

**DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Minutes of a School Committee Meeting**  
Monday, September 27, 2021

**APPROVED**

10-18-21

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, September 27, 2021, at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Auditorium in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson; Phillip Morris, Treasurer; Jennifer Rose, Secretary; Joe Glynn; Tomas Tolentino; and Marilyn Bemis.

Members Absent: Jeni Landers, Chairperson

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Maria Lopes, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Instruction; David Flynn, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Grace LePain and Kristen Stagg, Student Representatives to the School Committee (left the meeting at 7:50); Michelle Dunn; Lynne Welsh, UniBank; Jon Pope and Nicholas Hull, PMA; Sean Brewer, Mattacheese Middle School Resource Officer.

At 6:03 p.m., Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

On a motion by Jennifer Rose, seconded by Joe Glynn, and carried by roll call vote 6-0, it was:

VOTED: That the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee enter into Executive Session, and 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 (SEIU).

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

At 6:43 p.m., Vice Chair Tierney reopened the public session.

**Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate Middle School Bond Sale**

Lynne Welsh, UniBank

Ms. Welsh gave a brief summary of the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate School Bond Sale to Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. A brief question and answer period followed. Mr. Morris said that he appreciated the presentation as well as the good job that predecessors did. Mr. Glynn thanked Ms. Welsh and asked if there is anything she recommends that the district do. She said that people come and go; policies should always be looked over. Joe Tierney thanked Ms. Welsh for the presentation.

On a motion by Phil Morris, seconded by Tomas Tolentino, and carried unanimously 6-0 by roll call vote it was



VOTED: That the sale of the District's \$45,540,000 General Obligation School Project Loan, Chapter 70B Bonds dated October 5, 2021 (the "Bonds"), to Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. at the price of \$47,634,799.88, plus accrued interest, if any, is hereby approved and confirmed.

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

### **Reports:**

#### DYRSD School Committee Student Representative – Grace LePain and Kristen Stagg

Grace reported that sports are going well; volleyball will play against Barnstable, there is a home football game; and there will be an art show. Kristen reported that the Dolphin Dash will take place on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Glynn asked if there were any expanded sponsorships; Mr. Tierney said that the community comes together for this event; you don't have to run.

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

Dennis: No report.

Yarmouth: No report.

#### Assistant Superintendent Report – David Flynn

##### RatingsDirect Summary

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District General Obligation (Enclosure)

Mr. Flynn briefly summarized the ratings; the district has the second highest rating you can get nationwide. Mr. Morris said that this is good news; our relationship with the two towns is very important.

#### Superintendent's Report – Carol Woodbury

##### 1. PMA Project Update – Traffic Light

Jon Pope and Nicholas Hull, PMA

The superintendent gave a brief summary on the proposed traffic signal at the new DYIMS. She and David Flynn attended a Yarmouth Board of Selectmen meeting; the selectmen want to know how the school committee feels about the traffic signal. Superintendent Woodbury introduced Jon Pope and Nicholas Hull from PMA. Jon said that the traffic signal is warranted; it is not reimbursable. Ms. Bemis asked if the traffic signal was in the original proposal. The superintendent reiterated that the selectmen want to know what the school committee thinks. Ms. Bemis asked if the police department or the department of public works have taken a position on the traffic signal. Mr. Tierney said that the town departments have been kept up to date every step of the way. Mrs. Woodbury said that they had a meeting with the police department about school traffic; there are a lot of parents driving their children to school. Mr. Morris added that everyone has been kept in the loop; all of the safety officials, etc. Mr. Tolentino said that if the experts think a traffic signal is warranted then he would have to agree. Mr. Tierney said that the traffic study looked at the traffic flow, the entire picture, all 3 schools. He also said that the selectmen would be discussing this again at their next meeting on October 5.

##### 2. "Topping Off" Ceremony

Superintendent Woodbury described a "topping off" ceremony; it is when the last piece of steel is put in place in a building. The topping off ceremony for the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate Middle School is scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. There will be an opportunity for people to sign the steel beam as well as a chance for students to participate in some way.



3. Therapy Dog – Sean Brewer (*presented out of order*)

School Resource Officer Brewer gave a presentation on comfort therapy dogs. Sean has been with the Yarmouth Police Department since 2003 at the Mattacheese Middle School. He has been a coach as well. Through his police work he has seen therapy dogs in action. The role of an SRO is ever-changing; students in crisis; trauma, conflict resolution. Therapy dogs are very useful in these instances. They are trained not to lick or scratch. There are 2 therapy dogs on the Cape. Mr. Bovino would very much like to participate. Sean has been in contact with Freedom Labradors in Sandwich; they are willing to donate a puppy from an upcoming litter and also do the initial training free of charge. There will be veterinary costs and the cost of food. The initial training would be for 8 weeks, and then the training will become more specialized leading to a certified therapy dog. Mr. Glynn asked if ESSER funds could be used for this purpose. Ms. Bemis would like more information; what breed, who would be the handler, would the dog only be based at Mattacheese? Officer Brewer said that he would be the handler and that it would be a Lab. He would participate in the initial 8-week training. The dog would be involved in all schools in the district. Mr. Tierney asked would the dog be the property of the Yarmouth Police Department; yes, it would, and would not be part of a K-9 unit. Mrs. Woodbury said that Sean brought the idea forward last spring. She has contacted colleagues; they all have policies in place. She feels that a good program could be implemented. Sean said that there is a possibility of a puppy from an upcoming litter in May. Mrs. Woodbury definitely wants a policy in place. Ms. Bemis would like him to expand his search. Mr. Tierney said that a therapy dog would be a great asset; a student in kindergarten now could be with the same dog throughout their school career. On a motion by Tomas Tolentino, seconded by Joseph Glynn, and carried unanimously 6-0 it was

VOTED: Move to approve that SRO Brewer investigate bringing a therapy dog to the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District.

4. ESSER III (*presented out of order*)

Superintendent Woodbury gave a PowerPoint presentation on the ESSER III Funding Survey. The District is gathering feedback from various stakeholder groups in determining how best to utilize the funds to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of all students. The superintendent briefly summarized the survey questions including critical priority areas; evidence-based practices; underrepresented student groups; and the top three priorities for spending. She said that it is important to spend wisely. The Chair then asked for questions from the Committee which included putting the survey on the website; and concerns about creating programs which would then have to be eliminated when the funding ends.

The superintendent shared that the Commissioner has extended the mask mandate through November 1<sup>st</sup>. She also shared information that if a school can reach an 80% vaccination rate for staff and students then vaccinated individuals would not be required to wear masks. Unvaccinated staff and students would still have to wear masks. Districts would need to submit a Mask Attestation Form to the DESE. This is a local decision. It is likely that the high school would be the only school affected.

**School Committee Business**

**Consent Agenda:**

On a motion by Phillip Morris, seconded by Tomas Tolentino, and carried unanimously 6-0, it was

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

**Donations:** Move to accept a donation of \$2400 in the form of Old Navy and Target gift cards to Station Avenue Elementary families in need from Fill a Back Pack, Inc.

**Field Trip Approval:** Move to approve an overnight field trip for the DY Marching Band and Color Guard on Saturday, October 30, 2021; returning Sunday, October 31, 2021; as per Dr. Funk's September 13, 2021 memo.

**Surplus:** Move to declare as surplus a 2012 Ford F-250 Truck as per Ms. Cashen's September 9, 2021 memo.

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**Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll**

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

**Calendars**

The upcoming calendars were included in the packet.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjournment**

At 8:16 p.m., on a motion by Joe Glynn, seconded by Tomas Tolentino, and carried unanimously 6-0; it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,



Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary