Democratic State Committee Meeting
April 29, 2017 – Bourne
Meeting Minutes

Chair Gus Bickford called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. He invited Secretary Carol Aloisi to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, for which members stood.

Chair Bickford called for a motion to suspend the roll call, which passed, and for a motion to accept the minutes of the February 2 meeting. The Chair thanked members of the Upper Cape Regional Technical High School’s staff, Chris Matthews in Congressman Keating’s office, Leon Brathwaite, Amy Kullar, William Grant and members of the Bourne DTC, and Sandy Milano for helping facilitate the meeting. He also thanked the work of local area officials including Congressman Bill Keating, Senator Julian Cyr, Representative Dylan Fernandes, and Representative Sarah Peake.

The Chair requested a moment of silence for family, friends, and fellow committee members who recently passed away: Thomas Barao, father of DSC member Amy Kullar; Sebastian DiSalvo, father of DSC member Mark DiSalvo; Claire L’Italien, mother of Senator Barbara L’Italien; Francis Ryan, father of DSC Member Jacqueline Ryan; Cynthia Driscoll, spouse of DSC Member Dick Driscoll; former DSC Executive Director and longtime Democratic activist Sissy Weinberg; State Committee Member Thomas Herrick; and State Senator Ken Donnelly.

In his opening remarks, the Chair discussed the importance of focusing on the need for an independent investigation of President Trump and the Administration’s dishonesty. He praised Senator Warren, Senator Markey, Congressman Keating, Attorney General Healey, Treasurer Goldberg, Auditor Bump, and Representatives Clark, Kennedy, Moulton, and Tsongas for fighting Trump. The Chairman said that a draft of the platform would be released on May 19. He then introduced the Treasurer for the Treasurer’s Report.

Treasurer Paul Yorkis rose to present the Treasurer’s Report and requested a motion to change the wording of “non-event fundraisers” to “non-event revenue” under Starting Balance under Income. The motion was moved and seconded.

DSC Member Robert Cassidy asked for clarification and amendments to the expenses listed for Calendar Year 2016. The Chair asked that the discussion on 2016 be postponed to the next DSC meeting. The Chair’s motion was seconded. The motion passed. Member Cassidy put forth a motion to increase in the proposed 2017 fiscal year budget of $400,000 to meet current expenses. The motion failed.

Treasurer Yorkis made a motion to vote on the proposed Calendar Year 2017 budget. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Chair introduced Congressman Bill Keating to address the meeting.

Congressman Keating spoke to the group about the dangers the Trump Administration posed to foreign relations and national security. The Congressman spoke against President Trump’s stances and executive orders
on immigration, which Congressman Keating said help create fertile grounds for terrorism within our country. Congressman Keating also reaffirmed his commitment to fighting against the healthcare bills put forth by the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans, which would take money away from the people that need it the most.

The Chair explained that, traditionally, when a candidate for statewide office officially declares, they are given one opportunity to speak before the DSC about their candidacy. The Chair invited Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bob Massie to speak to the Committee.

Bob Massie addressed the group.

The Chair moved on to the Convention report. He made a motion to accept add-ons to the Convention. The motion passed.

The Chair introduced Bill Eddy, chair of the Rules Committee, who discussed changes to the rules for the 2017 Platform Convention, including electronic voting and the number of signatures needed to amend the proposed platform, which the report set at 200. There was a discussion about the logistics and security of electronic voting. The Rules Committee Report was passed.

The Chair introduced Deb Kozikowski, David O’Brien, Mel Poindexter, and Kate Donoghue to give the DNC Report. The group, collectively, addressed the meeting.

The Chair introduced each group of Subcommittee Co-Chairs to address the meeting with a status update on the role of their Subcommittee and their work.

Resolutions Subcommittee Co-Chairs Alex Pratt and Marianne Rutter presented the members with a Subcommittee Report on the four resolutions submitted to the Subcommittee.

A motion was made to table Resolution Four on peace in the Middle East. A standing vote was called and the Resolutions Committee Report was passed. A member requested a separate the voting on the four resolutions. That motion was rejected.

The Chairman called a motion for Kathleen Polanowicz to stay on the Judicial Council. The motion passed.

The Chair called a motion to change the LGBT Outreach Committee to the LGBTQ Outreach Committee. The motion passed.

Member Sue Kennedy proposed a by-law amendment for the Massachusetts Democratic Party staff and officers to remain neutral parties in primary and issue campaigns. The motion was directed to be taken up by the By-Laws Subcommittee.

The Chairman thanked volunteers and introduced the breakout sessions.

He called a vote to test the electronic voting system as members left, will them unofficially voting on a new logo for the Party. The motion passed.

The Chairman called a motion to adjourn. The motion passed. The meeting adorned at 1:15.