

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

November 14, 2016

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

**School Committee Members Present:** Eric Crane  
Jeffrey Kay, Secretary  
Arthur Skarmneas  
David Thomson, Chair  
Mary Beth Verry

**VOTED:** Animals in Schools Policy – Mr. Thomson moved to approve the updated Animal in Schools Policy. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Fundraising requests – Mr. Thomson moved to approve the fundraising requests from DHS Ice Hockey and the Holten Richmond Middle School. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Out of State/Late Night Field Trips – Mr. Thomson moved to approve the DHS students to travel to Providence Museum Gallery, Providence, RI, December 22, 2016, DHS Model UN to Eagle NUMC, Westin Copley Place Hotel, Boston, MA, March 17-19, 2017, DHS students to travel to Belize, tentatively February 17-25, 2018, DHS students to travel to the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, April 14-22, 2018. Mr. Skarmneas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Minutes – Mr. Thomson moved to accept and release the minutes from the October 17, 2016 regular meeting. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Adjournment – Mr. Skarmneas moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:33 p.m. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and DPS Mission statement were recited. Mr. Thomson inquired whether the meeting was being recorded by audience members and announced that the meeting was being broadcast on DCAT and recorded by the Danvers Herald.

**II. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SUPERINTENDENT, SCHOOL COMMITTEE, COMMUNITY**

Mrs. Verry shared with the committee her experience at the MASC conference she attended with Dr. Dana. She felt the conference was very informative and highlighted on social and emotional learning with students. She attended Building Blocks for Learning and Between a Rock and a Hard Place presented by author Jessica Minahan. Other guest speakers were the Reverend Liz Walker and Ron Ferguson. Mrs. Verry also spoke of exSEL: Excellent through Social-Emotional Learning, and recommending perusing their website.

Dr. Dana and Mrs. Verry presented along with Jim Marini on Sustaining a strong Superintendent and School Committee relationship.

Mrs. Verry also shared that the Cumberland Farms on Rt. 1 has opened and will donate a portion of the cost of each dispensed beverage to DEEP.

Mr. Thomson congratulated all sports teams noting the girls' soccer team advanced to the Division 2 North Finals.

**III. INTRODUCTION AND INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Daisy Powers presented news and events from the seven schools.

**IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

1. Danvers Pride Presentation – DHS teachers Diane Morey and Jay Douglass gave a presentation of Peardeck, a new program utilized to assist in learning. Students, as well as the School Committee participated in the lesson demonstrated using Chromebooks. Teachers present the lesson to the class and questions are asked, all using the Chromebooks and Peardeck. Students can be confident answering with the knowledge that the teacher alone will know the name of the

student answering the question. Mrs. Morey and Mr. Douglass stated that this makes students less anxious. Questions and answers happen in real time making this an excellent tool while assisting students that are on IEPs.

2. DanversCARES Director, Peg Sallade, presented a DanversCARES update and an overview of the 2016 HRMS and DHS Youth Risk Survey results. She noted that this survey has been conducted each year since 2008 amongst middle and high school students and there is much data collected over time for comparison. She reviewed highlights of the survey results and noted that over all, the district has a very high number of students making very healthy decisions and Danvers' results are on par with the State and National averages. 832 students participated in the survey. DanversCARES will use the survey data to make decisions on future programming for students and the community and will continue to work with surrounding communities.

Ms. Sallade noted that work continues with promoting positive behavior and parenting practices through ParentCare, FalconCare at the High School and HawkCare at the Middle School.

Mr. Crane noted that the results of the survey are positive and congratulated Ms. Sallade on her good work.

Mr. Kay commented that while Danvers' data showed a downward trend he was concerned with the legalization of marijuana. He asked that the new accessibility of marijuana be kept in mind while planning for the following year.

3. Mr. Taverna gave an update on MSBA/Smith Project announcing that Danvers is out of the Enrollment Certification Educational Profile Module 1 phase and has moved onto the Feasibility Study Agreement Module 2 phase of the project. Mr. Taverna noted during this phase selection of an Owner's Project Manager will begin. The first meeting of the Smith School Building Committee has taken place and they will regroup after the Holidays.

Mr. Thomson questioned what the selection process and timeline would look like.

Mr. Taverna explained that they have received referrals from MSBA and a Request for Proposals would be posted, criteria for the project assembled and selection interviews will take place possibly by January. A meeting with other Town officials will take place next week for further discussion and timelines.

Dr. Dana shared that MSBA put together a template for this process that Danvers will utilize. MSBA will review and approve.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none**

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Fundraising requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising requests from DHS Ice Hockey and the Holten Richmond Middle School. As voted.
2. Out of State/Late Night Field Trips - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the DHS students to travel to Providence Museum Gallery, Providence, RI, December 22, 2016, DHS Model UN to Eagle NUMC, Westin Copley Place Hotel, Boston, MA, March 17-19, 2016, DHS students to travel to Belize, tentatively February 17-25, 2018, DHS students to travel to the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, April 14-22, 2018. As voted.

## **VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- A. Communications – Dr. Dana referred to a letter commending Jimmy Hinchion on the confidence, wisdom and heart he shows as a Coach. Mr. Thomson noted that through his experience with Mr. Hinchion, this letter was well deserved.

B. Legislation – Mr. Crane stated question 2, regarding increasing the number of Charter Schools did not pass while question 4, regarding legalization of Marijuana passed. It becomes decriminalized in December 2016 but dispensaries are not anticipated until January of 2018 which will allow time for some heavy regulations to be put in place. Mr. Crane feels the approach taken by DanversCares and the School to the legalization of Marijuana needs to be consistent with that of alcohol.

C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update – none

DEEP – Mrs. Verry commented that the annual DEEP wine tasting held on October 27, 2016 was a success. She thanked all that helped and looks forward to it again next year.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay invited the community to work with Ms. Sallade to bring about any questions or concerns.

SEPAC – Co-Chairs Tom Savage and Jack Billings spoke about the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting which focused Homework Anxiety with Dr. David Stember. Mr. Savage has identified issue with distribution of the SEPAC newsletters and would like to review and rectify this. Mr. Billings noted the goals for SEPAC this year will be program evaluation for Special Education. A proposal has been sent to Mr. Skarmeas for review. The second goal of SEPAC is to empower the School Committee to be able to speak on Special Education’s procedural process. Mr. Billings distributed a handout with an explanation. The December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will be about Managing Behavior.

**VIII. MINUTES** – As voted

**IX. BUDGET**

Mr. Taverna presented the October 2016 budget report.

**VII. PERSONNEL**

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Kay, Secretary  
Danvers School Committee