

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, July 16, 2018

APPROVED

2-13-18

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, July 16, 2018, at the Station Avenue Elementary School in South Yarmouth, MA.

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; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Carole Eichner, Early Learning Director; Tim Blake, Principal, NHW, Vida Morris, Jim Plath, Cleon Turner, Norm Holcomb, Chris Flanagan, Bob Mezzadri, Paul McCormick, Sheryl McMahon, Bill Crowell, Bob Prall, Lester Murphy, Pat Stone, Peter McDowell, Rachel Baroni, and Jean Blake.

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

Public Comment Period

Ms. Vida Morris of Yarmouth expressed her dissatisfaction with recent test scores. Chairperson Landers advised that if Ms. Morris wished to discuss the topic that she should feel free to schedule an appointment.

Mr. Jim Plath, Chairman of the Dennis Finance Committee, inquired whether public discussion from town officials would be allowed during the Reports section of the agenda, specifically B1. Building Vote Process. After a brief discussion the committee decided to allow this.

Mr. Norm Holcomb objects to any comment from a majority of the Dennis Finance Committee.

The Superintendent's Report was moved to first on the agenda.

Reports

Superintendent's Report – Carol Woodbury

The superintendent introduced the new principal at Nathaniel H. Wixon, Tim Blake. Mr. Blake is a Dennis-Yarmouth graduate. He has previously worked as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal in the Leominster and Lowell areas and is very excited about this opportunity. He introduced his mother, retired district teacher Jean Blake. Phil Morris offered any help he could give and Jeni Landers appreciated the enthusiasm and renewed motivation Mr. Blake could provide.

School Committee Liaisons – B. Carey, Dennis; J. Tierney, Yarmouth

Dennis – No report.

Yarmouth – No report.

Building Committee Update – J. Tierney, Chair

The building committee continues its monthly meetings. Several working groups are formed. The design and materials phase is upcoming. He spoke about cost factors associated with delays. Public relations, outreach, and public hearings will all be very important.

Ms. Landers spoke about the building project and referenced the letter from Attorney Andrew Waugh (Enc. #3). Based on the information from the District's Attorney, Andy Waugh, the school committee may select either option by a 2/3 vote. There are two options to secure a vote; a 2/3 majority vote at both town meetings must vote in favor to move forward to a ballot vote, or a ballot vote which would require the majority of all voters in both towns.

The MSBA has a December 12th meeting and the district will have 120 days beyond that to secure funding. The timeline would involve one year in the design phase, 1.5 years to build, a summer punch list, with the hopes of opening to students in the Fall of 2021. Any delay would cost the taxpayer's money.

Jim Plath, Dennis Finance Committee, expressed that such matters have always been brought before town meeting and that there is no substitute for that process.

Mr. Cleon Turner commented that he had a great deal of respect for the Dennis Finance Committee and that town meeting is the best form of government. However in this case he did not believe so; with education being the most important thing in a community. He felt that a regional vote is the only way to go, citing the recent Cape Cod Tech vote. He said that in Dennis, 2052 voters (17.7%) voted; if it had been 400 people at town meeting it would have only represented 3.5% of the voters. In Yarmouth, 2695 voters (13.8%) voted; if it had been 450 voters at town meeting then only 2.3% voters would have been represented.

Mr. Chris Flanagan, Dennis Selectman, advocates for a district wide vote. He expressed that these are his own feelings; not necessarily how the Board of Selectmen feels. He felt there would be a higher voter turnout and that more parents would be likely to vote.

A discussion followed among the committee members regarding the voting process.

On a motion by Phil Morris, seconded by James Dykeman, and carried 5-2 by roll call vote, it was:

VOTED: To request approval under Mass. Gen. L. ch. 71 Section 14D pursuant to Section 16(n) to pursue a district-wide election.

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

Assistant Superintendent - Ken Jenks

The building committee working groups are meeting on Tuesday. Summer clean projects are in place.

Superintendent Carol Woodbury introduced Eileen Whalen, the new administrative assistant to the superintendent and Recording Secretary to the School Committee.

School Committee Business

Consent Agenda

On a motion by James Dykeman, seconded by Phillip Morris, and carried 7-0, it was:

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

Acceptance of Donations

To accept a Shippo potter's wheel and a Raku kiln as well as related tools and books valued at approximately \$1,875.00 to the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School art department.

To accept a donation of various materials valued at approximately \$300.00 to the Early Education Preschool Classrooms.

Surplus Materials – 46 Alpha Smarts

To declare 46 Alpha Smarts as surplus and sell or otherwise properly dispose of them as appropriate at the direction of the Director of Technology.

Field Trip Approval

To approve two proposed cross country trips by the Girls' and Boys' High School Cross Country Teams on Friday, September 14, 2018 and Friday, September 28, 2018, respectively.

Personnel List

No items were included in the packet.

Information Items

Thank you letter from Maureen Sullivan.
Educational Foundation Benefit Concert flyer.

Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll

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

Calendar

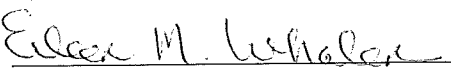
The next School Committee meeting will be held on August 13, 2018.

Adjournment

At 7:58 p.m., on a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by James Dykeman, and carried 7-0, it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,


Eileen M. Whalen, Asst. Secretary