

**DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 3, 2020**

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Thursday, September 3, 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; Brian Sullivan; and Phillip Morris.

Members Logged in as Present: Joe Glynn.

Members Absent: James Dykeman, Jr., Secretary; Brian Carey, Treasurer.

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 6:33 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Superintendent Woodbury expressed her condolences to the family of Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School staff member Mr. Tom Lonergan who recently passed away. Tom graduated from Dennis-Yarmouth High School and has worked there since 1998. She also expressed her condolences to the family of Mr. Steve Teehan who recently passed away. Steve is the husband of long-time high school teacher Mary Loebig. A moment of silence was held for both men. Jeni Landers expressed condolences on behalf of the Committee.

Reports

A. School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen

Yarmouth: Joe Tierney announced that Dan Horgan was elected as the new selectman for the Town of Yarmouth. He will request a schedule of selectmen meetings so that members of the school committee can attend whenever possible.

Dennis: Jeni Landers would also like the schedule for the Dennis Selectmen meetings.

B. DYRSD Building Committee Update – J. Tierney

Joe Tierney reported that the next Building Committee meeting will take place on September 17th at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom technology. Ken Jenks said that the 60% design submission has been submitted. Chair Landers would like the Owners Project Manager to present to the school committee soon.

C. Assistant Superintendent Ken Jenks

Updates:

1. Yarmouth Board of Selectmen: Mrs. Woodbury and Mr. Jenks recently presented the school reopening plan to the Yarmouth Board of Selectmen.
2. Yarmouth Board of Health: District Nurse Kristin Dwyer accompanied Ken Jenks to a recent Yarmouth Board of Health meeting. The boards of both towns have been excellent to work with.
3. School Transportation: Schools are still following up with parents regarding the survey.

Mr. Jenks then followed up with new information regarding the initial HVAC draft report. The report was received on the day of this meeting and there was not enough time to properly review it prior to the meeting. He plans on reviewing it with the engineers. He asked the Committee to consider remote learning until October 5th. Another option suggested would be to use the remaining 3 professional development days on September 15, 16 and 17 and then begin school remotely on September 21st. He said that the technology department feels they can get the 700+ iPads that have been ordered for the younger grades ready for distribution if specific HVAC work is needed.

Mrs. Woodbury said that she is in touch with the Commissioner's office where they discussed all of the procedures the District has implemented to help ensure a safe return to in-person school including 6 foot distancing, masks, cohorts, handwashing, etc. Ventilation is just part of the strategy. The superintendent noted that approximately 75% of district families have requested in-person learning.

Chair Landers asked for questions from the Committee:

Brian Sullivan is opposed to remote learning; he does not plan to change his vote.

Joe Tierney asked about busing; if a student begins the year being driven to school and wants to return to riding the bus, will there be a delay? Mr. Jenks said yes, students will not be able to just switch to the bus, there will be a delay. Mr. Tierney said that the students can be brought back safely; we have to live up to the safe part. Ventilation is just one part. The Cape has a very low infection rate despite the influx in tourists.

Jeni Landers would like school to start September 16th. We have had since March to come with a plan; no need to go any longer. She does not want to use the 3 professional development days. She is not in favor of voting on this issue tonight; we need to know what is in the HVAC report. If an emergency meeting is necessary they will call one. If upgrades are necessary who is paying for them?

Joe Tierney concurs with Ms. Landers; no vote tonight, he wants to review the engineering report. Each school is different; kids have to come back to school.

Joe Glynn asked who will pay for the upgrades. There are to be no unfunded mandates. Request help from the Commissioner.

Discussion followed about the possibility of a meeting sometime next week.

School Committee Business

Approve Mask Policy

On a motion by Phil Morris, seconded by Joseph Tierney, and carried by roll call vote 5-0 it was

VOTED: That the Committee dispense with the sequence for adopting policies under School Committee Policy BGB and vote a mask policy this evening given the emergency nature of getting said policy in place before the start of the in-person student school year.

Joseph Glynn	yes
Phillip Morris	yes
Brian Sullivan	yes
Joseph Tierney	yes
Jeni Landers	yes

A discussion followed regarding face coverings. Mrs. Woodbury said that it is the strength of the policy which makes families feel safe sending their children to school.

On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Phil Morris, and carried 4-1 by roll call vote it was

VOTED: That the school committee adopt policy EBCFA as revised.

Joseph Glynn	yes
Phillip Morris	yes
Brian Sullivan	no
Joseph Tierney	yes
Jeni Landers	yes

Consent Agenda

On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Phil Morris and carried 5-0 it was voted to approve the following items included in the consent agenda:

Donations

Move to accept with gratitude a \$100.00 donation to the Marguerite E. Small Library from John and Debra Mulkeen of Marstons Mills.

Move to accept with gratitude a donation of 12 backpacks from Mr. Mark Ohrenberger of Yarmouth Port.

Minutes

July 13, 2020

July 30, 2020

August 6, 2020

August 17, 2020

Bills, Requisitions and Payroll

Bills, requisitions and payroll were signed by the Committee.

Calendar

The calendar was reviewed.

Information Items

Letter to the Cape Cod Times from Mr. John Mulkeen of Marstons Mills: Mr. Tierney spoke of the eloquent letter Mr. Mulkeen wrote to the Cape Cod Times regarding the Marguerite E. Small School which was included in the packet.

Tentative School Committee Meeting Schedule 2020-2021: The tentative schedule was included in the packet.

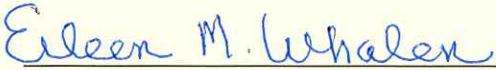
Public Comment

Michelle Conover asked about any foreseeable issues regarding buses and food supplies. Another parent inquired as to what remote learning will look like.

At 8:10 p.m., on a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Phil Morris, and carried by roll call vote 5-0 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. (DYEA Negotiations, DYRSAA Negotiations.)

Minutes recorded and prepared by,


Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary