

APPROVED

November 20, 2019

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The November 20, 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

Will Champagne of DHS joined the meeting and reported on Parent/Teacher Conferences, Spirit Week, the Turkey Teacher Fundraiser, winter sports, and DHS Winter Concert.

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

John & Abigail Adams Scholarships

Mr. Romano joined the meeting and presented the DHS John & Abigail Adams Scholars and the requirements for receiving the scholarship.

MCAS Presentation

Ms. Socha, Mr. Bell, Mr. Delaney, and Mr. Romano joined the meeting and gave a PowerPoint presentation including: District Accountability, District/State Comparisons, 2019 MCAS State Comparisons for all tests, District Analysis, Special Education Plan, School Response to MCAS and Action Plans for all the schools in the district.

There are no longer levels, there are now two categories: Require Assistance and those that do not. Douglas falls into the category that does not need assistance.

Mr. Romano is disappointed in the math scores. He feels that Math was less prepared for the new test than ELA was. Discussions were held regarding females outperforming males in ELA in Douglas, students with disabilities and economic disabilities, classroom grading practices, improved ELA scores, math strategies, MIAA academic team performance award program, and providing a late bus.

Parent/Teacher Conference Schedule and Early Release Dates

Superintendent Maines stated that he did a One Call yesterday to remind families. DPS, DES and DMS will be holding conferences Thursday night and Friday afternoon and DHS just Thursday night.

Ms. Moulder does not agree with only having 30 timeslots at DMS. She suggested finding a different way to do the conferences. Superintendent Maines knows that a better model

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needs to be found, i.e. splitting the teams to double the number of conferences available. Mr. Argall stated that that issue has been brought up to him by some parents. Superintendent Maines also reminded the public that parents can reach out to the schools and the teachers for appointments.

Safety Meeting Update & Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Proposal

Superintendent Maines has done some research regarding entering into an MOU with the Blackstone Valley Consortium. He summarized that, if the district is in an emergency situation, can they reach out to other districts in the Consortium for mutual aid. Superintendent Maines will bring the MOU he drafted to the Consortium at the next meeting to see if they are agreeable.

School Committee & Sub-Committee Report

Accounts Payable Report

Ms. Brown stated that on 11/7/19 she signed 17 batches totaling \$414,241.99 and on 11/14/19 she signed 5 batches totaling \$25,510.89.

Consent Agenda

Minutes: November 6, 2019

-Ms. Grady made a motion to approve the November 6, 2019 School Committee meeting minutes as amended. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

DHS-Guidance Department Name Change

Mr. Romano joined the meeting and asked that the name of the Guidance Dept. be changed to the School Counseling Dept., and to change the job titles to School Counselor and School Counseling Department Chair to better reflect the counselors' duties and roles.

-Ms. Grady made a motion to approve the name change of the DHS Guidance Department to the DHS School Counseling Department, and the job titles from Guidance Counselor to School Counselor and Guidance Department Chair to School Counseling Department Chair. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

DHS-Promotion Requirements

Mr. Romano joined the meeting and presented revised promotion requirements based on feedback from the last time it was presented. The requirements will now start with the Class of 2024. Regarding having specific course requirements for juniors and seniors, a compromise of "making adequate progress to graduate" was suggested. A discussion was held. The goal is to push students who are behind in their requirements for graduation to attend summer school.

-Ms. Grady made a motion to approve the adoption of Douglas High School Promotion Requirements starting with the Class of 2024. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

DPS-1.0 FTE 1:1 Special Education Paraprofessional

Superintendent Maines presented the request for a kindergarten 1.0 FTE 1:1 paraprofessional in order to maintain compliance and safety regarding a student with significant trauma history. A discussion was held.

-Ms. Brown made a motion to approve a 1.0 FTE 1:1 Special Education Paraprofessional at the primary school for an estimated cost of \$14,100 in FY2020 to be paid from the Circuit Breaker Revolving Fund account. Ms. Grady seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

School Business and Operations Manager Report

Transfers and Reclassifications

Ms. Keegan presented the transfers, half of which relate to the new object codes.

-Ms. Charniak made a motion to approve FY20 General Fund Budgetary Transfer request #2 as presented by the Business Manager for the School Committee meeting dated November 20, 2019. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Ms. Keegan presented the reclassification needed for a correction.

-Ms. Grady made a motion to approve FY20 Reclassification #2 as presented by the Business Manager for the School Committee meeting dated November 20, 2019. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Other Topics

A discussion was held regarding how to get important response information to parents in the event of an emergency.

Ms. Keegan has sent out the FY2021 budget forms to all but one administrator. They are due back to her by December 20, 2019. She will be working on the rest of the budget. At the next Budget Subcommittee meeting they will review the calendar. The DESE chart of account changes and Town Finance Director's new object codes need to be incorporated.

Mr. Argall stated that the House and Senate passed the Student Opportunity Act today. Ms. Keegan stated that the Chapter 70 will be implemented over 7 years, subject to appropriation. They are addressing Special Education, Special Education transportation, and health insurance.

Executive Session

-Ms. Charniak made a motion at 8:42 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. The Superintendent will be included in this Executive Session. 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