

APPROVED

September 18, 2019

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The September 18, 2019 School Committee (SC) meeting was called to order by Brett Argall at 7:01 PM. He reported that the meeting is being broadcast live and recorded for future rebroadcasting.

School Committee Members present: Brett Argall (Chair-left the meeting at 7:59 PM), Lisa Brown (Secretary), Becky Charniak, Kelli Grady (Vice Chair), Julie Moulder

School Committee Members Absent:

Non-Voting: Business & Operations Manager Cortney Keegan, Superintendent Kevin Maines

Pledge of Allegiance

Student Representative Report

Will Champagne of DHS joined the meeting and spoke about the following: Homecoming, college fair, class elections, National Honor Society invitations, Ring Night and the Tiger Open.

Public Comment & Communication

There was no comment.

Old Business/New Business

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There was no new business.

Superintendent's Report

District Safety Plan-2nd Reading and O & A

Mr. Vega and Officer Falone joined the meeting. Superintendent Maines stated that not everyone had received the policy at the last meeting. This plan will be brought to a vote at the first meeting in October. The plan is a work in progress. There needs to be a structure and record for Reunification. A discussion was held.

Ms. Charniak asked who would be the Media Coordinator. Superintendent Maines replied that the superintendent would be the Media Coordinator. A discussion was held regarding what information would and can be released to the public. Superintendent Maines and the Safety Plan Committee will look into creating an overview for parents to use as a guideline in case of an emergency and also communicate the expectations of the students. That item may be something to include in the Opening Day packet.

Mr. Argall asked if there is an organization offering media training. ISO courses may have a media module.

Ms. Charniak asked if the Safety Plan Committee was comfortable with the secondary reunification locations. Officer Falone stated that he and Mr. Vega toured each location.

1:1 Chromebook Initiative-Update

Superintendent Maines stated that the Chromebooks have not been ordered, but he did get confirmation from Sen. Fattman's office today that they are on track with releasing the funding. Ms. Keegan and Ms. Sousa assembled the grant application. Superintendent Maines hopes that everything will be up and running at DMS and DHS by mid-October.

Discussion on Timeframe for Upcoming Negotiations with DTA, Custodians & Cafeteria

Superintendent Maines recommended that the Negotiations Committee discuss when they will meet. Superintendent Maines will reach out to the committee.

APPROVED

September 18, 2019 School Committee Meeting

Signed Documents-DMS Best Buddies

Superintendent Maines stated that the document was signed two weeks ago by the SC and the Douglas Teacher's Association (DTA), and it is in Ms. Keegan's office.

School Committee & Sub-Committee Report

Accounts Payable Report

Ms. Brown stated that on 8/29/19 she signed 9 batches totaling \$84,357.52, and on 9/5/19 she signed 3 batches totaling \$73,129.74.

Consent Agenda

Minutes: August 8 and September 4, 2019

Ms. Charniak made a motion to approve the August 8, 2019 School Committee meeting minutes as amended. Ms. Grady seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-4, Ms. Moulder abstained.

-Ms. Charniak made a motion to approve the September 4, 2019 School Committee meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Moulder seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

DHS-Foreign Language Trip to the Galapagos Islands

Mr. Romano and Ms. Floria joined the meeting to ask for permission to use the school facilities to provide information on the 9-day Foreign Language trip to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador in July of 2021. Ms. Floria provided information on the trip and provided an itinerary. The trip will cost \$4,020/person, however if students enroll by 9/27/19, they can deduct \$200 from the cost. There will be a chaperone for every 6 students. This is not a school sponsored trip.

Ms. Moulder spoke in favor of the trip.

-Ms. Grady made a motion to approve the use of the high school facilities to plan and provide information to students regarding a non-school sponsored trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands in July of 2021. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

DHS-Out-of-State Marching Band Trips

Mr. Romano joined the meeting and asked for permission for the marching band to travel to Woonsocket, RI to participate in Autumn Fest on October 14 and the Providence, RI St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22, 2020. The marching band has participated in these events annually. The cost for the district is \$400/bus.

-Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the Monday, October 14, 2019 trip to Woonsocket, RI and the Sunday, March 22, 2020 trip to Providence, RI for the DHS marching band to participate in parades. Ms. Grady seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

DHS-Out-of-State Spanish Field Trip

Ms. LeClaire joined the meeting and asked for permission for a day field trip to an auditorium in Providence, RI to attend a performance of Latin rhythms on November 20, 2019. The performance is geared toward world language programs. The estimate for one bus is \$385 and tickets to the event cost \$15. There will be 1 chaperone per 10 students. The bus would leave at 8:30 AM and the students would be back by noon the same day.

