

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a School Committee Meeting
Monday, January 14, 2019

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School Committee meeting was held on Monday, January 14, 2019, at the Station Avenue Elementary School, South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Jeni Landers, Chairperson; Joseph Tierney, Vice Chairperson; Brian Carey, Treasurer; Andrea St. Germain, Secretary; 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; Eileen Whalen, Recording Secretary to the School Committee; Carole Eichner, Director of Early Learning; Leila Maxwell, Director of STEM Instruction; Sherry Santini, Director of Humanities & the Arts; G. Anthony Morrison, D-YRHS Principal; Tim Blake, NH Wixon School Principal; Michelle Dunn, Pat Plucinski, Betsy Pontius; Chris Flanagan, Dennis Board of Selectmen; Sheryl McMahon, Dennis Board of Selectmen; James Plath, Dennis FinCom; Vida Morris; Curt Sears.

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

Reports

Student Representative Jack Carder reported that the concert at the high school was excellent; that the field hockey team was honored at the State House; and that he and Mr. Morrison were interviewed for a Cape Cod Times Story regarding vaping. A brief discussion followed regarding vaping; Brian Carey would like to put the topic as an agenda item at a future school committee meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Ken Jenks

Initial Review FY20 Budget: Ken Jenks gave a PowerPoint presentation on the FY20 Budget and also distributed a Budget by Function report to the members. He reviewed the budget timeline key dates, the budget approach, trends, enrollment, school choice and charter trends and costs, revenue assumptions, and budget categories. He explained that with level services the services remain the same but the cost of those services increases. School choice continues to be a challenge. Carol Woodbury explained the 5 year trend and what the district faces with regard to the Chapter 70 funding formula. Mr. Dykeman said that a 6.54% increase is unacceptable; the towns cannot afford it. Brian Sullivan asked if staff cuts are anticipated; Mr. Jenks said yes. Joe Tierney thanked Mr. Jenks for the information; he would need time to review and would like to meet with Mr. Jenks. Brian Carey said that the finance subcommittee met last Wednesday; there is still a lot of work to do. He felt there were places where the budget could be cut, for instance sports transportation. He agreed that a 6.54% increase is unacceptable.

Update on Borrowing for School Building Project

Ken Jenks gave a brief description of the next steps in borrowing that would allow the project to move forward.

Brian Carey noted that the letter from the Yarmouth Finance Committee that was included in the packet was very positive in nature.

Superintendent-Carol Woodbury

Math Curriculum Update - Leila Maxwell

Leila Maxwell gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Mathematics Curriculum. She reviewed the history of the curriculum including the district strategic plan and the mission statement. She outlined the goals, history, implementation, team approach, resources, and the future. She explained that the goal of benchmark testing is to identify strengths and weaknesses. Effective teachers are the most important factor in a child's education. She showed how eDoctrina looks when a teacher logs in. She spoke of the upcoming changes that will be coming to the district website and showed all the different math resources available to families. She said that professional development is ongoing; there are many workshops that "train the trainer" so that teachers can help others implement lessons. Student assessment information will follow them year to year.

The members thanked Ms. Maxwell for her presentation; calling it well done. Andrea St. Germain asked if the curriculum is finished; Ms. Maxwell said it is dynamic; always improving, but that the base of the curriculum is finished. Brian Sullivan asked about the status of the science curriculum; Ms. Maxwell said the state standards were adopted in 2016 and the initial curriculum for those standards would be finished by the end of this year.

Carol Woodbury brought one of the information items in the packet to the attention of the committee; particularly the students whose work has been accepted into the Massachusetts Amazing Emerging Artists Exhibition in Boston. Special mention was made of Mr. Craig Brodt and the role he plays in the success of his students.

Stabilization Fund

Carol Woodbury reviewed her request for the establishment of a stabilization fund. On a motion by Joseph Tierney, seconded by James Dykeman and carried 6-1 on a roll call vote it was:

VOTED: To request a warrant article for both the Dennis and Yarmouth Annual Town Meetings to establish a stabilization fund for the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District as follows: To see if the Town of _____ will approve the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District request to establish a Stabilization Fund subject to Chapter 71 Section G1/2.

Jeni Landers	yes
Joseph Tierney	yes
Andrea St. Germain	yes
Brian Carey	yes
James Dykeman	no

DYRSD

Brian Sullivan yes
Phillip Morris yes

DYRSD Building Committee Update: There was a brief discussion about the recount in the two towns.

School Committee Liaisons – Brian Carey, Dennis: No report

School Committee Liaisons – Joe Tierney, Yarmouth: No report

Public Comment

Vida Morris asked if there would be a formal acknowledgment of the recent recount vote regarding the building project.

Phil Morris mentioned the Cape Cod Collaborative Annual Report that had been distributed to the members and offered to answer any questions at a later time.

School Committee Business

On a motion by Brian Carey, seconded by James Dykeman, and carried 7-0, it was:
VOTED: To approve the following items included in the consent agenda:

Donations: Move to accept the following for the Ezra H. Baker Innovation School:

- A \$500 donation from the Paulichenka Family
- A donation of school supplies from National Grid
- Christmas dinners for three Ezra Baker families from the West Dennis Garden Club
- A \$3500 donation from the Dennis Golfer's Association for gifts and food for Ezra Baker families
- \$100 in Stop and Shop gift cards from the Old South Dennis Village Association for Ezra Baker families
- A donation of winter coats for Ezra Baker students from the Masonic Angel Foundation.
- Sponsorship of an Ezra Baker family with gifts from the West Dennis Garden Club
- Sponsorship of an Ezra Baker family with gifts from the Dennis Democrats
- A \$400 donation from the Dennis-Yarmouth Pickleball Group to be put into the EHB gift account for future use
- A 32" Insignia flat screen television valued at \$129 donated to the EHB daycare on behalf of the Pereira family
- A \$500 donation made on behalf of the Dennis Memorial Library; funds to be used to purchase Stop and Shop gift cards for Baker families in need

Move to accept a \$541 donation from the Yarmouth Pickleball Group to the Dennis-Yarmouth School District for the high school maintenance department

Move to accept a \$2,100 donation from the Lou Colombo Music Fund of The Cape Cod Foundation to the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Music Department for private/semi-private small ensemble coaching

DYRSD

Move to accept a 6 x 9 area rug from Greg Kashgagian of Paramount Rugs for the WIN Room at NH Wixon School

Minutes:

12/17/18

Bills, Requisitions, and Payroll

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

Information Items

Letter from Yarmouth Food Pantry to Station Avenue Elementary School – Power of One Food Drive

Press Release – Massachusetts Amazing Artists Exhibition

Letter to Chairperson Landers from the Town of Yarmouth Finance Committee

Calendar

The next school committee meeting will be January 28, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Station Avenue Elementary School.

Items Distributed at Meeting

FY20 Initial Budget Presentation

Budget by Function Report

Mathematics Curriculum Presentation

Cape Cod Collaborative Annual Report

Adjournment

At 8:37 p.m., on a motion by James Dykeman, seconded by Brian Carey, and carried 7-0, it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,



Eileen M. Whalen, Assistant Secretary