

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

December 14, 2015

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

School Committee Members Present: Jeffrey Kay
Connie Pawlak
Arthur Skarneas
David Thomson, Acting Chair, Secretary

VOTED: DPS Policy on Restraint/Positive Behavior Support – Mr. Skarneas moved to approve the DPS policy on Restraint/Positive Behavior Support for a second reading. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

VOTED: Minutes – Mr. Thomson moved to approve and release the minutes from the November 9, 2015 regular meeting and to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes from November 9, 2015, not to be released. Mr. Skarneas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Skarneas moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Thomson announced that Mr. Crane would not be in attendance and that he would be chairing the meeting. Mr. Thomson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and he read the DPS Mission statement. Mr. Thomson inquired if anyone in the audience was recording the proceedings and identified Jeff Pope, Danvers Herald, in the audience as recording the meeting.

Mr. Thomson asked the audience to participate in a moment of silence in remembrance of J.J. Rosato, grade 3 student from Great Oak, who recently passed away, and he expressed sympathy to the family on behalf of the committee.

An audience member requested that the committee consider naming the new fields press box for town resident Barry Robinson. Mr. Thomson said that the committee would look into the process and take the request under consideration.

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

Dr. Dana updated the committee on the status of state assessments and information that will be provided to the committee at their January meeting.

II. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE –

Olivia Thompson presented information from the seven Danvers schools.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. **Danvers PRIDE** – Dr. Dana introduced teachers Michael Scaramellino, Mark Gargan and Principal Adam Federico from HRMS, along with six 6th grade students, who presented a Tech Ed introduction about CAD, Robotics and Engineering to the committee.

The students spoke about projects they have worked on and demonstrated items created and robots designed using technology.

The committee congratulated the students on their work.

- 2. Amp it Up Program** –DHS teachers Lee Russo and Cheryl George, along with three high school students presented information to the committee on the Amp it Up Internship program. Dr. Dana introduced the program, facilitated by the North Shore Work Investment Board.

Ms. Russo, DHS science teacher, addressed the committee and spoke about their goal of fostering a love of science in their students, the large number of technology jobs that are presently open in Massachusetts and giving students an opportunity for hands-on learning to consider careers in technology.

Ms. George informed the committee more about the Amp it Up program, which stands for Advanced Manufacturing Programs, designed to get students excited about careers in manufacturing, bio-technology and bio-chemical engineering. She oriented at Cell Signaling Corporation in Danvers and spoke about what the company does in providing anti-bodies for world research of diseases. She also spoke about the many medical companies on the North Shore with available jobs.

Ms. Russo's orientation was spent at local company, MedTronic, a medical engineering company who expressed an interest in creating an internship program for female high school students. Three DHS students were selected for internships out of a total of six positions.

The three students outlined their internship responsibilities at MedTronic in the cardiovascular engineering department, which they attend every Friday. They spoke about their work on research teams, the products they are working on and the benefits of participating in the internship program.

Ms. Russo spoke about fostering more internship opportunities for DHS seniors in the medical technology field. She also thanked MASS Bio-Ed and MASS Bio-Teach for their support in connecting teachers with companies.

- 3. Human Mosaic Project** – Dr. Dana introduced DHS History teacher, Wendy Waldron, who spoke to the committee about the Human Mosaic Project, a partnership between DHS and Merrimack College.

Ms. Waldron described the DHS elective as a course that investigates global events, with the goal of addressing relevancy and the historical antecedents of those events, such as terrorism, human rights, woman's rights, the refugee crisis, etc.

Ms. Waldron spoke about connecting with the Danvers Diversity Committee, connecting with the graduate program at Merrimack College and how the elective evolved and how Merrimack graduate students work in partnership with DHS students.

Ms. Waldron fielded questions from the committee regarding changes to be made to the program for next year and how the partnership evolved with Merrimack College.

- 4. Wellness Committee Update** – Dr. Dana introduced Mark DeCiccio, Asst. Principal at DHS and co-chair of the Wellness Committee, who gave an update of the work done to date for the 15-16 school year. He reviewed the topics discussed at the last meeting in November, which included Atlas and Athena, DoD update and the increase of the grant award, which helped with the DHS salad bar, the DanversCARES retreats for students on the Great American Smoke and Vape Out and Mental Health and First Aid risks and resiliency. SHPSS National Survey results were briefly reviewed. Mr. DeCiccio also noted that all coaches participated in Epi-Pen and CPR training. The Committee is also working on an anti-hazing program.

