

DEERFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
DEERFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL – LIBRARY - 66 NORTH ROAD
DEERFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 ~ 6:00 PM

Member/Participants: Kendra Cohen; Chair, Ellen O'Donnell, Nate Oxnard, Danielle Palmer, Supt. Patty Sherman, Principal Kristen Withee, Asst. Principal Brian Grieve, Recording Secretary Trish Lafond

1. Call to Order – Ms. Cohen, Chair
Chair Cohen called the meeting to order at 6 pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
Chair Cohen led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Minutes – July 19, 2023, August 2, 2023, August 14, 2023, August 16, 2023 & August 30, 2023
A motion was made by Nate Oxnard, seconded by Ellen O'Donnell to approve the minutes of July 19, 2023 as written.

3-0-1

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Nate Oxnard, seconded by Danielle Palmer to move the minutes of August 2, 2023 as written. Nate Oxnard made the correction that he did not vote for himself to attend remotely. The vote was reviewed, and he did.

4-0

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Nate Oxnard, seconded by Danielle Palmer to approve the minutes of August 14, 2023 as written.

4-0

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Nate Oxnard, seconded by Danielle Palmer to move the minutes of August 16, 2023 as written.

4-0

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Nate Oxnard, seconded by Danielle Palmer to move the minutes of August 30, 2023 as written.

4-0

MOTION CARRIED

4. Immediate Business

A. Public Comments

Greg Whitmore said we are having the same discussion that we've had for the past 20 years. The board has been given a direct mandate from the town; they want school choice. He saw a glimmer of moving forward but now you're pulling back because of some interesting emails. He asked the board to put aside personal preferences and ideologies and give the town what they voted for. He said he also stated he had no idea that the modulars did not have bathrooms. We have a security door at the front of the building but we're giving an 8-year-old the key to the school to go to the bathroom. It's kind of crazy and he doesn't like it. He also asked that the kids be allowed to wear costumes at Halloween.

Erroll Rhodes made a request that board notices are put on the town site. Other commissions and boards in town do it. It will keep all the people in town informed. 100% of the people pay 80% of school tax money.

B. Agenda Review – Ms. Cohen

Supt. Sherman added FY 24 update under G and she has two informational items.

Chair Cohen has two informational items.

C. Consent Agenda (0 item)

D. Review of Correspondence

The board received about 30 emails concerning high school choice that will be attached to the meeting minutes. They also received an email asking if the road behind the school would be coned off during the school day when students are outside. The road is coned off from 8 am until 2:25 pm.

Ms. O'Donnell asked about deliveries. She wanted to make sure the trucks are turning around and not driving out through the modulars. She was assured they were not.

E. Facility Updates

Parking lot is completed!

Roof is 95% done.

The fire alarm system has a few outstanding items to review.

Ms. O'Donnell asked about the stairwells. Supt. Sherman stated they are to standards. There are different types of stairwells. Only those with closing doors are fire stairwells and need to be clear.

F. Updated Bus Routes

Updated routes were provided to the board.

A motion was made by Ellen O'Donnell, seconded by Kendra Cohen to approve the new version of the bus routes.

4-0

MOTION CARRIED

G. FY 23 Retainage & FY 24 Update

Supt. Sherman stated the FY 24 budget is frozen at this time.

High school special education costs are not yet set due to students coming and going. Supt. Sherman is being very cautious and watching spending for the time being. She advised the board to retain as much from FY23 as possible. The amount available to retain is \$302,685.20.

Supt. Sherman reviewed the different trust fund balances. A public hearing is needed to access any funds from trust funds.

A motion was made by Nate Oxnard, seconded by Kendra Cohen to retain the maximum amount allowed by law from fiscal year 2023.

4-0

MOTION CARRIED

H. 23-24 Board Goals

Chair Cohen asked the board to review old goals and brainstorm.

Nate Oxnard spoke to the land the district owns on Stage Road. People are asking why we keep it, why not sell it or put it in conservation? Could there be a way to get revenue from it? The board should start thinking about what they want to do with it.

Kendra Cohen spoke to the issue of solar energy. The town energy committee has reached out. Ellen O'Donnell will reach out to the town committee.

Kendra Cohen will draft an initial list of potential goals.

Nate Oxnard said expansion was a goal last year. Is it still? How do we get support?

Ellen O'Donnell would like to address issues that are currently non-compliant.

Supt. Sherman suggested starting with the end goal and then look at the objectives.

Ellen O'Donnell would love an update on the new math curriculum that was approved.

Nate Oxnard spoke about space needs-what are they, prioritize them. He also spoke about looking at diversity, inclusion, equality. Ellen O'Donnell added looking at the emotional well being of students.

The board discussed more ways to get information out to the community.

Supt. Sherman said board goals can be put on every working session agenda so they don't get forgotten.

Danielle Palmer suggested finalizing school choice as a possible goal. Identify reasonable expansion and repair updates.

Kendra Cohen spoke about formalizing the capital improvement plan. Narrow down what can be accomplished.

Supt. Sherman said the school is a chapter in the Capital Improvement Plan. Nate Oxnard is the rep. for the school board to this plan but has not heard anything from the planning board.

I. High School Updates

Ellen and Danielle are still negotiating with Concord.

They are looking at contracts with other schools. Ellen contacted Dover but has heard nothing back. Pembroke can take all our kids.

Chair Cohen stated they would not be voting on a final decision tonight but will keep the community updated.

Ellen O'Donnell said they can not rush the decision. They are being diligent and listening to feedback from the community. She would like reps. from the different schools to come do presentations to students and staff about their schools and what they offer, kind of like a college fair. She will work with DCS guidance and administration to try and make this happen.

J. Date for CHS Student Report

The board discussed what this meeting should look like. Last year students came with the CHS staff. Supt. Sherman will ask for administration only so the report can be discussed. She will invite them to the October 4th meeting.

5. Board Reports

- Executive Board Report – Ms. Cohen
There is a meeting next Wednesday, Sept. 13th.
- Principal's Report – Ms. Withee
Summer program -ELA and Math programs in small groups, special ed students incorporated in groups
Kindergarten Kamp
Summer Curriculum work-ELA and Math grades K-3
World culture work
PLC work
I-Reading Training-new assessment tool
Summer Leadership-July 19-20th
Thoughtful Classroom Practices
Kindergarten will have 3 classes until Mrs. Chase returns from maternity leave.
Enrollment updated
8/28 & 29-staff returned
8/15-new staff orientation at Pembroke
Back to School Barbecue was a great success
New lunch program POS system, still working out the kinks
- Curriculum Review Board – Ms. O'Donnell
No meeting to report on.

6. Policy – Ms. Sherman

- EFAA – Meal Charging 3rd Reading
Tabled to next meeting.
- GCG – Substitute Professional Staff Employment 3rd Reading
A motion was made by Nate Oxnard, seconded by Kendra Cohen to move the NHSBA version.
4-0
MOTION CARRIED
- IHAJ- Tuition of Resident High School Students to Public Secondary Vocational Programs 3rd Reading
Ellen O'Donnell made a motion, seconded by Nate Oxnard to rescind this policy.
4-0
MOTION CARRIED
- JJC – Student Public Performances 3rd Reading
Nate Oxnard entered a newer version in the drive.
A motion was made by Ellen O'Donnell, seconded by Kendra Cohen to move the newer version.
4-0
MOTION CARRIED
- JKA – Student Corporal Punishment 3rd Reading
A motion was made by Kendra Cohen, seconded by Nate Oxnard to rescind this policy.
4-0
MOTION CARRIED
- JLCF – Wellness 3rd Reading
Edits were made and this was tabled until the next meeting.

7. Informational Items

- NH Housing Study
Supt. Sherman was contacted by a planning consultant. They are looking at how new housing affects schools. They would like Deerfield to participate in their study. Ms. Sherman has signed an agreement with them. This is a great opportunity to get data.

- NHSBA Resolutions
Each resolution needs to be voted on. The board will need to let Ellen O'Donnell know how to vote as the delegate.
- Executive Board
Kendra Cohen said there are full board meetings 10/11 and 10/25 to discuss budget.
- NHSBA
Fall trainings announced. Webinars available.
Very informative.

8. Public Comments

Nancy Shute is excited to hear the Concord high School report. She is concerned about the report of missing students by another community member when comparing DCS's 2013 graduating class and CHS's 2017 graduating class. Did some students go to other schools? move? She hopes the CHS report will clear up the discretion in numbers.

Erroll Rhodes informed the board that it costs \$500 to print postcards and \$400 to mail to the town. The Capital Improvement Plan is on the town website. There is a meeting of the energy committee on 9/13 and all are welcome to attend. The 107 bridge should be repaired by 9/20. He offered the Backyard Gazette as a means to reach out to the community. Maybe do an article explaining what the SAU is.

A motion was made by Kendra Cohen, seconded by Nate Oxnard to enter nonpublic at 8:10 pm.

ROLL CALL-

Kendra Cohen-YES	Ellen O'Donnell-YES	Nate Oxnard-YES	Danielle Palmer-YES
ALL IN FAVOR			
MOTION CARRIED			

9. Non-Public Session - NH RSA 91-A:3, II, - *if needed*

During nonpublic session the board discussed confidential high school negotiations.

A motion was made by Nate Oxnard, seconded by Ellen O'Donnell to exit nonpublic at 8:22 pm.

ROLL CALL-

Kendra Cohen-YES	Ellen O'Donnell-YES	Nate Oxnard-YES	Danielle Palmer-YES
ALL IN FAVOR			
MOTION CARRIED			

10. Appointments/Resignations – Ms. Sherman

None

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Nate Oxnard, seconded by Ellen O'Donnell to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm.

ALL IN FAVOR
MOTION CARRIED

Next Scheduled Deerfield School Board Meeting: September 20, 2023 ~ 6:00 P.M. Deerfield Community School