

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

August 8, 2016

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

School Committee Members Present: Eric Crane
Jeffrey Kay
Arthur Skarneas
David Thomson
Mary Beth Verry

Mr. Thomson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and mission statement were recited. Mr. Thomson stated that the proceedings were being broadcast on Danvers Community Access Television. He also identified Mr. Jeff Pope from the Danvers Herald who recorded the meeting.

VOTED: K-12 Student /Parent Handbooks – Mr. Crane moved to approve the 2016-2017 K-12 Student/Parent Handbooks, second reading. Mr. Skarneas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: DPS Student Admission Policy – Mr. Skarneas moved to approve the DPS Student Admission Policy, second reading. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: 2016-2017 Danvers Public Schools District Goals – Mr. Crane moved to approve the 16-17 DPS District Goals, first reading. Mr. Skarneas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: K-12 School Improvement Plans – Mr. Skarneas moved to approve the K-12 School Improvement Plans, first reading. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Homeschooling Proposals – Mr. Crane moved to approve six home school proposals. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Out of State Field Trip Request – Mr. Skarneas moved to approve the out of state field trip request for 50 HRMS All year art students to travel to New York City, NY on April 27 – 28, 2017. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising requests – Mr. Skarneas moved to approve the fundraising requests from Smith, Highlands, Great Oak, Riverside and Thorpe Elementary schools, Holten-Richmond Middle School, the DHS Cheerleaders and the DHS Volleyball team. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mr. Kay moved to approve and release the June 13, 2016 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Skarneas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Skarneas moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:05 p.m. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT, COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY

Mr. Thomson asked for a moment of silence to be observed for the Lamar family of Danvers.

Mr. Thomson also stated that he had received communication from the DTA regarding the ballot question regarding the Charter School legislation.

II. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Taverna updated the committee on the work on the new baseball and practice fields, which includes seeding and irrigation and the installation of the bathroom and concession buildings. Mr. Taverna thanked Mr. Morse for his generous donation made to the town for the new fields.

Mrs. Verry reminded the committee and community of the feature that the Danvers Educational Watch did on the new fields project and noted that the show was available on demand on the DCAT website.

Mr. Taverna updated the committee on the work being done with MSBA. He stated that the DHS building project has been officially closed and the Smith School project is moving forward as the district had submitted the required enrollment and education questionnaires to MSBA. A school building committee has also been established and the district will submit a maintenance plan in October 2016.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. K-12 Student /Parent Handbooks – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2016-2017 Student /Parent Handbooks, second reading. As voted.

Dr. Dana addressed committee concerns about students using cell phones on the buses to record incidents. She stated that Mr. Taverna advised that the busing contract allows cameras to be placed on the buses where there are concerns for student safety. Dr. Dana noted that the district's emphasis is on clear expectations for the responsible use of technology, whether it is cell phone use, Chromebooks or the use of the Internet.

- B. Student Admission Policy, The Superintendent recommended the approval of the DPS Student Admission Policy, second reading. As voted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2016-2017 Danvers Public Schools District Goals – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the 16-17 District goals, first reading. As voted.

Dr. Dana presented a short overview of the district goals for each theme – she outlined the connections that have been made between the four themes of the strategic plan; refinement of and focus on the work needed to be done to improve overall learning and student achievement. The administrative council will meet to review the goals and to incorporate information from the Perspectives on the Schools/District survey results and the results from the DESE Targeted Review report. Dr. Dana also spoke about the success of using Smart Goals to focus on the data and in reporting progress.

Dr. Dana and Curriculum Director Mary Wermers fielded specific questions about the 16-17 goals.

- B. K-12 School Improvement Plans– The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2016-2017 School Improvement Plans, first reading. As voted.

Dr. Dana provided an overview of the school improvement plans and the connections with the four themes of the strategic plan. Elementary goals will focus on writing and math goals; 10-minute “mini lessons”, HRMS and DHS will participate in the Chromebook Initiative; HRMS will again participate in Project HAWK and Olweus to focus on a safe and welcoming environment; DHS will be working on their NEASC accreditation and mentoring new teachers.

- C. Homeschooling Proposals – The Superintendent recommended the approval of six homeschool proposals. As voted.

- D. Out of state field trip request– The Superintendent recommended the approval of 50 HRMS All year art students to travel to New York City, NY on April 27 – 28, 2017. As voted.
- E. Fundraising requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising requests from Smith, Highlands, Great Oak, Riverside and Thorpe Elementary schools, Holten-Richmond Middle School, the DHS Cheerleaders and the DHS Volleyball team. As voted.

V. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A - Communications – Dr. Dana reviewed the communications in the packet, which included thank you notes from DHS scholarship recipients, a legal alert from MASC and a revised agreement from the North Shore Collaborative.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane outlined information he received about funding from Rep. Speliotis’ office.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update: - none

DEEP – Mrs. Verry reminded the committee member of the DEEP Wine and Food tasting on October 27, 2016.

DanversCARES – Dr. Dana stated spoke about 5 DHS students who attended the Youth to Youth Conference at Bryant University of the summer; she also noted that through grant funding, six DHS students would be working as interns with the Danvers Recreation department.

VI. MINUTES – As voted

VII. BUDGET – Mr. Taverna presented FY16 and FY17 updates to the committee.

VII. PERSONNEL

Announcement_of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mrs. Ambrozavitch presented her memo dated August 2016 and asked the committee to contact her with questions.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, September 12, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Kay, Secretary
Danvers School Committee