



**DOVER SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – MINUTES

Meeting Type:	Special Meeting Notice
Meeting Location:	Council Conference Room, City Hall
Meeting Date:	Tuesday May 19, 2020
Meeting Time:	6:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Amanda Russell called a meeting of the Dover School Board to order on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6:04 p.m.

Ms. Russell read the following statement:

In response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus, and in accordance with recommendations by state and federal health officials limiting public gatherings, the public is encouraged to temporarily access public meetings remotely, including cable television and online streaming, and submit comments for public hearings and Citizen's Forum in writing by email to: Doverschoolboard@dover.k12.nh.us or postal mail addressed to: Dover School Board, 61 Locust Street, Suite 409, Dover, NH 03820. The public may also submit comments by leaving a voice message at: 516-MEET (6338). Precautions in public meeting rooms will include limiting the number of people to 10, the use of overflow space if necessary, and the remote participation by some Board members.

Each Board member must state during roll call that they are in agreement to hold the meeting remotely, and that they are alone in their designated location.

- B. ROLL CALL:** Present were Amanda Russell, Keith Holt, Kathy Morrison, Carolyn Mebert, Zachary Koehler, and Rachel Burdin. Jessica Rozzo joined the meeting later in the evening. Each member agreed to meet remotely and that they were alone in their designated location.

Also present were: Superintendent Bill Harbron, Business Administrator Michael Limanni, Assistant Superintendent Paula Glynn, IT Director Christy Prosser, and District Administrators Peter Driscoll, Kim Lyndes, Beth Dunton, Patrick Boodey, Patty Driscoll and Peter Wotton.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Zachary Koehler led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS FORUM - Ms. Russell stated that she will read emails that were sent to the entire School Board that are pertaining to the evening's agenda items.

Ms. Russell read emails that were sent to the Dover School Board ALL pertaining to agenda items:

Wyatt Codd – In support of a virtual graduation.

Siobhan, Virgil and Colin Mehalek - In support of a virtual graduation.

Lynne Clement – In support of a virtual graduation.

Debbie Codd - In support of virtual graduation. Suggestions - to invite the class of 2020 to be part of 2021 graduation ceremony, or open invite to have ceremony at homecoming.

Emma Nevins – In support of a virtual graduation.

Paula DiNardo – In support of a virtual graduation.

Pam Giguere – In support of an in-person graduation for just students, parents watch remotely.



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Jamie Willette – In support of an in-person graduation.

DHS Class of 2020 Officers – In support of a physical graduation.

Diane McCombie – in support of an in-person graduation.

Steve Giguere – In support of a physical graduation.

Kathryn Wrenn-Kleiman – In support of an in-person graduation.

Krista Lomartire – In support of an in-person graduation.

Katy Cox and Jason Lucie – In support of a virtual graduation.

Robert Kleiman – In support of an in-person graduation.

Bryant and Kerry Hardwick – In support of the decisions DHS administration feels is safest.

Abby Tawalujan – In support of an in-person graduation.

D. DOVER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION APPROVAL

Peter Driscoll spoke to the Board in regard to the DHS 2020 graduation ceremony. He commended the senior class officers on the plan they presented for an in-person graduation ceremony, stating “the plan is thoughtful and meets CDC guidelines for social distancing.”

Mr. Driscoll provided that after careful consideration by administration, the health and safety of the 330 graduates, as well as family and community members must be the main priority.

Mr. Koehler spoke on behalf of the meeting with the parents, informing everyone the students were very professional.

Dr. Burdin inquired if the graduation plan that Concord will be following had received DHHS approval, to which Ms. Russell responded in the negative.

Ms. Russell provided her concern after meeting with the students in regard to an in-person ceremony are the students who have medical needs that would prevent them from attending. She does not feel comfortable having to have some students excluded from the ceremony because of their health. If the ceremony were to be televised as a virtual ceremony, all Dover residents, as well as people from afar could watch. She also provided that since last Monday’s meeting, the Board has received more emails from students, parents and faculty who are in favor of a virtual ceremony. In Ms. Russell’s opinion, “The liability and the risks are too great, as well as concerns of inclusion.”

Mr. Holt, who has a son who is a senior, said that he has spoken with many people. He provided that although it is a difficult decision, he is in support of virtual graduation in order to protect everyone in the community. He provided the students plans were well thought out, but safety and inclusion are too important to overlook.



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Mr. Koehler provided that after going back and forth with his decision, he is in favor of the virtual graduation proposed by Mr. Driscoll but would like to see something done in-person for the graduates at a later date. Has been going back and forth on what is best for students and community.

Dr. Burdin commended the students for the efforts and care they put forth with their proposal but is also in favor of Mr. Driscoll's virtual proposal. She too would like to see something done for the students in-person sometime in the future.

Ms. Morrison provided that safety must come first for the graduates, but also the citizens of Dover. She would like to revisit the topic at the Board meeting held in July.

Dr. Mebert praised the students for their proposal, but like other Board members, feels an in-person ceremony is not fair to those with health issues that would prevent them from attending

Carolyn Mebert moved; Kathy Morrison seconded to move forward with the proposal Mr. Driscoll presented for a virtual graduation ceremony. **A roll call VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

E. TEACHER NOMINATIONS

Carolyn Mebert moved; Zachary Koehler seconded to approve the amended Teacher Nominations. **A roll call VOTE PASSED 7/0.**

F. FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND 2021 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. Russell informed the public the District budget that was amended in April has been approved by City Council.

Dr. Mebert provided she has been contacted by community members asking if they would be receiving refunds of parking fees, athletic fees, etc., to which Mr. Limanni responded in the positive.

G. MATTERS OF INTEREST

Dr. Harbron shared an email he received regarding the SOAR Program. The program will not be in session through the summer until they receive guidelines to keep the students safe. The program does not allow for social distancing, and many of the places are not open that they typically visit. They are hoping to have the program commence in August. For details on how to reach Brandy Barshaw, please see the document archived with the meeting minutes.

Ms. Russell spoke in regard to an email the Board received prior to the meeting from DTU President Lisa Dillingham. Ms. Dillingham requested that due to the hour's teachers have averaged per week, they be allowed to end the school year earlier than June 15. Ms. Russell provided that the Board previously approved teachers to end the school year on June 15 and made the last 6 days flexible for teachers to close out the year.

Dr. Mebert inquired if Ms. Dillingham requested a specific date or number of days for teachers to end the school year early, to which Ms. Russell responded in the negative.



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Dr. Harbron informed the Board that current calculation of teacher's hours through Week 5 of Remote Learning shows that teachers are working an average of 41.31 hours per week. He commended the teachers, but asks the Board to consider that everyone in the District; including support staff and administrators have put in the extra efforts to make remote learning a success. He also reminded the Board that City Council recently approved the second year of the DTU contract, and to take into consideration the many community members who have become unemployed due to COVID-19.

Mr. Limanni provided that the previous approval of having the last day for teachers be June 15 brings them to their contracted days and suggests all bargaining agreements would need to be looked at if approved.

Ms. Russell provided that she would like to hear from the paraeducators, as she feels the decision should include them as well, and if approved, would affect their pay.

Dr. Harbron suggests the Board make the decision at the next regular meeting held on June 8, which would allow time to hear from other bargaining units.

Carolyn Mebert moved; Keith Holt seconded to have the DTU staff have a year-end date of June 12. **A roll call VOTE FAILED 3/4.**

H. ADJOURNMENT:

Carolyn Mebert moved; Zachary Koehler seconded adjourning the meeting at 7:32 PM. **A roll call VOTE PASSED 7/0.**