

Approved February 12, 2013

DENNIS FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 2, 2013

High School Library

Auditorium 6:00 PM

PRESENT: William Crowell, Jane Otis, Pat Stone, Jay Murphy, Robert Prall

ABSENT: Chairman Jim Plath Rachel Baroni,

Meeting was joint with the DYRSD and the Dennis and Yarmouth Finance Committee

AGENDA

1. 2014 Budget Discussion

The School did a presentation of the 2014 budget. Attendees broke out into groups and discuss various budget topics. No votes were taken.

Adjourned 8.12 Pm~ School minutes attached.

Ms. Otis moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Crowell seconded the motion. The Committee voted 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Fife

APPROVED
1/23/13

DENNIS-YARMOUTH REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of a Joint School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 2, 2013

A Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District joint meeting between the DY administrators and the Finance Committees in Dennis and Yarmouth was held on Wednesday, January 2, 2013, at the DY High School Library in South Yarmouth, MA.

Present: Carol Woodbury, Superintendent; Larry Azer, Director of Finance and Operations; Judith Dion, Director of Pupil Services; Gloria Lemerise, Director of Instruction; James Dykeman, Jr., School Committee member; Ken Jenks, DYRHS Principal; Peter Crowell, SAE Principal; Jeanne Carrick, LCM Principal; Emily Mezzetti, MES Principal; Ann Knell, MMS Principal; Kevin Depin, EHB Principal; Carole Eichner, NHW Principal; Maureen Burnham, Adm. Asst. to the Superintendent; Dennis officials: Paul McCormick, Selectmen Chair; Patricia Stone, Jay Murphy, William Crowell, Jane Otis, Dennis Finance Committee; Jack Moylan, Phil Morris, Jessica Roberts, Yarmouth Finance Committee

The meeting began at 6 p.m. Mrs. Woodbury thanked those in attendance and began the presentation by showing the DYRHS Lipdub video produced and directed by the students themselves. The Superintendent noted the purpose of the joint meeting was to both inform and listen to the ideas of our public officials to help ensure a positive outcome regarding the closure of the L. C. MacArthur Elementary School at the end of the school year. Each principal was then introduced to present his/her school's part of the *DY Advantage*.

Presentation by District Administrators Highlighting the D-Y Advantage

SAE

Mr. Peter Crowell, Station Avenue Elementary School principal, highlighted several of SAE's programs, i.e., the kindergarten's curriculum "Tools of the Mind," balanced literacy instruction, peer mediators/mentors in grade 3, and Reading Recovery/Title I. The principal stressed the benefits of the partnership SAE students have with students at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School.

EHB

Mr. Kevin Depin, E. H. Baker Innovation School principal, noted that Baker recently became an Innovation School focused on reading and writing. A student wellness initiative with healthier food choices and increased physical education is a focus at the Baker School. As part of the Innovation School, kindergarten through grade three students at EHB/ are being introduced to Spanish as part of their curriculum. Mr. Depin elaborated on the youth philanthropy organization, the Penny Harvest, which students are participating in at Baker.

LCM

L. C. MacArthur principal, Mrs. Jeanne Carrick, discussed the emotional side of the closure of a school, but that it can also create an opportunity. Mrs. Carrick focused on LCM's small class sizes, wonderful family support and activities, and the student enrichment and after-school activities. In the spring, a celebration will be held to commemorate those who have been a part of L. C. MacArthur Elementary School both past and present.

MES

Mrs. Emily Mezzetti, M. E. Small Innovation School principal, focused on the development of a successful student with a strong foundation in academic skills, individual strength, and strong inner character. The innovation plan includes an additional forty minutes of student learning time each day which has provided a new daily "Enrichment Block" for expanding the student experience.

NHW

Mathaniel H. Wixon's Innovation School principal, Mrs. Carole Eichner, emphasized Project-Based Learning for grades 4-8 as well as the Wixon Middle Level Academy for grades 6 and 7 which clusters students for academic success. Mrs. Eichner noted the fact that 95 percent of students chose to participate in uniform dress—Dress for Success!

