

**DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of a School Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 6, 2020**

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Thursday, August 6, 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; James Dykeman, Jr., Secretary; Brian Carey, Treasurer; Brian Sullivan; Phillip Morris (began the meeting remotely and arrived in person at 7:00 p.m.); 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.

At 5:36 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order. The Chair asked those participating via Zoom technology to make sure they were muted. After a sound check, the Chair announced that the superintendent and assistant superintendent would be presenting the plan for reopening school. She added that the school committee has certain controls; they have never voted on the day-to-day operations of the schools. The school committee controls the budget and policy implications. Tonight's presentation will not include exact details of either in-person or remote learning. Each school is different; staffing, physical layout, etc. Details will be forthcoming; parent forums are planned. About 50% of families have responded to the survey thus far. The district will need to finalize plans. All planning is based on guidance and the best information possible. She said that they want to present the best plan possible for Dennis-Yarmouth.

**Plan for Reopening School**

Carol Woodbury, Superintendent  
Kenneth Jenks, Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Woodbury presented the plan for reopening school. She had a call with the Commissioner earlier today; he extended the date for submission of reopening plans to August 17<sup>th</sup>. She then presented a PowerPoint of the final reopening plan; Reimagining the DY Advantage. She shared Coronavirus data from Cape Cod. District students will have been out of school for 6 months by the time school starts. Safety is the most important factor. Mrs. Woodbury said that the Dolphin Drive-Thru, the district's lunch pickup service, has served approximately 300,000 meals at this point. She acknowledged Rooney Powers and her staff for their excellent work. She then showed a short video about reopening Massachusetts.

Assistant Superintendent Ken Jenks presented the Our Commitment to Action section of the presentation. He then shared the Critical Health and Safety Precautions including PPE Purchases; Facility Cleaning and Disinfecting; HVAC Systems and Air Circulation; Creating Cohorts; and Physical Distancing. The Reopening Advisory Task Force has met 6 times. PPE



purchases include hand sanitizer; masks; and no-touch thermometers for school nurses. Each office and classroom will have a gallon sized pump hand sanitizer. Facility cleaning will include 8 spray units for the district, additional staff for restrooms and high touch surfaces. The HVAC includes all new filters. The district has a vendor specialist in HVAC who has been working with us. The windows are in the process of being fixed so that will all be operational. He showed pictures of several classrooms with 6 foot distancing between desks. The high school classrooms would be able to accommodate 8 students due to distancing requirements; therefore, they will have to be on a hybrid schedule. Because the K-7 classrooms can accommodate 12-14 students per classroom they will be able to open for in-person learning.

Mrs. Woodbury then resumed the presentation with the DESE Required Reopening Plans; In-person learning with new safety requirements, hybrid learning; and remote learning. Remote learning runs across all 3 plans. She then shared the Feasibility Study and What We Have Learned. The district is able to achieve the physical distance requirements for all students in grades K-7. Preschool and grades 8-12 will require a hybrid model to achieve the physical distancing requirements. Vulnerable populations will be encouraged to attend every day in grades 8-12. Grades 8-12 may be able to achieve a remote in-person model for a limited number of students. She then shared the survey results to date. The district has had about a 50% response from parents thus far; the principals will be reaching out to those who have not yet responded. In responses for grades PreK-7, 192 families have chosen 100% remote; 499 families have chosen in-person; and 370 families are undecided. In grades 8-12 responses; 97 families have chosen 100% remote; 161 have chosen in-person; 199 families have chosen a hybrid model; and 114 families are undecided. Survey results from classroom teachers showed that 208 answered they are able to return to work; 50 answered that they are high-risk; and 16 chose "other."

The superintendent's recommendation to the school committee is to

- Offer full in-person for K-7 for any family that wishes this model;
- Offer a hybrid model for grades 8-12 and Preschool for any family that wishes this model;
- Offer a remote model at all levels for any family that wishes this model.

All recommendations are subject to any collective bargaining obligations. She also mentioned that there will soon be a policy for the school committee to vote on regarding mask wearing. If you don't wear a mask then you can't be in school. She then shared some Family Supports regarding establishing new routines for children and mask wearing.

Mr. Jenks then shared the policy recommendation on returning to in-person learning from remote. It is hoped that students could return as soon as possible, but no longer than three weeks after the request is received. Remote learning will remain in place until the student physically returns to school.

He then outlined the professional development days; school-based decisions such as schedules, arrival/dismissal. Bus transportation with social distancing was also reviewed. The status of sports, clubs, after school programs, and before and after school child care are all yet to be



determined. Appendix B of the Reopening Plan includes protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios.

He noted that we had a small summer program which has gone very well; the students and staff have done an excellent job.

Jeni Landers asked the Committee if there were any questions.

Brian Sullivan clarified that we currently have 6-12 weeks of PPE supplies; he also wanted to know if any non-classrooms will be used at the high school.

Joe Glynn felt that many parents will make a decision after they receive additional updates.

Mrs. Woodbury said that the overall plan ideas won't change; we can currently accommodate in-person learning for K-7 even if they all choose in-person. We are unable to accommodate Preschool or the high school students for full in-person learning due to distancing requirements.

Brian Carey's concerns were about buses, lunches in the cafeteria, and the amount of time spent in school if an in-person model is chosen. He said that perhaps parents could opt-in for the bus so that we will know how many students will ride. Ken said it is hoped that hot lunch will be served. Carol said that it will be a regular school day for in-person learning. Mr. Carey was also concerned about the high needs students at the high school; should we be looking for an alternate site for them? Carol said there is enough room at the high school for the high needs students. Mr. Carey expressed concern about substitute teachers. He also would like teachers to teach remotely from their classrooms. Jeni Landers said a lot of these concerns have been brought up at the task force meetings.

Mrs. Woodbury said one idea is to have two classes in side by side classrooms and the teachers switch off by subject. Less movement throughout the building is important. Kids need movement breaks; classes will be encouraged to be outside. She said that the community's patience is very much appreciated. It is clear that the spring learning experience was not good enough. This time there will be training in technology and iPads. Screen time is also a concern. Parent accountability is very important.

Ken Jenks said that he will give a full accounting of pandemic related expenses at a future school committee meeting.

Brian Carey is concerned about extracurriculars, sports, music.

### **Public Comment Period**

Michelle Dunn said that there are many unanswered questions and favored a phased in approach such as Barnstable's. Several other staff members agreed and expressed concerns about in-person reopening; the cleanliness of buildings was a main concern. Parent and task force member Zane Fitzgerald voiced disagreement with the reopening plan which he felt was not attached to public health guidelines. He said his children will return to school remotely.

## **School Committee Business**

After a brief discussion; on a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by James Dykeman, and carried 7-0 by roll call vote, it was

VOTED: To approve the 2020-2021 revised School Calendar as presented.

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

After a brief discussion, on a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by Joe Tierney, and carried 7-0 by roll call vote, it was

VOTED: To approve return to in-person model after being in remote model as presented.

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

Mrs. Woodbury briefly summarized the reopening plan. Grades K-7 will be in-person; Grades 8-12 and Preschool will have a hybrid model; and all students have the option to learn remotely. On a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by James Dykeman, and carried 7-0 by roll call vote it was

VOTED: To adopt the Fall Reopening Plan as presented subject to any collective bargaining obligations and, with the understanding that the situation is fluid and changes to the plan can and will be made as needed based on health data.

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

**Adjourn**

At 8:00 p.m., on a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by Brian Sullivan, and carried 7-0 by roll call vote, it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

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, Assistant Secretary