

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

January 11, 2016

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

School Committee Members Present: Eric Crane, Chair
Jeffrey Kay
Connie Pawlak
Arthur Skarmeas
David Thomson, Secretary

VOTED: Danvers High School 16-17 Program of Studies – Mr. Thomson moved to approve the DHS 16-17 Program of Studies for a second reading. Mrs. Pawlak seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Holten – Richmond Middle School 16-17 Program of Studies – Mr. Skarmeas moved to approve the Holten-Richmond Middle School 16-17 Program of Studies for a first reading. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Policy Updates –

- Mr. Thomson moved to approve the proposed Access to Digital Resources policy for a first reading. Mrs. Pawlak seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- Mr. Skarmeas moved to approve the proposed Empowered Digital Use policy for a first reading. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- Mr. Skarmeas moved to approve the removal of policy IJNDC-R from the DPS policy manual. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- Mr. Thomson moved to approve the proposed Emergency Plans policy for a first reading. Mrs. Pawlak seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Superintendent's Contract – Mr. Thomson moved to extend Dr. Dana's contract by two years, through June 30, 2020. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Skarmeas moved to increase the Superintendent's salary by 2.7% (\$4500) bringing it to \$170,000, commencing July 1, 2016. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Out of State Field Trips – Mr. Thomson moved to approve the out of state field trip requests from the DHS World Language Dept. to travel to Paris, France (approx. 18 students) from April 13-20, 2017 and to travel to Costa Rica (approx. 20 students) on February 18 – 26, 2017. Mrs. Pawlak seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Thomson moved to approve the Grade 8 trip to Washington, D.C. on June 14 – 17, 2016 and the DHS Wrestling team to travel to Plaistow, NH on 1/23/16. Mrs. Pawlak seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising requests– Mr. Skarmeas moved to approve the fundraising request of the DHS class of 2017 and the DHS Basketball Cheerleaders. Mrs. Pawlak seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Resolution of support of the Danvers CARES Position paper on the legalization of marijuana – Mr. Thomson moved to approve a resolution of support for the DanversCARES position paper on the legalization of marijuana. Mrs. Pawlak seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mr. Thomson moved to approve and release the minutes from the December 14, 2015 regular meeting. Mrs. Pawlak seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:14 p.m. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Crane called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, as was the DPS Mission statement. Mr. Crane identified Mr. Jeff Pope from the Danvers Herald as recording the proceedings.

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

Mr. Paul Pawlak, representing the Danvers Diversity Committee, spoke about the upcoming Martin Luther King Celebration planned for January 18th at Danvers High School. He urged the public to attend.

II. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE –

Olivia Thompson presented information from the seven Danvers schools.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. **Danvers Public Works Poster Contest** – Dr. Dana introduced Gail Bernard from the Danvers Public Works department who presented awards to the winners of the 2016 Poster Contest/Calendar winners.
2. **Danvers PRIDE** – Dr. Dana introduced Mrs. Ambrozavitch, who spoke about the DHS Internship Program. She welcomed three DHS graduates, Alex Taylor, Amy Driscoll and Meghan McCallister, who spoke about their experiences while participating in the internship program and how it has helped them in the college studies.
Mr. Thomson expressed concerns about the program being mandatory for all seniors; the number of meaningful internships offered and how internships will affect AP classes, class attendance and education. He also asked about what teachers would be doing if all the seniors were out of the building during internship time.
Mrs. Ambrozavitch explained that the program is intended to add a “spark” to the end of senior year as they finish high school and to provide “real world” experiences as part of their education. She also stated that this is a test year to see how the program goes. A database of internship opportunities has been established and students will be encouraged to try to procure their own internships. Over 75 students participated last year, and about 230 students are expected to participate this year.
3. **Mentor/New Teacher Induction Update** - Dr. Dana introduced Julie Macdonald who updated the committee on the Mentor/New Teacher Induction program. She informed the committee about DESE updates to procedures for mentoring new teachers updated in April 2015. Danvers’ program continues to meet all benchmarks as outlined by DESE. The number of co-directors went from two to four, and all three levels, HS, MS and Elementary, are represented. Newest co-director, elementary teacher Cindy Grady, spoke about her experiences as a mentor, sharing best teaching practices and listening to new teacher ideas.

Co-Directors David Buckhoff and Julie Macdonald presented Master Mentor Awards to two teachers for the exemplary work in the Mentor/Mentee Program - Josh Jordan and John White. Both teachers expressed their gratitude for receiving the award and the importance of the program. Committee members congratulated the recipients on their work and reward.