MMS

Mrs. Ann Knell, principal at the Mattacheese Middle School, highlighted the extended student day and the sixth grade honors program. MMS also offers 7th grade honors classes as well as the programs: Word Generation (6,7) and STARI (6-8). Enhancements have also been added to Mattacheese's wellness program.

NHW/MMS

Both Wixon and Mattacheese provide iPads for grade 6 students, foreign language for grades 7 and 8, and the schools each have a strong interscholastic athletics program. Wixon and Mattacheese combine their field trips to Quebec, the class trip to New York City, and share in ski trips.

DYRHS

Mr. Ken Jenks, principal at the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, noted that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has ranked DY as a Level I High School at the 84th percentile for grades 8-12. DY has an Innovative STEM Program and the most extensive Virtual High School Program on Cape Cod with 100 classes. In addition, DYHS's marching band and color guard are state and New England Champions for 2012 and have achieved this honor several times. The DY Girls' Volleyball Team was given the MIAA Sportsmanship Award for 2012.

The Superintendent provided some enrollment data and asked that members at each table discuss the following and provide input:

- *How can we turn the closing of MacArthur into a D-Y Advantage?*
- *What questions will we need to answer?*
- *What should the next steps be?*

How can we turn the closing of MacArthur into a D-Y Advantage?

- Transparency is a must!
- Looking for hard numbers to make an informed decision
- As town officials, we did not know about all of the wonderful things
- We need to really communicate the advantages
- Economy of scale – critical mass
 - Coordination – Teams
 - Teachers working together
 - Reinvest dollars into programs
- Research on 8th grade success
- Clubs – activities – co-curricular (higher GPA)
- What are LCM parents saying (neighborhood?)
- Kids like being with others
- Crossing towns, river
 - Bus ride
- From challenge to advantage
- Eventually these students will be together in high school. The sooner they combine, the sooner they will build camaraderie.
- The combination can be better for the educational process.
- Give students the opportunity to see their “future” school(s).
- Class sizes standardized
- Transportation costs lower/neutral
- Consistency in programming

- Blending strong programs – best components
- Advantage of potential lease of the LCM school to Bridgewater State. This may potentially lead to some educational opportunities.
- There are more opportunities to do more with our students based on economy of scale.
- Will lead to move consistent experiences for all of the students of Dennis-Yarmouth.
- We will be able to better allocate our resources, more efficiency.
- Better job with staff allocation and resources.
 - ELL, special education, 504s

What questions will we need to answer?

- What's the road block?
- Where are the children going?
- What is school day length, bus ride length?
- Will there be a savings?
- Will this include the elementary?
- How is the ratio of D-Y students choosing D-Y versus other school districts going to look moving forward?
- What motivates students/families to choose other schools or to stay in DY?
- What does closing of LCM do for the district? Can we put the funds back into the district?
- Will there be a graduation for 7th grade?
- How will we configure the classes?
- Have selectmen weighed into decision?
- Are there savings, extra costs?
- What are the financial savings?
- Why not keep grades 5-7 (Yarmouth) together?
- Is moving of grades 4-5 with grades 6-7 the way we want to configure grades?


What should the next steps be?

- A vision – a mock-up (Channel 99)
- More specificity
- Assurance that all of the advantages will remain
- Forums – public work sessions
- Use the Ambassadors, 8th graders at DY, reach the voters, garden clubs, civic associations
- Tell parents of configuration
- Go out with whole plan
- Talk at extra events, benefits about why it's good for kids
- Be clear – Date certain
- Identify information points
- Celebrate!
- Make decision soon – within two months
- Communication, communication, communication – handouts to businesses, town halls: FAQs
- Tape the slide presentation. Alert people as to when it is going to air.
- Send information home to parents
- Analyze thoroughly the student numbers – look out further than one year... (Brewster ☺)
- What responses are we getting from parents and the business community?
- Have we discussed reorganizing our time schedules as we reconfigure schools?
- Decide how student body will be allocated/configured?
- Cost factor – clarified
- Clarifying investment in new programs.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by,


Maureen A. Burnham, Asst. Secretary