

**DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of a School Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 6, 2024

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate/Middle School in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Marilyn Bemis, Secretary; Tomas Tolentino, Treasurer; Joseph Tierney; Phillip Morris; Student Representative Rose-Anna Joachim; Student Representative Isabella Power.

Members not Present: Jennifer Rose; 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; Michael Bovino, Principal, Dennis-Yarmouth Middle School; Michelle Dunn, DYEA.

At 6:00 p.m., Chair Jeni Landers called the meeting to order.

**Reports and Discussions**

Student Representatives Report – Rose-Anna Joachim and Isabella Power

Isabella reported on the International Food Festival at the high school; there was a huge turnout. She also reported on 7<sup>th</sup> grade step up day; Innovation Pathways; junior parent breakfast, the scholastic art awards, and the basketball playoffs. Rose-Anna reported on the New England Track Nationals; the Black History Month celebration; the one-act play; and the Washington, DC trip taking place next week. Chair Landers added that she had also attended the International Food Festival which was wonderful. Ms. Landers also asked Isabella about the Innovation Pathways program which is health care related; Isabella has a 100 hour paid internship which involved preparing a marketing strategy for a company in California; she feels it has taught her excellent skills including networking.

FY25 Budget Update

Superintendent Marc Smith

Assistant Superintendent David Flynn

Dr. Smith began the presentation; at the next meeting the Committee will vote to adopt the final budget. Tonight he is looking for a consensus. He told the Committee that the Finance Committee met last week. He referenced the budget presentation which was included in the packet. He reviewed timelines; the overall goal; the perfect storm; student enrollment; and student populations. Mr. Flynn continued the presentation including foundation enrollment; cherry sheet revenue; net state aid; Chapter 70; initial level service budget; tuition and services; transportation; health insurance; and maintenance and utilities. Dr. Smith continued the presentation reviewing right-sizing; level funding; and additions and reductions. He pointed out that the supply lines for new curriculum software are now reduced from 192,615 to 92,615. He continued with the high school analysis of course enrollment; special education caseloads; and a program review of special education. Superintendent Smith summarized the initial projection;

the net reduction of 35.5 positions; addressing contractual obligations; reducing principals' allocations by \$100,000; and applying \$500,000 E & D toward Assessments. Dr. Smith reported that he, Dave Flynn, and Maria Lopes recently met jointly with representatives of both towns including the town administrators, finance directors, and chairs of the select boards and finance committees. He also reported that the Finance Committee met recently and discussed an initial plan of stepping down E & D over several years, this year \$500,000, next year \$250,000, and third year zero; with the burden shifting to the two towns. Both towns have discussed this; Dr. Smith, Mr. Flynn, and Mr. Tierney will be meeting with them next week. Chair Landers spoke of the finance subcommittee meeting and the joint meeting with the two towns. The towns need longer term planning on the budget; going forward they are hoping for a better working relationship. Chair Landers said that the Finance Committee supports the use of \$500,000 in E & D this year and \$250,000 next year. The chair asked Mr. Flynn if he is comfortable with this situation as far as cash in the bank; he responded that he is. Chair Landers asked for comments from the committee. Mr. Morris will support the proposal; he says it is good work that he's never seen before. Mr. Tierney supports the proposal; it was a lot of work, both towns came to the table which was a very big step. He thanked Dr. Smith and Mr. Flynn for their work. He added that he hopes that one of the two SROs could be supported by the police department. Ms. Bemis is in support of the proposal. Mr. Morris added his support of the police funding the SRO. Upon seeing no further comments, Chair Landers asked for a motion.

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

VOTED: To apply \$500,000 E & D toward Assessments.

Dr. Smith added that he would like the budget conversation with the towns to begin much earlier; this should be collaborative and mutually beneficial. He added that the SRO piece is very challenging and may affect multiple positions.

#### Assistant Superintendent Report – David Flynn

Mr. Flynn reviewed the FY24 budget; referencing the handout given at the meeting.

#### **Subcommittee, Representatives, Liaison Report**

##### School Building Committee Report – Joseph Tierney

No report.

