

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2020

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, August 17, 2020, at Station Avenue Elementary School in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts and 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 (arrived 6:15 p.m.); James Dykeman, Jr., Secretary; Brian Carey, Treasurer; Brian Sullivan; Phillip Morris; and Joe Glynn.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Ken Jenks, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative and Business Services; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Kristin Dwyer, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District Nurse Leader.

At 5:34 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Reopening School – Health and Safety Presentation – Kristin Dwyer

Ms. Dwyer gave a health and safety presentation regarding COVID-19. She said this is the same presentation that will be given to staff. Included in the presentation were the signs and symptoms of COVID-19; what to ask yourself before coming to work; the description of a close contact; transmission of the virus through droplets; face masks; transmission through hard surfaces; personal protective equipment; donning and doffing of personal protective equipment; cleaning and disinfecting; handwashing; hand sanitizing. It is important to follow the directions on cleaning products; for example, a possible chemical reaction may result if products are mixed. Some disinfectants must air-dry to be effective. The proper use of hand sanitizer was also discussed. Students are not allowed to use hand sanitizer without adult supervision.

Jeni Landers thanked Ms. Dwyer for her presentation. She asked specifically what will happen if a student or staff member becomes ill while at school. Ms. Dwyer said that there are mitigating steps in place: 6-foot distancing; face coverings; and handwashing. In the instance that a person should become ill there is very strict protocol issued by the CDC to be followed. There will be a nurse's office as well as a medical waiting room in each school. Jeni asked about face shields and types of masks; Kristin said that face shields are offered as an additional layer and are not mandated. The CDC and WHO have not offered specific guidance on types of face coverings.

Phil Morris asked how long would it take for children to become accustomed to wearing masks and frequent handwashing. Kristin said that summer daycare was very successful in this regard; the students tolerated the masks and handwashing with no problems at all. She will be touring all schools along with the boards of health from the towns this week to review and inspect the nurse's offices and medical waiting rooms.

Joe Glynn said it is important to create a culture and communicate with parents.

Brian Sullivan thanked Kristin for the presentation. He said it is a safe plan for students and parents. He cited the low cases of COVID-19 in Dennis and Yarmouth.

Brian Carey also thanked Ms. Dwyer for the information. He assured her that she has the committee's 100% support and if there is anything she needs she should contact the committee. A brief conversation about the accuracy of different types of COVID tests followed. Ms. Dwyer said that the PCR test given at Cape Cod Hospital is considered the most accurate and results come back in 4-7 days.

Carol Woodbury asked for clarification about bathroom use. Should a student use hand sanitizer when they return to the classroom after a bathroom visit? Ms. Dwyer said yes. She said that the medically fragile bathroom will be cleaned after each use. Mrs. Woodbury thanked Ms. Dwyer for her presentation.

Information Item – School Calendar

The revised 2020-20201 school calendar was distributed.

Public Comment

Jeni Landers announced that public comment would last for a half-hour and that each participant would be given 3 minutes to speak. Several staff members shared their concerns about returning to in-person learning. Michelle Dunn said that HVAC inspection reports were requested and have not been received. Ken Jenks said that the inspections will start tomorrow and reports will be submitted. Vida Morris voiced her displeasure with some of the staff members' comments as well as her concerns about students missing so much school. Ms. Houston (parent) asked if a Frequently Asked Questions page could be instituted for the website; she thought this would be very helpful. She also asked at what point a school may be shut down due to a COVID outbreak; Ms. Dwyer answered that there is a protocol in place involving the Board of Health, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. There is not an exact number.

At 7:10 p.m., on a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by James Dykeman, and carried by roll call vote 7-0 it was

VOTED: To 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. (DYEА Negotiations, DYRSAA Negotiations.)

Brian Carey	yes
James Dykeman	yes
Joe Glynn	yes
Phillip Morris	yes
Brian Sullivan	yes
Joseph Tierney	yes
Jeni Landers	yes

Minutes recorded and prepared by,

Eileen M. Whalen
Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary