

We have three updates for you. Please read all the information that follows as there is essential information in each section. This update will cover School Committee Candidates, Issues with the Finance Committee and Budget, as well as a Negotiations Team update.


**School Committee Candidate Information:**


Last week we sent a questionnaire out to all 5 school committee candidates. We asked for their written response by 3/27/23. We wanted to share the responses with you as members and also as community stakeholders. If you are a resident then you will have information you need for the vote on 4/4/23. If you are not a resident, you may know some Dartmouth residents and can suggest the candidates that you feel will be the best fit for our district.

The link to watch the forum that was recorded on 3/21/23 is:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/ETyiQTEK-0E?feature=share>

As of Monday night we received responses from only 3 out of the 5 candidates. Kathleen Amaral, Troy Tufano, and Bess Coughlin's responses are linked below.

Kathleen Amaral:  K.A. SC questionnaire .pdf


Troy Tufano:  T.T. SC questionnaire.pdf

Bess Coughlin:  B.C. SC questionnaire.pdf

At a special vote of the Dartmouth Educators Association's (DEA) Executive Board on March 29, **the Executive Board voted to endorse School Committee candidates incumbent Kathleen Amaral and Troy Tufano** in the forthcoming School Committee elections.

**Action Steps:**

- Direct engagement with the 600+ MTA Dartmouth residents via email and phone.
- DEA members will be knocking on doors to share campaign literature with MTA Dartmouth residents.
- There will be an hour long phone bank on Monday, April 3rd at 6:00pm where DEA members can contact these same residents where we will share our endorsement for these two candidates.
- Social media posts will be going out this weekend in support of these two candidates.
- If you would like to participate in the phone bank or canvassing please email [dartmoutheducators@gmail.com](mailto:dartmoutheducators@gmail.com)

To read the full press release please see this document:  DEA SC.pdf

We are asking that you:

- Vote on 4/4/23 in the town election if you are a town resident.
- Consider voting for Kathleen Amaral and Troy Tufano
- If you are not a resident and know of others that are, please ask them to vote for Kathleen Amaral and Troy Tufano in the election.

### **Finance Committee/Select Board Information:**

At the School Committee meeting on 3/27/23 Jim Kiely spoke about the budget that he proposed to the Town Administrator, Shawn Macinnes, and Finance Director Gary Carreiro. This is his statement from the meeting.

Jim Kiely-

“I had a meeting with the town administrator and the new finance director for the town, we had a discussion about this. The feeling is that, what was presented to me, was a 3.1% ish budget increase for us. The discussion was limited flexibility on the town’s side to fund anything beyond that. So at this point yes I relayed the fact that what we are talking about is reductions in staff. We are 80% staffing. So there is no way to make up that money without some further reductions. And obviously we knew we were going to be up against it in fiscal year ‘25 so I was really hoping to not be making these decisions this year but at this point they understand that it would be staffing and it would be things like class size, it would be things like support staff, administrative staff, everything would have to be addressed...”

This was about 1 hour and 10 minutes into the meeting.

You can watch it at: <https://www.youtube.com/live/LeB8qbZM2TI?feature=share>

The town is not concerned with teachers losing their jobs or the quality of education the children of Dartmouth will receive because they do not want to approve the \$500,000 extra that DPS is asking for in funding.

We have called the town and asked to speak at Select Board and have been denied. We have spent hours sending emails to the Finance committee and director of Finance only to find the town’s website “contact us” form is not working and the finance committee, Gary Carreiro, and the secretary of finance have not received any of those emails. We called to request to speak at the meeting on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at 5:30 pm and we have been denied again because they consider it “bargaining during open meeting”.

What does this mean for you:

- Teacher layoffs
- Support staff layoffs
- Administration layoffs
- Closing of classrooms
- Increasing class sizes

**The finance committee meets tomorrow, 3/30/23 at the Town Hall (room 304) at 5:30pm.**

If these outcomes matter to you we are asking:

- For the membership to hold signs tomorrow before the meeting (5 pm) and during the meeting (starts at 5:30pm) to let the finance committee read our concerns as we are not allowed to speak to them.
- Bring family members and other stakeholders with you to this meeting.
- If you are a resident contact the select board members and finance director via phone or email:
  - Email: [smickelson@town.dartmouth.ma.us](mailto:smickelson@town.dartmouth.ma.us) [smcdonald@town.dartmouth.ma.us](mailto:smcdonald@town.dartmouth.ma.us) [smacinnnes@town.dartmouth.ma.us](mailto:smacinnnes@town.dartmouth.ma.us) [hsbrooks@town.dartmouth.ma.us](mailto:hsbrooks@town.dartmouth.ma.us) [fgracie@town.dartmouth.ma.us](mailto:fgracie@town.dartmouth.ma.us) [dtatelbaum@town.dartmouth.ma.us](mailto:dtatelbaum@town.dartmouth.ma.us) [gcarreiro@town.dartmouth.ma.us](mailto:gcarreiro@town.dartmouth.ma.us)
  - Phone: 508-910-1813 (Dartmouth Town Hall to connect to Select Board)  
508-901-1807 (Gary Carreiro, Director of Budget and Finance)
- Ask friends and family to contact these members too on your behalf
- Rally any local students in your family or those you know through friends to contact the finance committee and Select Board for themselves as well as for their teachers.

### **Negotiations update:**

The negotiations team met yesterday, 3/28/23, at Bush St. Thank you for those that came to hold signs during the rain and the sunshine that eventually poked through the clouds.

The following is the list of what has been tentatively agreed upon::

- FMLA has been increased to 12 weeks, sick time used for pay.
- Increase family illness days to 3
- Up to 10 sick days can be used for family sick time
- Sick leave buyback increase \$25/\$40
- Workshop rate increase \$32/\$34/\$36 and \$40/hr ESY rate
- Title change for TAs to ESPs
- \$1000 SPED TA stipend.
- TAs who assist with “daily living skills” have stipend increase to \$1000
- TA-RBT stipend increase from \$5000 to \$8000
- TA/Secretary/Nurse longevity increased and 10 year added
- TA compensation after 60 minutes with rate increase
- Nurse language to protect them from step hiring
- Nurses stipend for purchases
- Secretary pay equalized- Step 5 is the new Step 1 (still negotiating step increases)
- Up to 3 academic support classes in 6 day cycle at DMS
- DMS homeroom teachers not assigned am/pm/lunch duty
- Stipend increases for lead teachers and related services supervisory roles
- DHS teaching load- teachers have 10 student max online
- The School Committee proposed:
  - 2% movement for health insurance to move the split to 56/44 (new 3/28)
  - \$1500 COVID bonus for a ratification by July 1st
  - 3/3/3 COLA for Teachers and Nurses
  - 7.5/3/4 COLA for TA
  - Secretaries COLA: shift step 5 to step 1 with 3/3/3 to step 1-3 only with \$.50 to step 4
  - 3% increase for Clubs, activities and stipends in year 2 only
- We are still fighting for:

- TeacherNurse COLA 4/4/4 contingent on 60/40 Health Insurance split
- TA COLA with addition of 20 days (vacation and holiday)
- Secretary COLA
- Teacher longevity increases
- 8:45 am start time at elementary level
- Prep time for non classroom teachers and Preschool teachers
- Preschool lottery
- 5/5/5 increase to all Clubs, activities and stipends

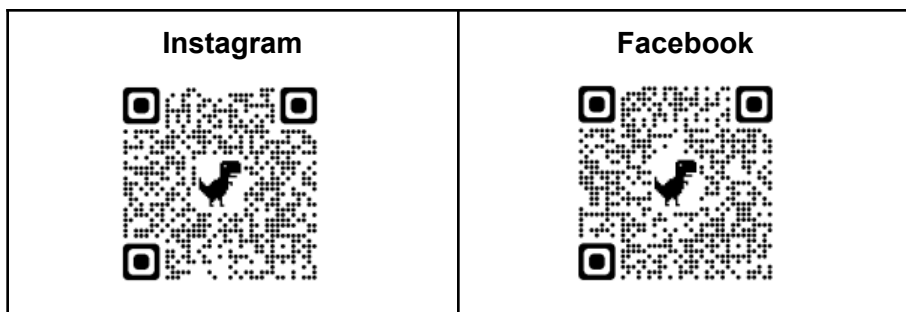
**REMINDERS:**

- We will have a Google form for you to fill out later this week from the negotiations team. Please let your colleagues know that to cast their opinions their emails must be to us by Thursday night.
- PLEASE join us at the **Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, March 30, 2023 at the Town Hall (room 304). Sign holding will start at 5:00pm.** We are hoping that we will have a chance to speak at this meeting.
- PLEASE join our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram and re-share, re-share, re-share!

If you would like to get involved with the CAT team, please feel free to send us an email at [dartmoutheducators@gmail.com](mailto:dartmoutheducators@gmail.com). We will get the zoom link to you.

If you have any questions- anything at all- please don't hesitate to email us and we will get those questions to the appropriate people that will answer you. The petitions have made an impact- we have had 2.412 letters sent. We are seeing progress at negotiations meetings and that is due to your efforts! Thank you for the support.

All the best,  
Heather and Gabby  
CAT co-chairs



<p><b>Join Remind Us On Remind</b> On your phone send a code (below) to the number 81010</p>	
<p><b>Cushman's Code:</b> @deacu</p>	<p><b>DeMello's Code:</b> @deademe</p>

<b>DHS Code:</b> @deadhs	<b>DMS Code:</b> @deadartms
<b>Potter's Code:</b> @deapo	<b>Quinn's Code:</b> @deaquinn