

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

June 13, 2016

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

School Committee Members Present: Jeffrey Kay
Mary Beth Verry
Eric Crane
David Thomson

Mr. Skarmeas was not in attendance. Mr. Thomson called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

VOTED: Student Admission Policy – Mr. Kay moved to approve the new DPS Student Admission Policy for a first reading. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

VOTED: K-12 Student /Parent Handbooks – Mr. Kay moved to approve the 2016-2017 K-12 Student/Parent Handbooks, first reading. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising requests – Mr. Crane moved to approve the fundraising requests of the DHS Boys and Girls Soccer Teams; The DHS Football Team and the DHS Field Hockey team, all for the 16-17 school year. The Superintendent also recommends the approval of the fundraising requests for the DHS Class of 2017, the DHS Golf team and the Great Oak Playground Renovation fundraiser. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Out of state field trip request – Mr. Crane moved to approve the request from DanversCARES for 7 DHS students to travel to Bryant University in Smithfield RI to attend the Youth to Youth Conference from July 28 – July 31, 2016. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

VOTED: Minutes - Mr. Kay moved to approve and release the minutes from the May 9, 2016 regular meeting. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Kay moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:47 p.m. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

After the meeting was called to order, the School Committee reorganized the subcommittees and liaisons. Mr. Thomson reviewed the assignments.

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

Mr. Thomson commented on the success of the graduation exercises for the class of 2016 and commended the administrators, staff, students and DPW for the success of the event.

American Legion Post Commander Mark McDermott presented certificates of outstanding citizenship to the Danvers Public Schools principals for their schools' respect and recognition of the American Flag.

II. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. DEEP Teacher Grants – Donna Hopkins and Glenn Boutchie, DEEP officers presented Grant checks to the teacher recipients for the 16-17 school year.

2. 2016-2017 School Committee Student Representative introduction – Mrs. Ambrozavitch introduced Gilberto Perez as the 16-17 Student representative to the committee. She spoke about his many activities at Danvers High School and in the community. Mr. Perez thanked the committee and said he was excited about working for them.

3. DCAT presents donations to Elementary PACS – Dana Healy presented checks to both the Great Oak and Riverside Schools’ PACs. The money was raised by DCAT as a result of their birthday party program.

4. Danvers Public Schools FY16 Final Accomplishments – Dr. Dana highlighted some of the many accomplishments of the Danvers Public Schools for the 2016-2017 school year.

Dr. Dana presented a video presentation created by Mrs. Demers, Elementary Literacy Coach that highlighted the student work and successes of the writer’s workshop. Dr. Dana commented that Writers Workshop was a unifying theme that brought all of the schools together. She also noted that the workshop connected the work with technology and professional development.

Mr. Crane complimented all schools for hitting many of the goals set at the beginning of the school year.

5. Perspectives on the District Survey results overview – Dr. Dana presented a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the results of the 2016 Perspectives on the District survey. She explained the difference between the Perspectives on the Schools survey and the district survey. The District survey focused on the Mission and Vision statements, the core values and the four themes of the strategic plan. Dr. Dana noted an increase in participation and support in the 2016 survey results from that of the 2014 survey.

Mrs. Verry commented that the district has improved in getting the survey out to the public with its use of Facebook, Twitter and the website. She was happy to see increases in positive results from the last survey.

Mr. Kay asked that some of the questions be reviewed to allow for more specific responses and asked to see the verbatim comments from the survey.

Mr. Crane wondered if the comments focused on Common Core. Dr. Dana noted that the comments ranged in many areas. Mr. Thomson spoke about the importance of the consistency in the survey results from year to year.

6. Fields Project Update - Mr. Taverna spoke about the progress on the DHS Fields project. He spoke about the work to paint the track “Danvers Blue”. The press box sound and lift systems are ready for inspection; work continues on the grass practice fields with the installation of the irrigation system to prepare for seeding; Project Adventure will be reinstalled over the summer.

Dr. Dana also announced a major donation made to the town by a former student to support the fields project.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Student Admission Policy – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the DPS Student Admission Policy for a first reading. As voted. Dr. Dana explained the changes made to the policy, which included the completion of the town census and a notarized residency statement. Both forms will help with proof of residency.

B. K-12 Student /Parent Handbooks– The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2016- 2017 Student /Parent Handbooks for a first reading. As voted. Dr. Dana reviewed the changes made to all three handbooks. Mrs. Verry suggested that the cell phone policy be reviewed at the middle school to state that cell phones are not allowed in school bathrooms and locker rooms. She stated that she had researched other middle school cell phone policies and found many to be more detailed and specific about the use of cell phones in school. Mr. Crane inquired whether that change could be addressed before the vote on a second reading. Dr. Dana stated that she would work with the middle school and Mrs. Verry to discuss expectations and

consequences. Mr. Thomson asked that the cell phone policy regarding students not videoing using their cell phones on the bus be reconsidered so that technology is available to record safety issues. Mr. Taverna noted that busses may be equipped with video cameras as necessary to address safety issues on the bus if there are concerns.

Mrs. Ambrozavitch stated that she would provide the language concerning the student internships to the committee for the second reading vote once she has been given feedback on this year's internships from students, faculty and business members.

- C. Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the fundraising requests of the DHS Boys and Girls Soccer Teams; The DHS Football Team and the DHS Field Hockey team, all for the 16-17 school year. The Superintendent also recommends the approval of the fundraising requests for the DHS Class of 2017, the DHS Golf team and the Great Oak Playground Renovation fundraiser. As voted.
- D. Out of State Field Trip Request – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the field trip request from DanversCARES for 7 DHS students to travel to Bryant University in Smithfield RI to attend the Youth to Youth Conference from July 28 – July 31, 2016. As voted.

VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A - Communications – Dr. Dana reviewed all items of communication in the packet, which included minutes and agendas from the North Shore Education Consortium and a legal bulletin from MASC.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane spoke about taking positions and serving on political committees as long as no public funds or resources are used in taking a position. He also noted that the Special Education Circuit breaker shows an increase in the house version of the budget. Homeless transportation reimbursement will be lower for 2016 than it was in 2015.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update:

DEEP – Mrs. Verry spoke about the upcoming “Breakfast of Champions” to honor DPS retirees and to recognize this past year’s business and sponsors. Mr. Morse, who donated to the town for the fields also donated \$200,000 to DEEP, to be used to fund DECA events, among others.

DanversCARES – Dr. Dana spoke about the 2016 Annual Meeting and the awards presented. She thanked keynote speaker, Essex County District Attorney, Jonathan Blodgett. She also spoke about the Light it Up Purple event, in which over 150 people attended. She thanked DanversCARES, artist David Fitcher, Principal Violetta Powers, parents, faculty and students for their participation in the creation and unveiling of the Healthy Living Mural at Riverside School. DanversCARES awarded scholarships to two graduating DHS students who were involved with DanversCARES.

VIII. MINUTES – As voted

IX. BUDGET

Mr. Taverna presented the May 2016 Monthly Budget report and invited questions from the committee. He noted that the homeless transportation is at the forecasted \$325,000 amount.

X. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mrs. Ambrozavitch presented her memo dated May 2016 and asked the committee to contact her with questions. She thanked the School Committee members for their attendance at the DHS graduation ceremony.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Kay, Secretary
Danvers School Committee