

APPROVED

November 6, 2019

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

*The November 6, 2019 School Committee (SC) meeting was called to order by Brett Argall at 7:00 PM. He reported that the meeting is being broadcast live and recorded for future rebroadcasting.*

*School Committee Members present: Brett Argall (Chair), 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*

Jacob Watson and Lainey Beane of DMS joined the meeting and reported on fall sports, mechanical engineering field trip, STEM conference, Tiger Bucks Auction, and Lego Robotics.

### *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*

#### *Student Life Video*

*Superintendent Maines presented the video which will be posted on the website.*

### *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Douglas Police Dept. and the Public Schools-Update*

*Superintendent Maines stated that the MOU has been updated, and there are no major changes. It has been approved and is in use.*

#### *DHS Fitness Equipment-Update*

*Johna Peloquin of the DHS Athletic Boosters joined the meeting. The Boosters have voted to donate \$7,500 towards the purchase of replacement athletic equipment. Superintendent Maines and the SC thanked the Boosters.*

#### *Blissful Meadows*

*As a result of their corporate open, Superintendent Maines stated that Blissful Meadows has donated just over \$4,000 for athletics and physical fitness, which will go towards purchasing equipment for the fitness room. Blissful Meadows was thanked.*

*Ms. Grady asked if the new equipment would have a maintenance schedule. Superintendent Maines stated that there are not many companies that do that. He will ask Jeff Kollett.*

#### *Technology Transition-Donna Sousa*

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*Superintendent Maines stated that Ms. Sousa has assembled some items to be requested from Capital. There are some significant technology needs as the buildings are getting older.*

*Bus Evacuations*

*Superintendent Maines stated that bus evacuations were performed last week. There were no issues or concerns.*

*School Committee & Sub-Committee Report*

*Accounts Payable Report*

*Ms. Brown stated that on 10/24/19 she signed 7 batches totaling \$32,813.73.*

*Consent Agenda*

*Minutes: October 16, 2019*

*-Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the October 16, 2019 School Committee meeting minutes as amended. Ms. Grady seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.*

*-Ms. Charniak made a motion to approve and release the amended May 15, 2019, June 19, 2019, and July 7, 2019 School Committee Executive Session meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Grady seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.*

*DES-Increase 0.6 FTE EL Teacher Position to 1.0 FTE*

*Superintendent Maines stated that Ms. Nasuti could be freed up to focus more on Special Education if this position were expanded. Also, the district expects more EL students will move into the district, and expanding this position would be proactive. The current EL population is underserved. This position can be reduced in future budgets if there is no need for it. A discussion was held.*

*-Ms. Grady made a motion to approve the increase in the previously approved elementary school 0.6 FTE EL Teacher Position to a 1.0 FTE, which is an increase of 0.4 FTEs. The estimated cost is \$20,000 and will be paid for by the School Choice Revolving Fund or General Fund. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-4, Ms. Moulder abstained.*

*DHS-Out-of-State Band & Chorus Trip*

*Mr. Denoncour and Ms. Strycharz joined the meeting and asked for permission for the DHS band and chorus to travel to a music festival in Washington DC April 23-26, 2020. No school will be missed, and seniors traveling to Disney will also be able to attend. The cost of the trip has been reduced to \$625/person with the help of the Boosters, who have committed up to \$8,000. Two fundraisers have been held and one more is scheduled. Mr. Denoncour introduced Ms. Strycharz.*

*-Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the DHS out-of-state band and chorus trip to Washington DC April 23-26, 2020. Ms. Charniak seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.*

*DHS-Removal of Library Books*

*Mr. Romano joined the meeting and asked for approval to dispose of DHS library books. Mr. Romano presented samples of books that have been identified for disposal/donation. Ms. Leibel joined the meeting. Mr. Romano presented the discarding sequence as follows: other school district libraries, Douglas public library, students, staff and agencies that collect donated books.*

*Ms. Leibel explained that weeding of the library collection should be an ongoing process with an annual request for disposal/donation. Ms. Keegan explained the procurement law.*

*Superintendent Maines described the need for a budget line for new books. Mr. Argall would like to consider appropriating some funds this year.*

*Ms. Charniak asked if it is worth staff's time to follow the discarding sequence. A discussion was held.*

-Ms. Moulder made a motion to approve the removal of the attached books from the DHS library collection to be dispensed within accordance of the School Committee's policy IJLA. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Policy BEDH (Public Participation at School Committee Meetings)-3rd Reading  
*Mr. Argall stated that there have been no changes since the last reading.*

-Ms. Charniak made a motion to adopt the BEDH Public Participation at School Committee Meetings policy as presented. Ms. Grady seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

**School Business and Operations Manager Report**

Transfers and Reclassifications

There were no transfers or reclassifications.

**Other Topics**

Superintendent Maines stated that a large branch fell on the power lines this morning affecting the electricity in the buildings. DMS and DES were briefly evacuated due to burning odors. The Fire Dept. did not find anything alarming. Everything is now up and running.

Ms. Charniak stated that partial information can be accessed immediately, i.e. some parents have scanners and heard the 911 call. Superintendent Maines stated that in this instance, it was at least one hour before he could get to a telephone.

Ms. Grady suggested posting on the website that "all emergency information will be available by..." so that people know how to get the information. She was impressed with the information contained in the All Call that went out. Mr. Argall suggested that it be made clear that the district will take care of the situation first before an All Call goes out. A discussion was held.

Ms. Charniak stated that parents have asked her if they could have picked up their child and also asked if the students could have been doing an activity while they were waiting in the auditorium. Superintendent Maines replied that the power was out, and he is not aware of what the students were doing while waiting. Also, having parents coming to get their children would have caused chaos, in addition the fallen tree branch made access to the school difficult. Ms. Charniak was pleased with the district's response.

Ms. Grady asked if there is a process to check for trees that may fall or drop branches. Mr. Argall stated that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) have been discussing this. There are over 5,000 such trees in Douglas that are in rights-of-way. The BOS is trying to get an additional \$50,000 to help take care of this issue.

Everyone who was involved was thanked.

**Executive Session**

-Ms. Charniak made a motion at 8:05 PM to enter into executive session because the open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the committee. When the Executive Session is concluded, the public session will be adjourned and there will be no further public business conducted this evening. Ms. Grady seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Brett Argall – Aye, Lisa Brown – Aye, Becky Charniak – Aye, Kelli Grady – Aye, Julie Moulder – Aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Wright  
 Recording Secretary