-Ms. Charniak made a motion to approve the Wednesday, November 20, 2019 out-of-state field trip to Providence, RI at the Bishop McVinney Auditorium for high school students to attend the Latin rhythms performance. Ms. Moulder seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

DHS-Out-of-State Class of 2021 Disney Trip

Kaitlyn Bonin and Emma Allen of the Class of 2021 joined the meeting, along with Ms. Floria, and asked for permission for the Class of 2021 to travel to Disney World April 16-20 or 21, 2021. Ms. Bonin and Ms. Allen outlined the tradition and the benefits of the trip, along with the fundraisers they have held over the past few years. Ms. Floria received an estimate of \$1,600 for four nights and \$1,750 for five nights from Foxy Travel based on 50 students with 7 chaperones. The Class of 2021 has 96 students. Ms. Floria outlined some details of the trip. She plans to hold an informational meeting next month.

Superintendent Maines stated that they will need to come back before the SC with the definitive details as the date of the trip approaches. He also reminded everyone that there are ways that students can lose their privilege to go on the trip, even if they have paid for it, and no refunds will be given in that circumstance.

The fundraising at Gillette starts as soon as March and goes to the end of summer. The seniors get first pick at choosing shifts, but they always need more people. 13 students and 5 parents are needed to work the booth at each event. Students sign up to work and they get \$100 each time they work. Parents can also work the booth and their \$100 would go to their student's account. Ms. Floria outlined other fundraisers they are planning.

-Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the Class of 2021 class trip to Disney World, Florida in April of 2021. Ms. Charniak seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

DHS-Close School Choice for the 2019-2020 School Year

Mr. Romano joined the meeting and asked that School Choice be closed for the high school for this school year.

-Ms. Moulder made a motion to approve closing School Choice for grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year barring extenuating circumstances that would be determined by the building principal and superintendent. Ms. Grady seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

A discussion was held.

-Ms. Moulder made a motion to approve closing School Choice for all remaining grade levels for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year barring extenuating circumstances that would be determined by the building principal and superintendent. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

DES-0.6 FTE EL Teacher

Ms. Nasuti joined the meeting to ask for a 0.6 FTE EL Teacher. (Mr. Argall was not present for this discussion. Ms. Grady acted as Chair.) There has been an influx of students over the past five years. Currently, there are 14 English Learners that speak 5 different languages, one of whom cannot read, write or understand any English and will need intensive instruction. The addition of this 0.6 FTE EL Teacher will support the district's needs as they are today. Ms. Nasuti has received 16 home surveys that indicate an at-home language other than English. Of the 16, only 5 have qualified for ELL services. A discussion was held.

Ms. Charniak asked if the student with intensive EL needs will always need 1:1 instruction going forward. Also, would this 0.6 teacher be able to teach multiple students if a student with similar needs arose. Ms. Nasuti replied that students are grouped by English proficiency. A discussion was held.

Ms. Keegan stated that the cost to the district would be an estimated \$30,000 from the General Fund or the School Revolving Fund.

-Ms. Brown made a motion to approve a 0.6 FTE EL Teacher for the elementary school at an estimated cost of \$30,000 to be paid from the General Fund or the School Choice Revolving Fund if the funds are not available in the General Fund. Ms. Charniak seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-4.

Superintendent Maines stated that looking forward, this position may need to be expanded to 0.8 or 1.0. Also, Ms. Nasuti is a Special Education Chair. There is a person in the district who may be able to share in the EL responsibilities.

Ms. Moulder asked if EL services need to be provided for an EL student who is in Douglas temporarily, such as an exchange student. Ms. Nasuti stated that she would need to check the regulations, but she does not believe the district would be required to provide EL services in that circumstance.

School Business and Operations Manager Report

School Choice Revolving Fund Update

Ms. Keegan presented a Trend History and Projection for FY20, including the \$151,319. Today she received the preliminary projection for Circuit Breaker revenues for FY20 from DESE, which is more than previously expected.

Green Communities Grant

The Town Administrator informed the district that Douglas has received a competitive Green Communities Grant. Included in that grant is \$57,204 for the DPS LED lighting.

Transfers and Reclassifications

There were no transfers or reclassifications.

Other Topics

Superintendent Maines stated that NY state has banned vaping for 90 days.

Ms. Moulder asked who is responsible for the skate park. Superintendent Maines responded that the skate park is Town property.

Adjournment

-Ms. Charniak made a motion at 8:21 PM to adjourn the School Committee meeting. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-4.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Wright
Recording Secretary