

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, April 3, 2023

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, April 3, 2023, at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Library in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Joseph Tierney, Chairperson; Jeni Landers, Vice Chairperson; Jennifer Rose, Secretary; Tomas Tolentino, Treasurer; Phillip Morris; Marilyn Bemis; Joe Glynn; Student Representative Kristen Stagg; Student Representative Rose-Anna Joachim.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; David Flynn, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Maria Lopes, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Instruction; Luanne Kiley, Substitute Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Betsy Pontius, Director of STEM; Michelle Dunn, DYEA.

At 6:40 p.m., Joseph Tierney, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Reports:

A. Student Representative Reports – Kristen Stagg and Rose-Anna Joachim

Kristen reported on the latest news from the high school. Winter Percussion won Second Place yesterday at the NESBA State Finals. The Winter Guard had an awesome season as well, not sure what they placed at the final, but they are always a fan favorite. Their final performances of the season will be held tomorrow April 4th at 8pm in the upper gym. Rehearsals for *Chicago the Musical* are going well. The show dates are April 28th & 29th @ 7pm and April 30th Matinee @ 2pm. Senior Capstone Internships are ongoing and students are hard at work. Trium induction for Music Masters Honors Society was last Wednesday, the Jazz Band performed and it was a good ceremony. Last but not least the Germany trip is leaving next Tuesday April 11th and everyone is excited to go.

Rose-Anna reported that spring sports have started and all is going well. Track is excelling: last Thursday DY beat Falmouth 122 to 14. Breanna Braham set 2 new DY records. Over 500 people were fed at the SAE PTO Spaghetti dinner last week with the help of many student volunteers from DY. They worked hard and had fun. On Wednesday Paul Funk, Dale Fornoff and Mrs. Woolery will go to the State House to receive an award for DY AP Access under the RISE program. This recognizes an increase in the amount of diverse students that participate in AP courses at DY. It's a proud accomplishment for DY and everyone should recognize this.

Superintendent Report – Carol Woodbury

Mrs. Woodbury began her report by reminding everyone of the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new intermediate middle school on May 6th at 10:30am. She also spoke about the attached letter from Megan Anthony, Director of Bands at Nauset Regional Middle School. They hosted the All-Cape Junior High Band Workshop. She described our students as "outstanding" and commented on their exceptional behavior contributing to the success of the day. Mrs. Woodbury is very proud of these students and very happy that they show their DY spirit wherever they go.

She then introduced Kris Hansen as he is proposing a field trip to Japan for April 2024. He spoke about how his Robotics class inspired this idea. It would be a “travel based learning experience” using a package tour with EF Educational Tours. The trip is called Robotics, Engineering and the Future of cities in Japan. Kris presented the itinerary and cost breakout for the trip. Phil Morris liked the detail of the presentation very much. Jennifer Rose asked about the chaperone ratio, Kris answered that for right now it would be a 6 to 1 ratio. However depending on how many adults decide to go that number could change. Jeni Landers asked about the sign up process as she is concerned for students that want to go but can’t afford to. Kris says that there is a payment plan. This is open to all students and there will be group fundraising. He assures them that if a student really wants to go he is willing to sit down to help make it work. Joe Glynn comments that he is in agreement with all that is being said. Chair Tierney brings us the opportunity for corporate sponsors and Kris agrees.

On a motion by Jeni Landers, seconded by Phil Morris, and carried 7-0, it was VOTED: To approve the Field Trip to Japan for April 2024.

School Building Committee Report – Joseph Tierney

Chair Tierney said that the builders continue with their punch lists working on items to finish up during April vacation. The auditorium seats installation should be complete by then. Mr. Tierney is also looking forward to the ribbon cutting ceremony on May 6th and asks if Carol or Dave have anything they’d like to add. Dave Flynn agrees that the builders are plugging away with a few glitches that are to be expected. He is hoping the auditorium will be complete soon. Mrs. Woodbury is working on the program and is not quite finished yet so stay tuned. Chair Tierney mentions that other Schools and Districts are very interested in our new school. Joe Glynn feels there will be too many people at this ceremony and he has parking concerns. Chair Tierney feels that there will be plenty of parking.

Assistant Superintendent Report – David Flynn

MSBA Statement of Interest for M.E. Small Elementary School - David says a motion must be made tonight to submit this statement. He presented photos of all the issues: Roof, water damage to exterior and interior, ceiling and floor tiles, siding, parking lot too small, old heating equipment. Marilyn Bemis has questions about the approval process. Dave explains the program and that we are applying for a “core review of the entire building” and therefore they will accept the application. Jeni Landers moved:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on April 3, 2023, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated no later than April 14, 2023 for the Marguerite E. Small Elementary School located at 440 Higgins Crowell Road, West Yarmouth, MA 02673 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

Category 5: Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility. The Marguerite E. Small Elementary School needs significant renovation work in all major systems. The building's exterior components including roofs, doors, windows, and masonry have all been cited as high-priority issues. The 2014 facilities audit and the updated study in February 2020 by Bureau Veritas identified the same issues along with possible structural settlement of the loading dock, interior air quality issues, leaking sanitary and heat piping, and the presence of asbestos containing materials. Additionally, the building lacks fire suppression and has multiple ADA requirement issues.

