

**Groton-Dunstable Regional School District
School Committee
May 24, 2023 - 7:00pm**

Members Present:

Rosanna Casavecchia, Yasmeen Cheema, Rafael Glod, Jeff Kubick, Brian LeBlanc, Lacey McCabe, Fay Raynor

Administration Present: Dr. Laura Chesson, Superintendent; Kristin DeFranciso, Ass't. Superintendent; Sherry Kersey, Director of Finance & Operations

Others: Kristyn MacInnis, SEPAC Representative; Joseph Wang, Student Representative

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance - Grade 4 students Avani and Eli, from Florence Roche, attended the meeting to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and ask the School Committee some questions about their role. Both students gave the committee some information on their favorite subjects and the types of activities they enjoy.

Student Representative - Joseph Wang attended to give an update on the final weeks on the HS school calendar with senior activities, graduation and the excitement within the class to be finishing the year. He also gave the sports wrap-up, a report on upcoming concert activities, as well as reports of a successful prom night. Finally, he talked about a recent meeting between students and Assistant Superintendent DeFrancisco and mentioned that he looks forward to more open conversation between students, staff, and administration moving forward.

Presentation

A presentation was made to recognize outgoing School Committee member Jeff Kubick who offered a few words on his years as a member of the committee.

Reorganization of the School Committee

New member from Groton, Catherine Awa will replace Mr. Kubick.

Chair B. LeBlanc opened with a request for **nominations for the position of SC Chair.**

Nominations:

Fay Raynor (through Y. Cheema)

Rafael Glod (through C. Awa)

Votes -

Roll Call - Y. Cheema-F. Raynor; R. Glod-R. Glod; L. McCabe-F. Raynor; B. LeBlanc-F. Raynor; R. Casavecchia-F. Raynor; C. Awa-R. Glod

Appointed F. Raynor - 5

R. Glod - 2

New Chair, F. Raynor, opened **nominations for Vice Chair.**

Nominations:

R. Glod (through L. McCabe)

R. Casavecchia (through R. Casavecchia)

L. McCabe - (through F. Raynor) did not accept the nomination

Votes -

Roll Call - Y. Cheema-R. Glod; R. Glod-R. Glod; L. McCabe-R. Glod; B. LeBlanc-R.

Casavecchia; F. Raynor-R. Casavecchia; R. Casavecchia-R. Casavecchia; C. Awa-R. Glod

Appointed R. Glod - 4 (4.5) R. Casavecchia - 3 (3.75)

Chair, F. Raynor, opened the **nominations for Secretary.**

Nominations:

Yasmeen Cheema

Roll Call - Y. Cheema-Y. Cheema; R. Glod-Y. Cheema; L. McCabe-Y. Cheema; B.

LeBlanc-Y. Cheema; F. Raynor-Y. Cheema; R. Casavecchia-Y. Cheema; C. Awa-Y. Cheema

Appointed Y. Cheema - 7

The Chair entertained a motion to take a vote relative to the reorganization and whether subcommittee's should be part of that conversation.

So Moved - R. Glod

Second - L. McCabe

Discussion - Mr. LeBlanc feels this is an open meeting violation and this discussion should be held and added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Roll Call - Y. Cheema, yes; R. Glod, yes; L. McCabe, yes; B. LeBlanc no; F. Raynor, yes; R. Casavecchia, yes; C. Awa, yes

Motion Approved 6 - 1

The Chair entertained a motion that the CIAA Subcommittee stay populated with L. McCabe, and R. Casavecchia and herself.

So Moved - L. McCabe

Second - R. Glod

Discussion - None

Roll Call - Y. Cheema, yes; R. Glod, yes; L. McCabe, yes; B. LeBlanc Abstained; F. Raynor, yes; R. Casavecchia, yes; C. Awa, yes

Motion Approved 6 - 0 - 1 Abstention

Appointed to CIAA: Raynor, McCabe, Casavecchia

The Chair entertained a motion that R. Glod, B. LeBlanc and L. McCabe be on the Budget Subcommittee.

So Moved - R. Glod

Second - R. Casavecchia

Discussion - None

Roll Call - Y. Cheema, yes; R. Glod, yes; L. McCabe, yes; B. LeBlanc Abstained; F. Raynor, yes; R. Casavecchia, yes; C. Awa, yes

Motion Approved 6 - 0 - 1 Abstention

Appointed to Budget: Glod, LeBlanc, McCabe

The Chair entertained a motion that Y. Cheema, L. McCabe, and C. Awa be on the Policy Subcommittee.

So Moved - R. Glod

Second - L. McCabe

Discussion - None

Roll Call - Y. Cheema, yes; R. Glod, yes; L. McCabe, yes; B. LeBlanc Abstained; F. Raynor, yes; R. Casavecchia, yes; C. Awa, yes

Motion Approved 6 - 0 - 1 Abstention

Appointed to Policy: Cheema, McCabe, Awa

DEI - Nominations for DEI Liaisons are R. Glod (nominated C. Awa), R. Casavecchia, and C. Awa.

Roll Call -

Y. Cheema - Rafi, Catherine

R. Glod - Rafi, Catherine

L. McCabe - Rafi, Catherine

B. LeBlanc - abstain

F. Raynor - Rafi, Rosanna

R. Casavecchia - Rafi, Rosanna

C. Awa - Rafi, Catherine

Appointed to DEI: Glod, Awa

R. Glod told the committee that he and Ms. McCabe would remain as liaison to the same Dunstable committee's they were already assigned to. Discussion on the remaining committee's will be brought to the next meeting.

Public Comment -

Comments included concern around DEI and SEL.

B. LeBlanc made a motion to approve 1 payroll warrant totaling \$1,106,256.37 and 4 AP warrants totaling \$1,222,132.43 for a grand total of \$2,328,388.85.

Second - R. Glod

Discussion - None

Roll Call - Y. Cheema, yes; R. Glod, yes; L. McCabe, yes; B. LeBlanc yes; F. Raynor, yes; R. Casavecchia, yes; C. Awa, yes

Motion Approved 7 - 0

Presentation

Superintendent's Update

Report of the end of year calendar.

School Culture/Climate survey update. The full survey will go out to all students, grades 3-12, all parents/guardians, and staff members. Data will be shared early in the next school year.

Dr. Chesson met with representatives of the Chamber Choir that included a former teacher, students, and their parents. Dr. Chesson reported that it was a very productive meeting.

Dr. Chesson followed up with information on a recent hoax telling the community that moving forward all communication in regard to such incidents would be prefaced with "this is an on-going investigation but this is what we know at this time".

Teacher High Fives - Dr. Chesson recognized 2 staff members who received accolades from parents.

Behavioral Task Force

Ms. DeFrancisco presented an update on the scope of work thus far, with assistance from 2 members of the task force, Marcia Gray (paraprofessional) and Laura Taylor (Ass't Principal FloRo). The following details were presented:

Where We Were -

- concerns regarding help in the classroom for difficult student behaviors
- understanding the nature of the behavior and how to respond
- creating a call for support system

Where We Are -

- monthly meetings for monitoring calls
- reviewing data trends
- being proactive and responding in appropriate ways

Where We Are Going -

- continue to use data trends to move forward
- continue conversations about beneficial PD/PL
- collaboration between building teams/district team around preventative, proactive measures/response to behavior

Discussion ensued regarding the balance between privacy and transparency.

[PowerPoint](#) Behavioral Task Force

Reports

Superintendent

Groton Board of Health EDS Site Plan MOU - Discussion/Vote

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the document in hand (MOU) that Dr. Chesson can sign on behalf of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District.

So Moved - R. Glod

Second - L. McCabe

Discussion - None

Roll Call - Y. Cheema, yes; R. Glod, yes; L. McCabe, yes; B. LeBlanc yes; F. Raynor, yes; R. Casavecchia, yes; C. Awa, yes

Motion Approved 7 - 0

Job Descriptions for Student Support and Safety - Discussion/Vote

A second presentation of job descriptions was given. After long discussion Dr. Chesson reminded the committee that Ms. DiFrancisco put a proposal in place to get the district into DESE's MTSS Academy based on the Districts proposal regarding the work that will be done. DESE has set up the systems and structures that make up MTSS and what the 3 tiers look like and found that the GDRSD plan was a sound one. MTSS is used not just in MA but across the country. The work with these 2 individuals would be guided by DESE for a 3 year period. The support we need to give to our buildings need to be coordinated as Tier I, II, and III which will be done by these 2 individuals but if additional supports are needed they will come back to the table.

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the Tier I and Tier II/III positions as presented by the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent.

So Moved - B. LeBlanc

Second - L. McCabe

Discussion - Ms. Casavecchia hopes the administration will continue to keep the SC updated.

Ms. McCabe agrees that these are decisions that should be made by administration and the SC's job to give direction and guidance and that mental and behavioral health needs to be a priority in the district. She also believes that teachers need support in their work in the classroom and DEI needs to be prioritized. She will support this if administration feels they can make this happen

but she would also like to hear feedback on how it is working and if it's not then it needs to be revisited.

Roll Call - Y. Cheema, no; R. Glod, no; L. McCabe, yes; B. LeBlanc yes; F. Raynor, yes; R. Casavecchia, yes; C. Awa, no

Motion Approved 4 - 3

Superintendent Evaluation Review/Presentation - Discussion/Vote

L. McCabe read aloud the Superintendent's Summative Evaluation

[Evaluation](#)

The Chair entertained a vote to approve the Summative Evaluation just presented by L. McCabe.

So Moved - R. Glod

Second - B. LeBlanc

Discussion - None

Roll Call - Y. Cheema, yes; R. Glod, yes; L. McCabe, yes; B. LeBlanc yes; F. Raynor, yes; R. Casavecchia, yes; C. Awa, yes

Motion Approved 7 - 0

Liaison/Subcommittee - Updates

Y. Cheema - MS PTO just held elections, she offered congratulations to the new board.

R. Glod - visit to HS, sustainability course, excellent. DEI report will be the first meeting in June.

New Business - None

Meeting Adjourned at 10:32 PM

Jo Ann Sivazlian, Secretary

Documents shared:

Agenda

Behavioral Task Force

Groton BOH Documents (MOA)

Superintendent's Evaluation

Superintendent's Update

Warrant