4. **K-12 Learning Goals** – Dr. Dana introduced Curriculum Director, Mary Wermers, who presented the 15-16 K-12 Learning Goals. Ms. Wermers outlined local and state student achievement data.

Local data included work on logic models developed around established student learning goals and how schools use locally collected classroom data to assess those goals. She gave an overview of a sample logic model and how to use the model to develop strategies for addressing student learning goals. Ms. Wermers also summarized the success of the seven groups who have developed formal logic models in meeting their student learning goals.

Mr. Skarmeas congratulated Ms. Wermers on the report being concise, easy to understand and containing a lot of important information. Mrs. Pawlak inquired whether the results for those groups that did not meet their goals were reflected in state testing scores. Ms. Wermers advised that the state only provides summative results; test-item analysis data is not available. Mr. Thomson also commented on the format of the report. Ms. Wermers noted that feedback from the committee played a part in reformatting the report to make it more understandable. Mr. Kay asked about unforeseen issues that may come up when implementing the logic model. Ms. Wermers said that strategies that are not working are quickly identified and reworked.

Ms. Wermers presented state assessment information as the second part of her presentation. She reviewed the process for the development and implementation to PARCC, which was a result of the new curriculum frameworks adopted by DESE. Danvers participated in the 2-year pilot of PARCC, through a mixed-mode of participation – paper and computer-based. She reviewed the positive and negative aspects of each mode of test taking and the test results for both. She noted that DESE acknowledged that the mode of testing – paper vs. computer, had a profound affect on student performance, which was reflected in the test results for both. Ms. Wermers fielded specific questions about the tests and results from the committee members and provided next steps in the testing process with the new MCAS 2.0 for 2017.

Mrs. Pawlak informed the public about the recent MASC Workshop attended by the committee to identify what student success looks like for Danvers Public Schools.

Fields Project Update – Mr. Taverna provided a monthly update on the fields, which has been put on hold during the winter months, other than small projects. Work will resume in the spring with laying sod, seeding, etc.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Danvers High School 16-17 Program of Studies - As voted.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Holten – Richmond Middle School 16-17 Program of Studies – As voted. Mr. Federico and Ellyn Feerick gave the committee a quick overview of the changes made to the program.

2. Policy Updates – As voted. The Policy subcommittee members reviewed the changes to the technology and emergency plans policies that are results to changes made in federal law. Dr. Dana noted that MASC had provided the updates to the policies.

3. FY16 Superintendent's Contract – As voted. Mr. Thomson spoke on behalf of the committee that they are very pleased with the Superintendent's performance and are in agreement that her contract should be extended for two more years. Mr. Skarmeas stated that the pay increase is in line with past increases, bringing the salary up close to the averages of superintendents in like districts the area. The committee expressed satisfaction with the Superintendent's leadership, dedication and consistency in running the district. Dr. Dana thanked the committee for their support.

4. Out of State Field Trips – As voted.

5. Fundraising requests– As voted.

VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

A - **Communications** – Dr. Dana reviewed the communications in the packet, which included the agenda for the 12/2/15 Consortium meeting and a legislative update from MASC.

B. **Legislation** – Mr. Crane mentioned some 16-17 budget cuts made by the Governor that will address shortfalls in this year's state budget, none of which effect education.

C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update:

DanversCARES – Dr. Dana spoke about the DanversCARES position statement on the legalization of marijuana. Mrs. Pawlak also talked about the Strengthening Families program and the teen safety resource guide. The Committee voted on supporting the DanversCARES position statement.

Dr. Dana also acknowledged a donation of \$100 made to DanversCARES.

DEEP – Mrs. Pawlak reminded the community of the DEEP Spelling Bee, 2/11/16 at DHS. She also spoke about the DEEP Teacher Grant program and the amounts to be awarded. Finally mentioned Curran’s Brothers Florist online opportunity to donate to DEEP.

SEPAC – Dr. Dana noted that she is meeting with the SEPAC co chairs to discuss World Autism Day, Resource Fair and a grant application.

VII. MINUTES – As voted.

VIII. BUDGET

Mr. Taverna presented the December 2015 budget report and stated that DPS is on budget to date. Homeless transportation costs remain about the same as last month. Route prices are on the increase, although the number of students has decreased.

IX. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments –Mrs. Ambrozavitch presented her personnel memo dated January 2016.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,
David Thomson, Secretary
Danvers School Committee