Category 7: Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements. Current capacity is reasonable, however classroom layouts and floor plans with a size of about 900 square feet limit the kinds of educational activities that would reflect best practices for the grades and specialized services that must be provided within this school;

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Joe Glynn seconded the motion. The motion carries 7-0 by roll call vote:

Phillip Morris	yes
Marilyn Bemis	yes
Tomas Tolentino	yes
Joe Glynn	yes
Jeni Landers	yes
Jennifer Rose	yes
Joseph Tierney	yes

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen

Dennis: Jeni Landers – nothing to report.

Yarmouth: Joe Glynn acknowledges Carol Woodbury, Maria Lopes and David Flynn attending the last BOS meeting on April 21st. Carol and David did a great job presenting the 2024 Budget and thanks them.

FY 2024 Budget – David Flynn talks about the proposed 2024 Budget with the Yarmouth Town Meeting on April 25th being next on the Budget's timeline. With accompanying slides he recaps the assessment calculation and the way the State sets the minimum for each Town's contribution. He accounts for the excess and deficiency portion (or E&D). He and Carol are contemplating using some of the E&D to offset the Towns' assessments and he provides a breakdown. His thought is that it's potentially a way to give back to the towns without effecting the operating assessment. Joe Glynn thinks it's a great idea. Mrs. Woodbury counters by not wanting to set a precedent by paying down debt for the towns year after year. She cautions that COVID took a lot

away from our students and it is and will take years to recover from the educational time lost, therefore possibly needing more services. Jeni Landers thanks them for the time and thought that they put into this. She notes all the needs and challenges that our school district faces. She feels if we are going to use money that we've put aside, she would rather use it to help bring the district out of deficits from the pandemic and advance the district. Marilyn Bemis appreciates all that has been said. She wants the community to be more aware of what's going on and backs up the School Committee choices. Chair Tierney asks David Flynn to give more detail about the E&D. David explains our revenues: yearly such as solar credits vs one time grants or state reimbursements due to COVID. Chair Tierney cautions that we have one chance of getting the funds we need. We have to be careful and look to the future and not set a precedent by paying for the Towns as we have in the past. The E&D is the tax payers' money, but it belongs to the School.

Joe Glynn Moved to approve the Revised 2024 Budget that David Flynn proposed, using E&D funds of \$453,150 paying the Towns' assessed debt. Tomas Tolentino seconded the motion and discussion followed.

Chair Tierney thanks Carol Woodbury and David Flynn for revising the budget as the Town of Dennis asked them to. He cautions if the Committee votes on this tonight it can't be changed later. Marilyn Bemis wants to know if we can postpone this motion.

Joe Glynn withdraws his motion in the spirit of re-addressing the E&D subject at a later date. Tomas Tolentino will not withdraw his second and wants to vote. Chair Tierney counsels that even if the finance committee of either town does not vote in favor of this budget it will still go to town meeting for a final vote. Jeni Landers counsels that a motion can't be withdrawn. Phil Morris moves to table the discussion and Marilyn Bemis seconds.

The motion carries 4-3, by roll call vote:

Phillip Morris	yes
Marilyn Bemis	yes
Tomas Tolentino	no
Joe Glynn	yes
Jeni Landers	no
Jennifer Rose	yes
Joseph Tierney	no

Chair Tierney called for a roll call vote on the original motion put forth by Joe Glynn. The motion is defeated 6-1. No determination tonight. The vote of March 6th stays in place.

Phillip Morris	no
Marilyn Bemis	no
Tomas Tolentino	no
Joe Glynn	yes
Jeni Landers	no
Jennifer Rose	no
Joseph Tierney	no

(Phil Morris leaves the room temporarily)

School Committee Business

- A. Superintendent Search - Jeni Landers gives an update on the superintendent search committee. After a review of the letters of interest Joe Tierney appointed 10 people consisting of: Joe Tierney, Jeni Landers, Phil Morris, 3 Parents, one Administrator, one Teacher and one non-teacher Staff person. People are very interested in this. They had their first meeting tonight and made good progress. MASC is advising. Future meetings will be posted. They want a quick turnaround and everyone is really committed to getting the job done.

Consent Agenda

On a motion by Jeni Landers, seconded by Jennifer Rose and carried 6-1, Phil Morris was not present for the vote. The following items in the consent agenda were approved:

Minutes

March 20, 2023

Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll

Bills, requisitions, and payroll were signed by the School Committee.

Calendars

The upcoming calendars were included in the packet.

Items Distributed at Meeting

Ribbon Cutting Save the Date Flyer

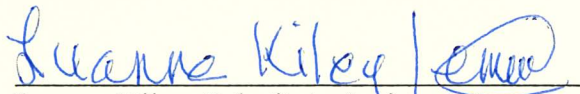
Public Comment

Michelle Dunn wants to thank everyone for considering the educational needs of the District more specifically she notes the amount of EL students has increased dramatically and that is also something we need to consider.

Adjournment

At 8:28 p.m., on a motion by Jeni Landers, seconded by Joe Glynn, and carried unanimously 7-0; VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,


Luanne Kiley, Substitute Assistant Secretary