

APPROVED

January 8, 2020

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The January 8, 2020 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 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

Zachary Sargent and William Bushey of DMS joined the meeting and reported on winter sports, Teacher/Student Dodgeball, Lego Robotics, student body Winter Olympics, Student Council basketball concessions, and benchmarks.

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

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)-Mutual Aid-Second Reading

Superintendent Maines stated that approximately 5 or 6 members of the Blackstone Valley Superintendents Consortium are interested in signing on. There is a meeting next Friday where a vote on this MOU will be on the agenda. The SC's final reading for this MOU will not be until February, 2020.

DHS-Boys Volleyball Update

Superintendent Maines stated that Ms. Sokol has reached out to surrounding communities. Nipmuc and Bellingham were open to discussion. Superintendent Maines asked Ms. Sokol to continue to pursue opportunities with other schools and come back to the SC in two weeks. The DMS gym does not have the apparatus to erect volleyball nets.

Discussion on DMS Sports and Expanding the Program

Superintendent Maines stated that a field hockey club and boys and girls volleyball clubs have been suggested as additions to the DMS sports program. Mr. Smith has been asked to look at the possibility of including field hockey skills in elementary school gym classes. A discussion was held regarding girls basketball.

Mr. Argall asked that a survey be sent out to middle-schoolers to ask what sports they would be interested in participating in. Superintendent Maines will send out a survey.

January Professional Development Day (PD) and Schedule

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Superintendent Maines stated that the 1/17/20 PD schedule has been finalized. The sessions will be on mindfulness, CPR/First Aid training, and horizontal teaming as requested by a recent survey.

School Committee & Sub-Committee Report

Accounts Payable Report

Ms. Brown stated that on 12/19/19 she signed 10 batches totaling \$113,541, and on 12/23/19 she signed 10 batches totaling \$280,151.22.

Consent Agenda

Minutes: December 10, 2019

-Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the December 10, 2019 School Committee/Finance Committee meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Grady seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-3, Ms. Moulder and Ms. Grady abstained.

DES-PTO Donation to the Art Program

Ms. Keegan stated that Mr. Bell met with the Art teacher and created a list of needs. Mr. Argall stated that the Douglas PTO is donating \$6,884.75 to the DPS/DES Art program.

-Ms. Charniak made a motion to accept the Douglas PTO's donation of \$6,884.75 as stated. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

The SC and Superintendent Maines thanked the PTO.

School Business and Operations Manager Report

Transfers and Reclassifications

Ms. Keegan presented the transfers requested by administrators and also as a result of going through the budget.

-Ms. Charniak made a motion to approve FY20 General Fund Budgetary Transfer request #3 as presented by the Business Manager for the School Committee meeting dated January 8, 2020. Ms. Grady seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

There were no reclassifications.

FY2020 General Fund Budget Report

Ms. Keegan stated that the bottom line balance is \$437,507.50, which includes Transportation. There is \$127,882 left in Transportation. The Operating Budget balance is \$309,625.50. The cost to add a kindergarten teacher would be \$47,127.30 and a kindergarten paraprofessional would be \$21,082.42. They are hoping that Town Meeting will cover the unbudgeted costs of the DMS water pump and DES grease interceptor tank. "In total, what we have there is \$84,469.72."

A discussion was held regarding Mr. Lachapelle's retirement and long-term subs.

Other Topics

Superintendent Maines stated that the DHS Robotics came in 9th place in a competition this weekend. He suggested that a Robotics II elective be added.

Superintendent Maines stated that Lauren D'Amico attended the Worcester County Superintendents Association's Annual Scholars Luncheon.

Mr. Argall stated that the first Negotiations Sub-Committee meeting was held. A meeting schedule has been established with the DTA. The first meeting with the DTA will be 1/28/20.

There is a Budget Sub-Committee meeting scheduled for 1/15/20.

Superintendent Maines stated that two retirements have been submitted.

Executive Session

-Ms. Moulder made a motion at 7:36 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. Superintendent Maines will be included in the 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