE codes; and next steps. He anticipates that the next Finance Subcommittee meeting will be a working session. He is not looking for a formal vote at this meeting. A question and answer session followed which touched on choice revenue, staff variables, and 6 foot vs. 3 foot distancing. Communication with the towns was also discussed; Mr. Jenks shared that both towns have been very gracious with their time. Mr. Morris said the committee has a role to communicate with town meeting. Mr. Tierney asked if the school district can be placed last on the agenda. Mr. Dykeman said that there has always been communication with the towns. Chair Landers allowed Tracy Post, Yarmouth Select Board member, to speak briefly about the budget process. She said receipts are down due to the pandemic. Chair Landers said that there would be no vote taken tonight.

Superintendent Report – Carol Woodbury

Good News: The superintendent shared some good news from all the schools in the district:

Mattacheese Middle School

Mattacheese Middle School would like to thank Odile's Art Supplies in Harwich for donating 4 art supply kits to 4 deserving artists here at MMS. Mattacheese is happy to say that we currently have approximately 80% of our student population back in-person. Mattacheese is able to offer 16 different after school activities to our students both in-person and remotely.

Ezra H. Baker Innovation School

Here is the latest from EHBI...

We will certainly be busy this month! In March, we join schools around the country in celebrating Read Across America. Our celebration will be different this year but still fun.

- Mrs. Barton, our School Librarian, is organizing a literary version of "March Madness" in which students will be introduced to several new books in our school library and vote for their favorites. She has even created a book "bracket" which will help us find the ultimate winner!

(Don't worry, as much as we love math, there will be no wagering involved!)

- Each March we visit each of our town's five libraries for an after-hours story time. That isn't possible this year, but we will schedule five Zoom Family Reading Nights, themed around five famous locations in Dennis. Stay tuned to see which locations we pick!

- Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for March 9 and 11. On these days, school will be dismissed at 12:10. All conferences will be held via Zoom. Please watch for appointments from your classroom teacher.

M.E. Small Elementary School

The students at M.E. Small sent beautiful Valentines to the seniors at Maplewood; they were very touched to be remembered and celebrated by our students and in return sent a basket of kindness rocks which are on display in the M.E. Small main office.

Nathaniel Wixon School

Wixon kicked off its first after school activities session at the beginning of February. We have 4 different remote activities students can join. Beginning April 1, we hope to provide outdoor, in person opportunities for all students. Wixon just finished its PTO fun run program. We thank families who were able to donate. Even though we don't have field trips this year, we have used funds to support Wixon families through CapeKids meals and have supported many teachers with some supplies we did not know we needed to kick off the year.

Station Avenue Elementary

The students at Station Avenue Elementary sent handmade Valentine's Day cards to the brave nurses at Cape Cod Hospital. They call these cards "Heart for Heroes." This is a tradition that SAE has been celebrating for many years. With so many heroes to choose from, they chose to honor our local nurses who have been keeping our community safe during this historic time.

Dennis Yarmouth Regional High School

The Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA) has named Jennifer Edwards, Library Media Teacher at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School as the recipient of the Judi Paradis Action Grant.

The grant of \$500 honors the memory of the late, beloved Waltham Public Schools library teacher and colleague. Judi Paradis was a key leader in the school library community and the Massachusetts School Library Association. As a champion of social justice, diversity, multiculturalism, and advocacy, her dedication, leadership, creativity, and enthusiasm inspired many school librarians.

Ms. Edwards has been the library media teacher at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School since 2013 which serves students in grades 8 to 12. The Dennis-Yarmouth Library hosted several district-wide literacy events over several years that brought students of all ages together to celebrate the stories that have inspired them. A strong collaboration between the district librarians made these events possible. The connections made with students in the library increased student voice and drove the direction of the programming.

This year, Ms. Edwards had to think differently and consider how to make connections to students working remotely including some who were new to the high school and had never been to the school library. The Judi Paradis Action Grant will help with this. The school library is planning to collaborate with the teachers in the Art and English Departments to create a visual art and creative writing project. The spacious library will allow students to safely distance while working with their learning peers on a large scale canvas—a community mural painted on the wall. The English Department is planning to celebrate National Poetry Month in April and create a poetry writing lesson as a part of the curriculum. The poems are a part of the national “I am From” Project. The poems will allow students to use their voice to tell their story. The purpose of the poetry project is to celebrate the diversity of the school community, to inspire creativity and unite students during a time of social isolation. The mural and poetry project will be a permanent feature in the school library.

Ms. Edwards will be honored at the MSLA annual conference to be held on March 21st and 22nd. The Massachusetts School Library Association works to ensure every school has a school library program that is fully integrated at all grade levels across the curriculum and has a significant and measurable impact on student achievement. For more information, consult the MSLA website, maschoollibraries.org.

The superintendent said that she has spoken with Ms. Edwards; she is very excited about the mural project and shared that remote students will also be participating.

School Committee Business

Consent Agenda: On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by James Dykeman, and carried 7-0 by roll call vote it was voted to approve the following items included in the consent agenda:

Donations

Move to accept a \$4500 grant from the Nicholas G. Xiarhos Memorial Foundation Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation which will fund the US Marine Nicholas G. Xiarhos Scholarship; the US Marine Will Donovan Scholarship; and the Warrior Scholarship.

Minutes

February 8, 2021

Joseph Tierney	yes
Zane Fitzgerald	yes
Joe Glynn	yes

James Dykeman, Jr.	yes
Phillip Morris	yes
Jennifer Rose	yes

Jeni Landers yes

Calendars

The upcoming calendars were included in the packet.

Bills and Requisitions

Bills and requisitions are to be signed at the District offices by the Committee.

Items Distributed Electronically Prior to the Meeting

FY22 Budget Update

Budget by Function Sheets

Public Comment

Vida Morris had some questions about the budget; Mr. Jenks will contact her.

Executive Session

At 7:52 p.m., on a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by James Dykeman, and carried 7-0 by roll call vote it was

VOTED: The Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee will enter into Executive Session, not 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 (SEIU, DYRSAA)

Joseph Tierney yes
Zane Fitzgerald yes
Joe Glynn yes
James Dykeman, Jr. yes

Phillip Morris yes
Jennifer Rose yes
Jeni Landers yes

Minutes recorded and prepared by,



Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary