

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

September 12, 2016
Francis Mills Communication Center, E105, Danvers High School

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

VOTED: 2016-2017 Danvers Public Schools District Goals – Mr. Skarneas moved to approve the DPS 16-17 District Goals for a second reading. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: K-12 School Improvement Plans– Mr. Skarneas moved to approve the proposed 2016-2017 School Improvement Plans, second reading. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Homeschooling Proposals – Mr. Skarneas moved to approve seven home school proposals. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising requests – Mr. Skarneas moved to approve the fundraising request for the DHS Class of 2020. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mr. Kay moved to approve and release the August 8, 2016 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Skarneas moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:22 p.m. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Thomson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited the DPS Mission statement was read. He inquired if anyone in the audience was recording the proceedings and identified Jeff Pope, