

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

April 11, 2016

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

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

VOTED: FY 16-17 DPS School Calendar/Early Release Days – Mr. Skarmeas moved to accept the FY 16-17 DPS School Calendar/Early Release days for a second reading. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: DPS Asst. Superintendent/DHS Principal Contract – Mr. Thomson moved to approve and sign the DPS Asst. Superintendent/DHS Principal Contract. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: DPS Director of Student Services Contract – Mr. Thomson moved to approve and sign the DPS Director of Student Services contract. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Out of State Field Trip Request – Mr. Thomson moved to approve the DHS DECA team (34 students) to travel to Nashville TN for on April 22 – April 28, 2016 to compete at the DECA International Career Development Conference and for the DHS Boys Lacrosse team to travel to Merrimack NH on May 7, 2016. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising Requests – Mr. Skarmeas moved to approve the fundraising request of the DHS Girls Lacrosse Team. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes - Mr. Thomson moved to approve and release the regular meeting minutes from March 14, 2016. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:26 p.m. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Crane called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and DPS Mission statement were recited. Mr. Crane inquired whether the meeting was being recorded by audience members identified Jeff Pope from the Danvers Herald for recording the proceedings.

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

- Dr. Dana updated the committee on the Fields Project.
- Mr. Crane encouraged the community to vote in the May town election.
- An audience member addressed the committee regarding the current legislation concerning a cap on Charter Schools in Massachusetts. The committee thanked her for expressing her concerns and stated that they may consider a proposed resolution as a future agenda item.

III. INTRODUCTION AND INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – Olivia Thompson presented news and events from the seven schools.

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. Danvers Pride Presentation – Riverside School – Principal Violetta Powers, Grade 2 Teachers Gail Cullen and Amanda Carter and Grade 2 students spoke about the “Fairy Tale” unit at Riverside and how it supports the Lucy Hawkins writing program and reading standards at Riverside. A short video of a story created by the second grade students and with the support of music teacher Jen Dennett and filmed by DCAT was played for the audience. The committee congratulated the students on their presentations. Dr. Dana noted the connections with the curriculum, the writing initiatives, the use of technology and the community partnerships evident in the presentation.

2. Lahey Health Behavioral Services Student Assistance Program – Dr. Dana introduced HRMS Principal Adam Federico and Lahey student health counselor Sarah Aiello who presented information about the partnership between HRMS and Lahey. Mr. Federico spoke about the benefits of the partnership to the HRMS students, now in its second year, and that the program is totally funded by the United Way. The program placed an additional part-time licensed social worker at HRMS to provide additional supports to students. These supports include counseling, preventative education and assistance to families regarding referrals.

Mr. Federico outlined some of the work done by Ms. Aiello – staff training; lunch groups with students, and assistance with traumatic events. He noted that she has become an integral part of the HRMS Guidance team.

Mr. Crane inquired about some of the issues that adolescents face in middle school. Mr. Federico noted the rise of issues regarding anxiety as most prevalent. Ms. Aiello spoke to the committee on behalf of Lahey and expressed their gratitude for the partnership with Danvers Public Schools. She stated that she hopes that the number of days will be increased to 20 hours next year once the grant for next school year is approved.

Mr. Thomson inquired about how Danvers is doing in comparison with other school districts. Ms. Aiello stated that she speaks to other counselors placed in other schools and comparisons are difficult due to different school cultures, student demographics, etc. She stated that, overall, HRMS is doing an excellent job in supporting their students and staff.

Mr. Federico announced that Lahey would be holding a parent informational session on Adolescent Anxiety on Wednesday, April 13th at 6:30 at HRMS.

3. Elementary Music Presentation – Elementary Music teacher George Gall provided a PowerPoint presentation about the Elementary Music program. He spoke about the Orff Schulwerk music curriculum currently being implemented in Danvers Public Schools. The program has a student-centered approach; fosters creative and critical thinking skills; combines speech, music and movement; provides learning through active music making and is process-based. Mr. Gall spoke about the importance of movement in the program.

The committee expressed their appreciation of the program and the importance of the music program to the students.

4. DHS Community Service Update – DHS Guidance Counselor, Joy Leblanc, updated the committee on Community Service opportunities at DHS. She thanked former coordinator, Sue Tagg, for fostering many beneficial community relationships that moved the program forward.

Ms. Leblanc spoke about the updated Community Service webpage on the DHS Website that assists students with their community service requirement by listing upcoming events and ongoing opportunities. She also noted that students would now be able to keep track of their service hours through a new feature in PowerSchool and that she records the hours for each student in the high school.

Ms. Leblanc noted that group community service has been a major focus for this year to give students with similar interests the opportunity to serve together. She listed many of the upcoming events and the opportunities available for performing community service.

Mr. Skarmeas asked about the requirement necessary for graduation. Ms. Leblanc stated that students must perform 40 hours by the end of their junior year and that the majority of students meet that requirement. Students are also required to reflect on their service and how it benefits the community.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FY 16-17 DPS School Calendar/Early Release Days, second reading – As voted.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. DPS Asst. Superintendent/DHS Principal Contract – As voted. Dr. Dana noted that the contract has been extended through June 30, 2018. The committee expressed their appreciation that Mrs.

Ambrozavitch will be staying for an extra year and congratulated her on the work she has done at DHS.

2. DPS Director of Student Services Contract – As voted. Dr. Dana stated that Dr. Tatem’s contract has been renewed for another three years and recommended that the committee approve the new contract. The committee thanked Dr. Tatem for her work, and her continuing with DPS for three more years.

3. Out of State Field Trip Requests – As voted. All requests were approved under one vote.

3. Fundraising Requests – As voted. All requests were approved under one vote.

VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

A - **Communications** – Dr. Dana reviewed the communications in the packet, which included information from MSBA for the Smith School project and documents from the North Shore Education Consortium. Mr. Skarmeas asked for information on the process for the Smith School project. Dr. Dana outlined the eligibility stage work being done, including providing funding, compliance, and educational profile, school building committee, etc. for a July due date. The local vote on funding the feasibility study will take place at Town meeting in May. The feasibility study would include working with an architect on building design.

B. **Legislation** – Mr. Crane spoke about the recently signed opioid bill and the charter school cap legislation presently being addressed.

C. **Subcommittee/Liaison Update**

DEEP – Dr. Dana stated that the committee voted to provide \$20,000 to the Teacher Grant program; the Winetasting will be October 27, 2016 and DEEP will hold a career fair at DHS on April 15th.

DanversCARES – Dr. Dana presented the DanversCARES 2016 Teen Health and Safety Guide. Also, many staff attended the DA’s roundtable training. Training on health screening is taking place at DHS for staff. Salem State University will hold its “Youth At Risk” training in May at Endicott College. DanversCARES will hold its first “Light it up Purple” walk on May 18th to focus on opioid addiction.

SEPAC – Co-chair Keri Holian reminded the group that the next meeting would be Wednesday April 6th and is the last meeting of the year. The presentation will be on Social Skills at that meeting.

VIII. MINUTES – As voted

IX. BUDGET

Mr. Taverna was not in attendance at the meeting and Dr. Dana reviewed the budget report for March 2016.

X. PERSONNEL

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

Mr. Skarmeas thanked Mr. Crane for serving as chairman for the last year and wished all of the School Committee candidates luck in the upcoming May election.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,
David Thomson, Secretary
Danvers School Committee