

APPROVED

4-8-19

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2019

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, March 11, 2019, at the Station Avenue Elementary School in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson; Andrea St. Germain, Secretary; Brian Carey, Treasurer; James Dykeman, Jr.; Brian Sullivan; and Phillip Morris.

Others Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent of Schools; Ken Jenks, Assistant Superintendent; Jack Carder, Student Representative to the School Committee; Tara Holt substituting for Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Carole Eichner, Director of Early Learning; Maria Lopes, Director of Pupil Services; Leila Maxwell, Director of STEM Instruction; Sherry Santini, Director of Humanities and the Arts; Mike Bovino, Acting Principal, Mattacheese Middle School; Tim Blake, Principal, NH Wixon School; Tracy Post, Yarmouth Board of Selectmen; Sheryl McMahon, Dennis Board of Selectmen; James Plath, Dennis Finance Committee; Hilary Medeiros, Michelle Ryan, Julie Edwards, Vida Morris.

At 6:30 p.m., Jeni Landers, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

Reports

DYRSD School Committee Student Representative – Jack Carder

Jack Carder spoke about the 7th Grade Open House at the high school and Talent Show successes.

School Committee Liaisons to the Boards of Selectmen – B. Carey, Dennis; J. Tierney, Yarmouth

Brian Carey spoke about the Selectmen's formal budget meeting presentation and that there was an optimistic feeling, no negative comments.

Joseph Tierney mentioned there was no Yarmouth Report and the School Building Committee hadn't met since last reporting.

DYRSD Building Committee Update – Joseph Tierney

No report.

Regional Agreement Subcommittee Update – Brian Carey

Brian Carey said there was a Dennis Selectman packet presentation and that the subcommittee wants to move ahead tonight looking for acceptance.

Jeni Landers looking for the 2 main points: Language changes and then to look at the split. Brian Carey said the subcommittee worked to take the most agreeable solution. The language is simpler and not just a 50/50 split but a compromise. Compromise on general areas shared by both towns. Joe Tierney said projections on the split seem to hold at the proposed 35/65. Dennis being down by 56 students and Yarmouth being up 35 students.

Brian Sullivan clarified that elementary schools would be the 100% responsibility of the towns they are in and the high school and new middle school would be the 35/65 split. Anything prior to the new agreement would go back to original formula.

Jeni Landers looked for clarification that if there is no new school, then Mattacheese would be Yarmouth's and Wixon would be Dennis' and high school would be split. She said this agreement could pass without the new school. If there is no new school then fixing Mattacheese would be totally Yarmouth's problem.

Brian Sullivan said the subcommittee team was respectful working together. They kept doing what was best for kids and community in the forefront. Although the lawsuit is not helpful, the lawsuit was not pressuring them. In the current agreement, language had not been revised since 1973. Long overdue to revise the current agreement. Doing this for the betterment of kids and to get the healing process started. Jeni Landers asked about the 5 year rolling average and Brian Carey said that is up for discussion. Brian Sullivan said the 5 year rolling average is offering towns more fidelity if towns differ greatly in enrollment. This offers more stability.

Phil Morris said there is a degree of unknown when it comes to budgets. Towns don't know until February what state aid is coming their way. He is in favor of the way the 2020 budget is laid out. James Dykeman commended the subcommittee on their work and would like to move forward with the new school but has an issue with the percentage. It should be aligned with student numbers.

On a motion by Brian Sullivan, seconded by Phil Morris, and carried 6-1 by roll call vote, it was:
VOTED: To approve the Agreement between the Towns of Dennis and Yarmouth Establishing a Regional School District as amended in Spring 2019.

Phillip Morris - yes
Brian Sullivan - yes
Brian Carey - yes
Andrea St. Germain - yes
Joseph Tierney - yes
Jeni Landers - yes
James Dykeman - no

Assistant Superintendent Report - Ken Jenks

FY20 Budget: Ken Jenks presented the FY020 budget showing demographic trends, foundation enrollment along with maintaining quality to improve and expand. Presentation included 2.53% budget increase. Spoke about the DY Advantage. Discussion followed. Phil Morris shared that our students get far more because we are together as a bigger district than they would otherwise. Joe Tierney agreed that we are better together than we are apart. He is comfortable with the 35/65 split but it is a lot of money for Dennis. Carol Woodbury said it is important at both Town Meetings to have the budget question after the Regional Agreement question. Andrea St. Germain noted that she prefers 34/66 to help Dennis. Thinks the 35/65 is too much money for Dennis. Brian Sullivan and Brian Carey agreed. Brian Carey said he is comfortable with 32/68 with a rolling average to get to 35/65. It is more likely to get a win. Brian Sullivan said that we have to understand that both towns put away 2.5% for costs. The alternative is going to cause an override in Yarmouth. James Dykeman said he can support the foundation budget and that's it. Jeni Landers said 32.68% with an increase of 1% each year over 3 years to get the 35%. James Dykeman asked what if this enrollment situation happens again? Will we get sued again? Will only support foundation budget. Brian Sullivan said that there has been wording placed in the new Regional Agreement that allows for the possibility of an amendment if enrollment fluctuates. Joseph Tierney said that expenditures will be higher to Dennis if we just go with the Foundation budget. Carol Woodbury said the difference is only .6541 if we go with 32%. Brian Carey said he is not comfortable with 1% rolling up every year. He would like to see a one year gap.

On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by Brian Carey, and carried 6-1 by roll call vote, it was:

VOTED: To approve an FY20 budget totaling \$62,001,508 with the assessment to Dennis, \$16,453,315, and the assessment to Yarmouth, \$34,974,656.

Phillip Morris - yes
Brian Sullivan - yes
Brian Carey - yes
Andrea St. Germain - yes
Joseph Tierney - yes
Jeni Landers - yes
James Dykeman - no

B. Carey asked for patience through this difficult process. Working hard to do the right thing for both towns.
J. Landers thanked the subcommittee for the work they did.

MES Statement of Interest

Carol Woodbury spoke about the M.E. Small Statement of Interest in repairs at this school.
Jeni Landers asked if the committee could look at that at next meeting.

School Committee Business

Donations

On a motion by Andrea St. Germain, seconded by Phil Morris, and carried 7-0, it was:

VOTED: To approve the following items included in the consent agenda:

Move to accept a \$500 donation from Peter Pietrowski to the Elizabeth (Betty) Pietrowski Service Scholarship Account in memory of Elizabeth Pietrowski.

Minutes

2-25-19

Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll

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

Calendars

The March 12, 2019 Regional Agreement Subcommittee meeting was cancelled.

The March 18, 2019 School Committee meeting was cancelled.

The next School Committee Meeting will take place on Monday, April 8, 2019, at Station Avenue Elementary School.

Information Items

Discover New Worlds at the Library!

Public Comment Period

Vida Morris commented on the M.E. School funds. Jim Plath, Dennis Finance Committee, commented that the 2.5% internal funding is not a guarantee.

Items Distributed at the Meeting

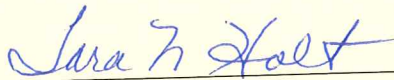
DYRSD FY 20 Budget PowerPoint Presentation
Proposed Regional Agreement with Tracked Changes
Proposed Regional Agreement

Adjournment

At 8:38 p.m., on a motion by Brian Sullivan, seconded by Jeni Landers, and carried 7-0, it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,



Tara Holt, Acting Assistant Recording Secretary