

APPROVED

May 15, 2019

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The May 15, 2019 School Committee (SC) meeting was called to order by Superintendent Maines at 7:00 PM. He reported that the meeting is being broadcast live and recorded for future rebroadcasting.

School Committee Members present: Brett Argall, Lisa Brown, Becky Charniak, Kelli Grady, Julie Moulder

School Committee Members Absent:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Student Representative Report

Jordan Provost and Stephanie Barch of DMS joined the meeting and reported on the following: 8th Grade dinner dance, MCAS, sports, student council, Field Day, DMS band and chorus, and various field trips.

Public Comment & Communication

There was no comment.

School Committee Officer Reorganization

Superintendent Maines welcomed Ms. Charniak to the SC.

-Ms. Grady made a motion to nominate Brett Argall as Chair of the School Committee. Ms. Moulder seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Mr. Argall took over as Chair of the SC.

-Ms. Brown made a motion to nominate Kelli Grady as Vice Chair of the School Committee. Ms. Charniak seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

-Ms. Grady made a motion to nominate Lisa Brown as Secretary of the School Committee. Ms. Moulder seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

-Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the following Sub-Committee and Other Positions list for the 2019-2020 School Year as presented. Ms. Grady seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Policy Sub-Committee: Brett Argall and Becky Charniak

Budget Sub-Committee: Brett Argall, Lisa Brown, Kelli Grady (alternate)

Negotiations Sub-Committee: Brett Argall, Kelli Grady, Lisa Brown (alternate)

Superintendent Search Committee: Kelli Grady, Julie Moulder, Lisa Brown (alternate)

Signing Authorizations:

Payroll: Lisa Brown, Brett Argall (alternate)

Accounts Payable: Lisa Brown, Becky Charniak (alternate)

It was decided to discontinue the Facilities Use Sub-Committee as most of the responsibilities of this committee fall under the administration and the Policy Sub-Committee.

Old Business/New Business

Old Business: Superintendent Maines has spoken with Town Engineer, Bill Cundiff about the trails on school property and has not heard back nor received any documentation. Superintendent Maines will reach out to Mr. Cundiff again.

New Business: There was no new business.

Superintendent's Report

DHS-Update on Biology Lab

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Mr. Romano joined the meeting and reported that the room is complete. The floor still needs to be waxed. A few rooms need finishing touches. The foreman will walk through the rooms next week with Mr. Romano and Jeff Kollett.

DHS-Mock Accident

Mr. Romano joined the meeting and reported that he felt that last Thursday's mock accident had a large impact on the juniors and seniors. This event is staged every other year. He described the content and events of the mock accident. Mr. Romano and Superintendent Maines thanked everyone involved.

Mr. Romano stated that those involved met every week for two months to prepare this event.

Mr. Romano stated that approximately 12 waivers were submitted for those who wished to opt out of attending this event.

Ms. Moulder asked about follow-up after the event. Superintendent Maines stated that easels were set up at which students were invited to write their thoughts and feelings. Ms. Moulder and Superintendent Maines spoke about how having familiar faces acting in the accident has a much larger impact on the students.

Ms. Grady spoke about the benefit of having the students stay after the accident and speak to their friends and staff, in lieu of returning to class.

Update on Newly Hired Staff

Superintendent Maines introduced the following new hires: at DPS-Nurse, Kindergarten teacher, 2nd Grade Teacher; at DES-4th Grade teacher; and at DMS-Special Education teacher. Open positions: secretaries at DPS and DMS and a part-time preschool position.

FY2020 Budget Update

Ms. Keegan stated that the budget was reduced at April's public hearing to \$13,589,970, which is a 2% increase over the prior fiscal year's approved appropriation. It includes reductions in District Support positions of \$49,426, a 0.6 FTE, stipend positions, textbooks and Chromebooks. The budget was approved at last Monday's Town Meeting and does not need to be re-voted. There is the possibility of additional revenues to be appropriated at the November Special Town Meeting.

Superintendent Maines reiterated that the reductions to get to the approved budget will have an impact on the ability of the district to implement a plan to move forward and be competitive. Some staff will need to be notified that their positions have been eliminated. No classroom, Special Education teachers, or administrative positions have been cut. Next year will be a critical year.

Mr. Argall stated that the Senate's Ways and Means budget has not changed from the House budget, despite Sen. Fattman's indications. Mr. Argall has emailed them noting his displeasure, and he encouraged the public to do the same. The budget is not yet final. Superintendent Maines has reached out to Rep. McKenna and Sen. Fattman. Rep. McKenna responded that he was not able to get the funding for the Chromebooks. Sen. Fattman responded that he is confident that Douglas will get them.

Items not able to be funded include: Chromebooks, a STEM teacher, a DMS Special Ed teacher, a digital technology position, and a health position. Ms. Keegan always keeps track of items that are cut/unfunded. Ms. Charniak asked if information has been or can be sent home to parents outlining what the district has lost/will lose due to budget constraints and include a sample letter and email addresses of state legislators. Superintendent Maines and Ms. Keegan feel that doing so would create animosity. Mr. Argall feels there is value in some communication. Discussions were held.

School Committee & Sub-Committee Report

Accounts Payable Report

Ms. Brown stated that on 5/2/19 she signed 10 batches totaling \$219,120.63 and on 5/9/19 she signed 11 batches totaling \$95,772.74.

Consent Agenda

Minutes: April 24 & May 1, 2019

-Ms. Grady made a motion to approve the April 24, 2019 School Committee meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-4, Ms. Charniak abstained.

-Ms. Grady made a motion to approve the May 1, 2019 School Committee meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-4, Ms. Charniak abstained.

