

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

October 16, 2017

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

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

VOTED: Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School Committee Vacancy - The Superintendent presented the appointment of Mr. Marquis to the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School Committee made by the Town's moderator Ms. Frazier, to be approved by the School Committee. Mr. Skarmees moved to approve the appointment, Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: 2017-2018 Homeschooling Proposals – The Superintendent recommended the Notice of Intent for Home Education for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trip requests from DHS DECA officers to Philadelphia, November 9-12, 2017, DHS Ice Hockey to UNH, December 1-3, 2017 and DHS Art Department to New York City, April 5-6, 2017. Mr. Skarmees moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for the DHS Class of 2018 and 2020, The DHS Environmental Club and the Thorpe PAC. Mr. Skarmees moved to approve. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mrs. Verry moved to accept and release the minutes from the September 11, 2017 regular meeting. Mr. Skarmees seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:12 p.m. Mr. Skarmees seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Kay called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and DPS Mission statement were recited. Mr. Kay 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

1. Dr. Dana shared the term of Mr. Wayne Marquis as the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School Committee Representative will expire on December 21, 2017. Ms. Frazier, as Town Moderator appointed Mr. Marquis for an additional term. As Voted.

2. Mrs. Verry asked questions regarding the life term of the Chromebooks batteries not lasting as long as they did in the past. Mr. Taverna addressed her concerns by acknowledging the life of a battery does lessen with age but that all Chromebooks are in good working condition and there are substantial loaners available should they be needed.

3. Mrs. Gayla Bartlett announced to the Committee that DCAT is now running birthday parties as well having a "Nightmare on Elm Street" event on October 27th from 4:30-6:30pm where children can participate in games, craft and receive treats.

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 – Thorpe School – In the absence of Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Wermers introduced Thorpe’s art teacher Marjorie Almstead to give a presentation on “Assessments for Artists”. Ms. Almstead spoke on the 4 types of assessments; Participation in VTS (visual thinking strategies) discussions, successful editing, careful craftsmanship check and participation in group critique. A slide show including some of the students work was shown. Students Claudia and Isabella Dracos, Sophia Hctor and Lucas Whitcomb attended the meeting and shared their thoughts on the program and explained how their artwork related to their world. Mrs. Verry asked was this program offered to all elementary students, where the answer was yes, but in a different format. Mr. Thomson asked how things such as sculptures were evaluated. Ms. Almstead answered they are evaluated in a “yet” or “not yet” format, as in “is it ready YET”?
2. Arson Watch Reward Program Poster Contest 2017 winners – Ms. Shioban MacDonald thanked the Fire Department for the support they’ve shown for this project. She and Fire Chief Pyburn congratulated Alissa Philips and Hannah Stone as winners of the 2017 Arson Watch Reward Program Poster Contest. Chief Pyburn noted over 1000 entries were made with in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Out of 12 winners, 2 were from Danvers. The theme of this years’ calendar was “Everyone- Every Day”. Mrs. Verry, as the DEEP representative, then presented Ms. MacDonald with a certificate and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement.
3. Academic Excellence Award – Dr. Dana along with Dr. Colombino presented the Award of Academic Excellence to DHS Class of 2017 valedictorian John P. Skarmas. Both congratulated John and Dr. Colombino spoke of John’s many accomplishments throughout his school years.
4. Curriculum and Instruction Priorities – Mrs. Wermers, Mrs. Posternack, Mrs. Feerick and Mr. Maguire spoke and shared a presentation on the current curriculum being utilized throughout the district stressing the importance of independent learning. Each of the Curriculum Directors shared slides and details regarding their work with the teachers and students. Mrs. Posternack was very excited while describing the elementary curriculum of Foundations and Words Their Way and the difference between the two programs. Mrs. Feerick went over data collection, authentic assessments and working with teachers on 21st century skills utilizing the Hawks Creation Station, the middle school makerspace which allows students to explore the curriculum in both low-tech and high-tech ways. Mr. Maguire’s said the High School is working on 21st Century Learning and Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning. He said this year’s focus is on Project Based, Experiential Learning Opportunities - Internship, Global Travel, Interdisciplinary Co-Taught Courses, Project Lead the Way, Writer’s Workshop, Collaborative Common Planning. The directors then accepted accolades on their work and commitment to the district from the Committee and answered questions regarding balance and growth within the curriculum.
5. October 1, 2017 Student Enrollment Report – Dr. Dana present the October 1 Student Enrollment Report showing the district enrollment for this school year to be 3528. Enrollment is lower than the previous year partially due to increased enrollment at the Essex North School Vocational and Technical School and a smaller than expected kindergarten class.
6. Facilities Update – Mr. Taverna shared the exciting news that 2 weeks prior he attended MSBA interviews and narrowed down the field to 4 finalists. Interviews will be taking place on October 17, 2017 where hopefully an architect will be chosen and the kick off meeting will be held the end of October/the beginning of November.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. 2017 Report of the MASC Resolution –The Committee reviewed and discussed the 2017 Report of the MASC Resolution and agreed to support them. Mrs. Verry will share this decision speaking as the Committee’s representative at the MASC conference in November.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2017-2018 Homeschooling Proposals – The Superintendent recommended the Notice of Intent for Home Education for the 2017-2018 school year. As voted.
2. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Requests - Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trip requests from DHS DECA officers to Philadelphia, November 9-12, 2017, DHS Ice Hockey to UNH, December 1-3, 2017 and DHS Art Department to New York City, April 5-6, 2017. As voted.
3. Fundraising requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for the DHS Class of 2018 and 2020, The DHS Environmental Club and the Thorpe PAC.. As voted

VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications – Dr. Dana shared the link to NEC.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane stated he spoke with Representative Spiliotis’ office and received an update on budgetary issues. Circuit Breaker reimbursement will be at 65% this year for the 43 students that qualify. State aid is up and they are now processing reimbursements on McKinney Vento expenses.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP – Mrs. Verry announced the next DEEP meeting will be on November 15th at the First Ipswich Bank and the annual DEEP wine tasting will be held on October 19th at the Danversport Yacht Club. Tickets can be purchased on the DEEP website or at Merchants Liquor. You may also become a DEEP member on their website.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay said the work on DanversCARES strategic plans continues and wanted to remind people of the November 4th event “Parent University” from 8-12.

Diversity - Mr. Kay spoke about being asked to the School Committee liaison to the Town’s Diversity Committee. Mr. Kay nominated himself for this position and announced their next meeting would be on Thursday, October 19th.

SEPAC – Mr. Savage said the topic for the November 1st meeting is “Basic Rights”, noting this meeting is always well attended. SPAN will be holding an “Advocate Night” in January where parents can come and meet one on one with an advocate to discuss issues they may be having. Mr. Savage then brought up concerns he and Dr. Jack Billings, as co-chairs had regarding Program Evaluation. He and Dr. Billings voiced that while surveys had been done in the past they would like a more formalized evaluation process. After discussion with the Committee, it was decided that the most appropriate next step would be to set up a meeting with Dr. Dana, Dr. Tatem and the co-chairs to further discuss concerns and solutions.

VIII. MINUTES – As voted

IX. BUDGET

Mr. Taverna reported on the FY17 Final Budget Report showing and explaining the District's surplus. He then explained the 2017-2018 budget transfers sharing that the transfers were due to State and finance code changes and collapsing one program because we are now able to fulfill the needs of the students in house. Mr. Taverna then shared that the September 2017 budget report showed us to be on budget.

VII. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated October 2017 and said the positions are close to being filled with only a few positions remaining.

Dr. Dana shared a reminder that the Financial Summit would be held on October 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, November 13, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Verry, Secretary
Danvers School Committee