##### School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen

No report.

##### Finance Subcommittee Meeting

The information has been previously reported out during the budget presentation portion of the meeting.

#### **Superintendent's Report**

##### Recognition of Donations and Acknowledgments

Dr. Smith acknowledged the Scholastic Art Winners that Isabella had mentioned in her report; many of those pieces were a part of the PowerPoint presentation for the committee to enjoy. The superintendent acknowledged and thanked the many donors to the Ezra H. Baker Innovation

School as well as the generous donation from the Education Foundation in the name of Joan and Jerry Shostak.

#### Update – DYIMS Fields

Dr. Smith gave an update on the drainage issues at DYIMS. A third party contractor, Haley & Aldrich, was hired to test the sub base material; there is a meeting scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> between PMA, Haley & Aldrich, and the school district attorney to determine next steps. Haley & Aldrich will attend a School Committee meeting to report on next steps. Chair Landers asked about the timing; Dr. Smith said he has already met with the Athletic Directors, Facilities Director, and Principal Bovino to brief them on the situation.

#### Transportation, School Start Times, FY Budget

Dr. Smith reported on the challenges we are facing as the district extends the school day for PreK-7 that is scheduled for the next school year. After meeting with the bus company, it was determined there is not enough time to absorb the 27 additional minutes without adding 2-4 additional buses at the cost of \$172,000 to \$344,000. Another option would be changing to a 2 tier busing system rather than the 3 tier system currently in place. Dr. Smith has asked the schools to keep an accurate count of how many students are actually riding the buses; he has been in communication with the union presidents and will send out a message to the community. A decision will have to be made regarding next steps, can we make two tiers work; do we want to make two tiers work; and how do we make it work. Chair Landers expressed concern about 6<sup>th</sup> graders riding the bus with high schoolers. A discussion followed about the buses for St. Pius and the possibility of those students riding along with the Dennis-Yarmouth students. Mr. Flynn said that the highest ridership is at DYI and DYM. The bus company would like families to sign up for bus passes so that they know exactly how many students they need to plan for.

#### **School Committee Business**

##### **Consent Agenda**

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

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

**Donation:** Move to accept several donations to the Ezra H. Baker Innovation School as per Mr. Depin's February 12, 2024 memo:

Diane Banks (Fill a Backpack) – five \$20 Job Lot gift cards;  
Harwich Rotary – fifteen \$50.00 Stop & Shop gift cards;  
Andrea Holden Foundation – fifteen \$100.00 Stop & Shop gift cards;  
Anonymous Dennis Golfers – gift cards totaling \$2500 from Stop & Shop, CVS, and Marshall's;  
Frank Seghezzi Jr. – five \$100 TJ Maxx gift cards;  
Elizabeth Bader – five \$50 Ocean State Job Lot gift cards;  
Nancy's Candy-\$600 worth of gift cards to CVS, Stop & Shop and Target;  
Democratic Town Committee donated several gift cards: \$50 (Macy's), two \$50 Visa cards, four \$25 Amazon cards and two \$25 Target cards;

West Dennis Garden Club - five Stop & Shop gift cards, five \$50 Target gift cards, and five TJ Maxx gift cards;  
Rockland Trust – four \$25 Stop & Shop gift cards;  
Hildur Thompson – four \$25 Stop & Shop gift cards;  
Dennis Police Department donated toys;  
Hands of Hope Outreach Center donated 3 boxes of new books.

Move to approve the Joan and Jerry Shostak Education Scholarship as per Mrs. Saucier's memo of February 26, 2024.

**Minutes:** February 5, 2024

**Bills, Requisitions and Payroll**

The warrants were signed by the Committee.

**Calendars**

The upcoming calendars were reviewed.

**Items Distributed at Meeting**

FY 2025 Budget by DESE Function Code

FY 2025 Budget Update

**Public Comment**

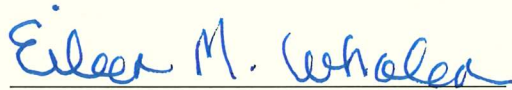
None

**Adjournment**

At 7:55 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