The update also included a report on addressing Adolescent Drug use with a dual approach. This would include piloting a student drug-screening tool called SBIRT and keeping a prescription for *Narcan* in the nurse's office for emergencies. Dr. Dana added that DPS is working with MASC and that this would result in a future policy change to be voted on by the School Committee.

5. **Fields Project Update** – Mr. Taverna provided a monthly update on the fields, which included completion of the turf, lines and logo cut ins, goal post installation, track installation, foundations and some installation of the bleachers, storage under the bleachers and fence post installation. Work will be on hold during the winter and the project remains on schedule. Concession stands and bathrooms construction will commence in the spring 2016.

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

DPS Policy on Restraint/Positive Behavior Support - As voted. Dr. Dana noted the Restraint policy procedures manual had been provided to the committee before the meeting. She also noted that restraint training would begin in January 2016.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Danvers High School 16-17 Program of Studies, first reading. As voted. Dr. Dana introduced DHS Curriculum Director, Peggy McElhinney, who informed the committee about discontinued and new courses. She stated that new courses resulted from interest expressed by students, such as more AP courses; changing some co-curricular opportunities into classroom offerings, such as DECA and *Falconize*; keeping course offerings current, such as a proposed Current Affairs course offering; an SAT prep course that is now Common Core aligned; and increasing opportunities and course time over two years to students in Spanish II. Ms. McElhinney also noted many new proposed Special Education courses. Ms. McElhinney fielded questions from the committee regarding specific course offerings.
- B. MASC Workshop – Mrs. Pawlak spoke about a proposed MASC workshop addressing School Committee Board/Superintendent relationships in defining student success and pursuing continuous success in student achievement. She proposed the workshop for members to discuss these issues as they are specific to Danvers Public Schools. The members agreed to participate and set the date for the special meeting with MASC Field Officer Michael Gilbert for January 7, 2016.
- C. FY15 Superintendent's Evaluation – The members each reviewed their individual evaluations of Superintendent Dana. They all agreed that they had reached consensus in their ratings of meeting the goals as outlined in the evaluation – Dr. Dana received a *Met* rating for reaching her professional practice goals; a *Made Significant Progress* rating for meeting the student learning goals and a *Met* rating for the District Improvement goals.

Mr. Thomson reminded the community that each member evaluated the Superintendent individually, not as a group.

All members expressed their appreciation to Dr. Dana for her hard work and dedication to the Danvers Public Schools. Dr. Dana thanked the committee and the Town of Danvers for their support.

VI. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- A - **Communications** – Dr. Dana reviewed the communications in the packet, which included the Annual Report and monthly meeting minutes from the North Shore Education Consortium.
- B. **Legislation** – Mr. Crane was not in attendance to give a Legislative update.

C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update:

DanversCARES – Mrs. Pawlak noted that DanversCares continues to build community partnerships and that they had four new members attending the last meeting. She also spoke about the many youth activities over the past few months. Finally, she announced that DanversCARES will offer two \$1000 scholarships in the spring of 2016 under the theme of Healthy Living. A scholarship committee has been formed.

DEEP – DEEP plans to increase the amount of money offered for teacher grants to \$20,000. A membership drive is ongoing to help raise money for the DHS Fab Lab and the DPS Library Commons.

DEEP is helping to sponsor the MLK event at Danvers High School on Monday, January 18th and the DEEP Spelling Bee will be held in the DHS auditorium on February 11, 2016.

SEPAC – Co-Chair, Keri Holian, spoke about the most recent meeting/presentation. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6, 2016. The presentation will be on the 7 Principles of Advocacy – A Parent’s Guide to Navigating the IEP Process.

VII. MINUTES – As voted.

VIII. BUDGET

Mr. Taverna presented the November 2015 budget report.

IX. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments –Mrs. Ambrozavitch presented her personnel memo dated November 2015.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Davarich, Clerk
Danvers School Committee