

APPROVED

January 22, 2020

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

*The January 22, 2020 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), Lisa Brown (Secretary), Becky Charniak, Kelli Grady (Vice Chair), Julie Moulder (arrived 7:45 PM)*

*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 Lauren D'Amico's scholar award, midterms, united athletic volleyball match, annual Snowball Dance, Winter Carnival, Peer Leaders' food collection, and Best Buddies' blanket collection.

### **Public Comment & Communication**

There was no comment.

### **Old Business/New Business**

*Old Business:* Mr. Argall stated that Superintendent Maines and the SC have a verbal agreement for a Superintendent's contract that allows for a reduced schedule of 157 days at a salary of \$97,000. Ms. Urquhart has been asked to fill in for Superintendent Maines when he is not on site. Superintendent Maines presented a letter containing his intent to retire.

*New Business:* There was no new business.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **District Technology Needs-Donna Sousa, Technology Director**

*Ms. Sousa joined the meeting and gave a presentation on Recommended 5-year Technology Replacement Plan broken out by year. She stated that technology updates have been postponed for a number of years. The turnover rate for computers should be 48 months; the teacher's PC are 10 years old and the MacBooks are 7 years old. The cost for the plan for Year 1 (minus projectors) is almost \$140,000. The rest of the budget combined totals almost \$190,000. Ms. Sousa has met with the Budget Subcommittee.*

Superintendent Maines has spoken with Rep. McKenna and Sen. Fattman to again request money for technology. Ms. Sousa is working on a presentation for them.

Discussions were held including MacBooks vs. Chromebooks, purchasing vs. leasing, and a rotating schedule for replacing technology.

#### **Recommendation for Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Douglas Public Schools and the Douglas Police Department**

*Officer Brett Fulone joined the meeting and stated that a 10-week old English Labrador named Finn has been donated to the department. Finn will be trained as a therapy/comfort animal to work in the schools and other community outreach programs. The dog will not be an emotional support animal. This addendum outlines what the department is seeking to do with this dog. The department is in agreement with it.*

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Superintendent Maines spoke about the dog's role and the formation of the addendum, which gives the dog permission to be on school property with the understanding that the dog is under the direct supervision of a police officer. Locations for the dog within the schools was discussed. Officer Fulone stated that one of the older cruisers is being retrofitted to transport the dog.

Parents will be solicited to ask about their students' allergies or fears of animals. Ms. Charniak suggested that parents with students with dog phobias be asked if they wish for Officer Fulone and Finn to try and alleviate that phobia.

Ms. Grady is concerned that many dog treats contain peanut butter and many students have severe peanut allergies.

-Ms. Grady made a motion to take the agenda out of order and move to the Consent Agenda for the Recommendation for Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Douglas Public Schools and the Douglas Police Department. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

#### Mutual Aid-Update

*Superintendent Maines stated that he has made some adjustments to the agreement and has sent them to the Superintendents of the Blackstone Valley.*

#### DHS-Boys Volleyball Update

*Ms. Sokol joined the meeting and stated that Nipmuc and Hudson are open to scrimmage at the JV level. She recommended having an after-school club team this year at the DHS. A coach would need to be found and volleyballs purchased. A discussion was held, including gym availability, starting boys volleyball at DMS, and lacrosse.*

It was suggested that club practice start in April when some of the other spring teams can practice outdoors.

Ms. Sokol will meet with interested students to see if their interest is sustainable. Ms. Sokol will look into possible co-ops.

#### School Committee & Sub-Committee Report

##### Accounts Payable Report

*Ms. Brown stated that on 1/16/20 she signed 10 batches totaling \$146,135.09.*

#### Consent Agenda

##### Minutes: December 18, 2019 & January 8, 2020

-Ms. Charniak made a motion to approve the December 18, 2019 School Committee meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-4, Mr. Argall abstained.

Approval of the January 8, 2020 School Committee meeting minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

##### DHS-Student Council Trip to Hyannis

*Ms. Alicia LeClair joined the meeting to ask for permission for the student council to attend the annual Mass. Association of Student Counsels conference in Hyannis on 3/4/20 – 3/6/20. Fifteen students will be attending. A bus will be shared with Oxford and Sutton.*

-Ms. Grady made a motion to approve the Douglas High School Student Council overnight trip to the Student Council Conference Center in Hyannis, MA for 3/4/20 to 3/6/20. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

*MOU between the Douglas Public Schools and the Douglas Police Department*

-Ms. Charniak made a motion to authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement for the addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Douglas Public Schools and the Douglas Police Department as presented under the Superintendent's Report. Ms. Grady seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

*Disposal of Obsolete iPads*

*Ms. Sousa joined the meeting and asked for permission to dispose of approximately 200 iPad-2s. They are approximately seven years old. A discussion was held regarding whether or not the iPads had any salvage value. Ms. Sousa will look into that. There is a company that will recycle them.*

-Ms. Charniak made a motion to approve the disposal of iPad-2s as delineated on the attached listing entitled "Douglas Public Schools Listing of Functionally Obsolete iPads, School Committee Meeting 1/22/20". 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**

Mr. Argall stated that the Budget Subcommittee met 1/15/20. Discussions included Special Education openings that have not been filled (3 at DMS), staffing, retirements, stipend positions, and a general discussion of the FY2021 budget.

There will be a Negotiations Subcommittee meeting tomorrow morning.

The next SC meeting is 2/5/20. Ms. Keegan hopes to present the FY2021 at that time. Mr. Argall asked that members keep 2/12/20 available in case a meeting is needed. There will be no meeting during February vacation. The next meeting with the Finance Committee is 2/25/20.

Regarding next year's school calendar, Superintendent Maines stated that DPS and DES would like to request two additional half days for professional development. That request will be coming before the SC on 2/5/20. Mr. Argall asked for a status on time-on-learning at that time.

**Adjournment**

-Ms. Charniak made a motion at 8:35 PM to adjourn the School Committee meeting. Ms. Moulder seconded the motion. Vote: Aye-5.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Wright  
Recording Secretary