

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, February 8, 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; Heidi Ames; Eileen LePain; Michelle Dunn, DYEA; Vida Morris.

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

Roll Call Attendance:

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

At 6:35 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, opened the public hearing.

Public Hearing:

A. Presentation of FY22 Budget

Kenneth Jenks, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative and Business Services; Carol Woodbury, Superintendent

Mr. Jenks began the presentation; stating that the School Committee voted a tentative budget at the January 25, 2021 meeting. Superintendent Woodbury then reviewed the District's enrollment data and selected populations including diversity, equity and inclusion. High needs students make up 60% of the district population and many of them have learning gaps that need to be addressed. The superintendent referenced the College Plans slide; many of the District's students choose 2-year public college; they continue to live at home while earning a degree. 82% of Dennis-Yarmouth students choose to continue some kind of schooling after graduation; 28% of Dennis-Yarmouth students enroll in Advanced Placement classes while in high school. Mr. Jenks then continued with the FY22 Budget Timeline Key Dates. He told the Committee that the final budget can be refined/changed right up until town meeting. He referenced the Foundation Enrollment slide; noting that Yarmouth is responsible for approximately 2/3 and Dennis is responsible for approximately

1/3. The state just released foundation numbers. There is a large increase in homeschooling this year due to the pandemic. The superintendent said that we wait for the minimum required contribution; our 2 towns always contribute more than the minimum.

Mr. Jenks then referenced the Covid-19 Update slide; noting that 80% of our K-7 students are participating in onsite learning. Increased costs were for Personalized Protective Equipment; extra cleaning and disinfecting; iPads for all students; and additional staff to comply with the 6-foot distancing protocols the District has been following. Will the next school year be 3-foot or 6-foot distancing? He then reviewed the FY22 Revenue Updated Revenue. He then reviewed the staffing variables; will there be one teacher with 20 students or two teachers with 10 students each? We are waiting for CDC and state guidance. The 4.26% increase is baseline if the district chooses to use 6-foot distancing. There could be potential adjustments of about \$300,000 if 3-foot distancing is approved and implemented. He noted that there is a minimal increase in health plans.

Chair Landers thanked Superintendent Woodbury and Assistant Superintendent Jenks for the presentation and opened the meeting to Public Comment. She said that if there were questions which could be easily answered in this forum that she would allow it; any complicated questions would have to be followed up on. She said that each speaker would be limited to 3 minutes.

B. Public Comment

Heidi Ames, 4th grade teacher at Wixon, expressed concern that special needs teachers at Wixon are being utilized as classroom teachers. Vida Morris questioned the decline in enrollment of 198 students. Mr. Jenks said that usually there are about 30 homeschooled students; this year there are close to 100. He feels that many of these students will return after the pandemic. Ms. Morris also commented on the utilities section of the budget and wondered if that could be separated out to better reflect the savings realized by the solar arrays. Mr. Jenks said that he would be able to get that information. Marjorie Burke Hayes, a district employee, said that speaking as a parent she has great concerns about the effect the pandemic is having on children. She would like to see a timeline so that parents can plan for next year. Chair Landers said that this discussion is for another time; that right now the public comment concerns the budget. Superintendent Woodbury said that over 80% of our K-7 students are learning in person; the high school has 66% of students in person on any given day. She recommended the parent contact the high school principal. She said that decisions regarding next year will be guided by the governor and the DESE. Michelle Dunn, DYEA, seconded the comments made by Heidi Ames. She also asked that a social worker be reinstated at the high school. Eileen LePain, district teacher, shared that she is very grateful to be in the classroom in-person with her students.

C. School Committee Comment

Mr. Tierney said that the high school is hybrid due to the 6-foot distancing requirements. The goal is to get as many students back to in-person as possible. He also feels that the decline in enrollment is temporary and that many of those students will return to the District.

Tainan Nunes wants to see money allocated toward the mental health of students. He said that they are doing the best they can in difficult circumstances. He agrees that a social worker is needed at the high school.

Mr. Glynn asked about the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) money as well as the Excess and Deficiency. He also mentioned the Cape Cod Municipal Health Care increase/reduction.

The superintendent said that the SOA is similar to a grant and that it does include funds for mental health services. The assistant superintendent said that they had expected a 5% increase for insurance and it ended up being around 2%.

Grace LePain shared her agreement with Tainan; students are struggling with mental health issues.

Chair Landers spoke about decreased enrollment and contractual obligations. She is also concerned about student mental health. Mr. Morris concurred. Mr. Jenks said we will know in a couple of weeks about ESSER money.

Superintendent Woodbury added that one thing to remember is the reason the Student Opportunity Act was put in place is because the state realized that the foundation budget was inadequate. It is a 7-year roll-in. A plan for the funds includes monies for mental health issues. The legislature wants to make sure that districts are taking this seriously.

Mr. Tierney said he hopes for a timeline to be shared at the February 22nd meeting. A 4.26% increase is a big hit.

D. Close the Hearing

At 7:55 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, closed the public hearing.

Reports

DYRSD School Committee Student Representative – Tainan Nunes

Tainan introduced Grace LePain, the new student representative to the School Committee. Grace is very interested in student advocacy. Students are now in the third term of the school year. Everyone continues to be Covid safe and Yarmouth has recently moved from Red to Yellow. Tainan shared an email from fellow student Jacob Joy: There will be a mural installed at the high school library comprised of 200 boxes, each containing a Zoom avatar, which will represent student diversity and inclusion. The installation will be under the direction of Art Department Chair Mrs. Da Rocha. Grace LePain thanked everyone for their kind welcome. She is involved in a group called *Girl Up*; they are involved in fundraising for charitable works such as gifting bicycles to girls in Guatemala.

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen

Dennis: Jennifer Rose reported that at the last meeting both Cape Cod Tech and Dennis-Yarmouth presented their FY22 budgets and that there was little feedback from the board.

Yarmouth: Joe Glynn reported that golf rates and the wastewater treatment plant were discussed; nothing related to the schools.

Building Committee Report – Joseph Tierney

There have been no new meetings; nothing additional to report. He added that the assistant superintendent will have information regarding borrowing in his report.

Assistant Superintendent Report – Kenneth Jenks

Update on Borrowing: Mr. Jenks referenced the information included in the packet. After a brief discussion, on a motion by James Dykeman, seconded by Joe Tierney, and carried 7-0 by roll call vote it was

VOTED: That the School Committee authorize and approve the solicitation of bids on February 16, 2021 by UniBank for a borrowing of \$38,562,540 for the construction of the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate School.

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

Mr. Jenks added that registration for students entering kindergarten in September of 2021 is now open online. Chair Landers said that there are wonderful photos of student artwork on Facebook. The superintendent has invited the artists to the March 8th meeting of the School Committee.

School Committee Business

Consent Agenda: On a motion by James Dykeman, seconded by Joe Glynn, 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 donation of non-medical masks and gloves to Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School from Ms. Ana Cobb of the Hyannis Old Navy store.

Move to accept a donation of architectural flat file drawer cabinets to the Dennis-Yarmouth Maintenance Department from Mr. Edward A. Rowse of East Providence.

Minutes

January 25, 2021

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

Public Comment

None.

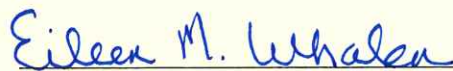
Adjourn

At 8:09 p.m., on a motion by James Dykeman, seconded by Joseph Tierney, and carried 7-0 by roll call vote it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

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

Minutes recorded and prepared by,



Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary