

DEERFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
DEERFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL –LIBRARY - 66 NORTH ROAD
DEERFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 ~ 6:00 PM

Members/Participants:Kendra Cohen;Chair, Ellen O'Donnell, Zach Langlois, Danielle Palmer
Supt. Patty Sherman, Principal Kristen Withee, 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. Public Comments

Nancy Shute thanked the board for doing what the voters asked them to do even though that is not what is being posted on social media. How can the board negotiate with Dover High School if they won't return phone calls. She encouraged community members to reach out to the board and come to meetings for information.

4. Agenda Review- Ms Cohen, Chair

Chair Cohen added an informational item as #6.

Ms. O'Donnell asked to speak about the capital improvement plan which they will do under goals.

5. Immediate Business

A. Board Goals

Zach Langlois said they need to separate school board goals and the schools goals. Ellen O'Donnell asked how the board can support the school goals.

Mr. Langlois feels the solar project is an immediate concern due to the warranty on the new roof.

Ms. Cohen would like a strategic goal plan for facility updates. Mr. Langlois will work with Chris Koufos to get this done. Electrical upgrades may have to wait until any addition to the building is done. It is a long project that will tear into the building. Unit ventilators is more easily done.

Ms. O'Donnell addressed the capital improvement plan.

Modulars have about 2 years of life left. The board is working on replacing them. Gym floor has been replaced.

The septic system has been replaced.

The roof replacement has been done.

The board is working on solar.

Additional DCS playing fields are not a priority at this time.
Rerouting traffic is still a concern and is being worked on.
Stabilization of the athletic fields has been done.

Mr. Langlois said renovations that have been done will somewhat reduce the cost of expansion. The expansion should be done in phases because students will have to be displaced for a time.

Ms. O'Donnell said there are 2 options for solar. The electric company can install it and they own it or the school pay for it and reduce costs. Mr. Langlois suggested doing the solar in phases. Find out the total cost, divide it over 5 years and do a warrant article each for a portion. Bid should go out in January for work next summer.

There has to be a hard deadline.

Ms. O'Donnell addressed the district owned land on Stage Road. What can be done with it? Low cost housing or a solar field for low cost housing? Possibly an over 55 community?

Mr. Langlois suggested athletic fields.

Ms. Cohen wouldn't want to own land and have the town create a solar farm due to liabilities. Selling it won't create that much revenue. She suggested reaching out to the select board about their thoughts and working together after budget season. She plans to put the board's goals on the agenda more often so they aren't forgotten about.

Supt. Sherman asked what goal 1A looks like? This relates to helping admin/staff with student academic performances.

Ms. O'Donnell said meeting with staff to get feedback. It was suggested to meet every trimester.

Supt. Sherman said the curriculum is reviewed in the 3rd trimester. How can the board support that?

Ms. Cohen said goal 1B deals with communication with the town.

Mr. Langlois said there needs to be more quality communication rather than just more communication.

Ms. O'Donnell said information has to be easily found. She would like to see more information about our high school students and their accomplishments and successes.

Mr. Langlois suggested having high school students present to the board like they have done in the past.

Supt. Sherman suggested putting the Bridge on the town website so all community members can read it.

Ms. Cohen said goal 2, high school options, is constantly being worked on. Supt. Sherman suggested creating a timeline and action plan.

Goal 4 deals with nutrition and supporting the local agricultural community. DCS has a new food service director and she needs time to settle in. Danielle Palmer will research this.

Goal 5 is reinvigorating DCS initiatives. These are reported on during the Principal's report. Promoting a culture of respect and inclusivity is a policy that the board supports and administration updates the board about.

Informational-

Ms. Cohen drafted a letter inviting members of the MBC to school board meetings. The chair of the MBC wants more collaboration between them and the school board. She requested everyone take a good look at the budget and be prepared to discuss. Mr. Langlois said the MBC wants the budget as early as possible. However, they meet on Tuesdays and the school board meets on Wednesdays so there will always be a week delay on any request from them. Retirement, special education costs and insurance numbers don't come in until late in the process so it's hard to get it to the MBC early.

Ms. Cohen hopes to have the budget done by December 6th.

Mr. Langlois invited Lisa McConnell, special ed administrator, to attend meeting based on this year's numbers.

A motion was made by Kendra Cohen to enter nonpublic at 7:13 pm.

Community member Erroll Rhodes asked about public comments.

Ms. Cohen withdrew her motion. She asked for permission to change the agenda and add public comments.

Erroll Rhodes reminded the board that his Backyard Gazette is available to publish student achievements and successes. He asked how many people the board reaches on Facebook? The energy committee had people look at the Stage Rd. land and it is not suitable for a solar farm.

A motion was made by Zach Langlois, seconded by Kendra Cohen to extend the three minute rule for speakers.

**ALL IN FAVOR
MOTION CARRIED**

Mr. Rhodes said Sharepoint information is on the Gazette website. He asked how the school audits are going? 2017 is still on the website.

Nancy Shute spoke to students involved in high school sports.

A motion was made by Zach Langlois, seconded by Kendra Cohen to enter nonpublic at 7:21 pm.

ROLL CALL-

Kendra Cohen-YES Ellen O'Donnell-YES Zach Langlois-YES Danielle Palmer-YES

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Zach Langlois, seconded by Kendra Cohen to allow Nate Oxnard to attend remotely.

ROLL CALL-

Kendra Cohen-YES Ellen O'Donnell-YES Zach Langlois-YES Danielle Palmer-YES

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

6. Non-Public Session- NH RSA 91-A:3, II, - k

During nonpubic session the board discussed high school negotiations.

A motion was made by Zach Langlois, seconded by Kendra Cohen to exit nonpublic at 8:15 pm.

ROLL CALL-

Kendra Cohen-YES Ellen O'Donnell-YES Zach Langlois-YES Danielle Palmer-YES

Nate Oxnard-YES

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Zach Langlois, seconded by Kendra Cohen to adjourn at 8:15 pm.

ROLL CALL-

Kendra Cohen-YES Ellen O'Donnell-YES Zach Langlois-YES Danielle Palmer-YES

Nate Oxnard-YES

ALL IN FAVOR

MOTION CARRIED

Next Scheduled Deerfield School Board Meeting: October 4, 2023 ~ 6:00 P.M. Deerfield Community School

Approved