Executive Session Meeting Minutes:

-Ms. Grady made a motion to approve the October 3, 2018 School Committee Executive Session meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-4, Ms. Charniak abstained.

-Ms. Grady made a motion to approve the November 7, 2018 School Committee Executive Session meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-4, Ms. Charniak abstained.

-Ms. Grady made a motion to approve the December 5, 2018 School Committee Executive Session meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-4, Ms. Charniak abstained.

School Choice Consideration by Grade

Superintendent Maines presented the most recent information on class sizes. Preschool has no School Choice. The administration made the following recommendations: Kindergarten has 25 students/classroom with 4 teachers and would have 19 students/classroom if a 5th teacher is approved-recommend closing School Choice for kindergarten; Grade 1 has 25.1 students/classroom-recommend closing School Choice for Grade 1; Grade 2 has 20 students/classroom-recommend no more than 7 students be accepted for School Choice for Grade 2; Grade 3 has 22 students/classroom-recommend closing School Choice for Grade 3; Grade 4 has 25.5 students/classroom-recommend closing School Choice for Grade 4; Grade 5 has 21.5 students/classroom-recommend no more than 2 School Choice students be accepted for Grade 5; Grade 6 has 20.25 students/classroom-recommend no more than 7 School Choice students be accepted for Grade 6; Grade 7 has 20.75 students/classroom-recommend no more than 7 School Choice students be accepted for Grade 7; Grade 8 has 24.5 students/classroom-recommend closing School Choice for Grade 8; Grade 9 may be as low as 75 students/Grade, Grade 10 has 96 students/Grade, Grade 11 has 93 students/Grade and Grade 12 has 100 students/Grade. The administration recommended not going any higher than 110 students/grade for any of Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. A discussion was held.

Ms. Keegan explained that Douglas receives \$5,000 for each School Choice-In student, which does not cover the entire cost to educate each student.

-Ms. Grady made a motion to accept the final version of the availability of School Choice Students at each grade level as follows: No School Choice in the preschool, Kindergarten is closed, Grade 1 is closed, Grade 2 no more than 7 School Choice students not to exceed a class size of 22, Grade 3 is closed, Grade 4 is closed, Grade 5 no more than 2 School Choice Students not to exceed a class size of 22, Grade 6 no more than 7 School Choice students, Grade 7 no more than 7 School Choice students, Grade 8 is closed, Grade 9 no more than 20 School Choice Students, Grade 10 no more than 14 School Choice Students, Grade 11 no more than 17 School Choice Students and Grade 12 no more than 10 School Choice Students. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

DPS 1.0 FTE Kindergarten Teacher

Ms. Socha joined the meeting and asked to add a Kindergarten teacher and a paraprofessional. There are 98 Kindergarten students registered, with more inquiries received every day. Without the addition of a 5th teacher, there would be 25 students/classroom. She described how there is room at DPS for this additional classroom.

Ms. Keegan presented the estimated cost impact for the Kindergarten teacher of up to \$50,000, and up to \$18,843 for the 1.0 paraprofessional, for a total estimated cost of up to \$68,843. She

recommended that the initial funding source be School Choice Revolving Fund. As changes occur, it may be possible to fund from the General Fund. A discussion was held.

-Ms. Brown made a motion to approve a 1.0 FTE Kindergarten teacher, estimated to cost up to \$50,000, and a 1.0 paraprofessional, estimated to cost up to \$18,843, for the primary school for the 2019-2020 school year to be funded initially from the School Choice Tuition Revolving Fund or General Fund, if salary vacancy funds become available. Ms. Charniak seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

DES Out-of-State Field Trip to Roger Williams Zoo on 5/22/19

Mr. Bell joined the meeting and asked for the SC to authorize a third grade field trip. They will be using two buses and a specialized transportation van for 102 students, 10 staff, one nurse and 18 parent chaperones. This trip will address science content. The cost will be \$15/student after applying the PTO's contribution of \$5/student. Scholarships are available for students who need assistance.

-Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the third grade field trip to Roger Williams Zoo in Providence, RI on May 22, 2019. Ms. Moulder seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

2019-2020 Student Handbook Revisions

Ms. Sousa, Mr. Bell, Mr. Delaney and Mr. Romano joined the meeting. Each principal presented the minor changes to each of their school's handbooks relating to clarifying language, dates, vaping, social media, technology and dress code.

-Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the changes to the 2019-2020 Student Handbooks for Douglas Primary School, Douglas Elementary School, Douglas Middle School and Douglas High School as presented. Ms. Grady seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

School Business and Operations Manager Report

Transfers and Reclassifications

Ms. Keegan presented the transfers as requested by administrators and to take care of negative amounts in the General Fund budget.

-Ms. Moulder made a motion to approve FY19 General Fund Budgetary Transfer request #10 as presented by the Business Manager for the School Committee meeting dated May 15, 2019. Ms. Grady seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Ms. Keegan presented the reclassification having to do with roof damage.

-Ms. Moulder made a motion to approve FY19 Reclassification as presented by the Business Manager for the School Committee meeting dated May 15, 2019. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

FY19 Special Education Circuit Breaker Extraordinary Relief

Ms. Keegan was just informed that Douglas did not receive any extraordinary relief this year. In order to receive this relief, Special Education expenditures need to be 25% above the previous year's expenditures.

Other Business

Mr. Argall received an email from a town advocating on behalf of the Promise Act. Mr. Argall stated that, even if the State adopts the Promise Act, Douglas may not receive any benefit, and the State, having "fixed" the Chapter 70 formula, may not improve Douglas' financial position. He will forward the email to "the rest of you".

Executive Session

-Ms. Moulder made a motion at 8:53 PM to go into executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining or litigation 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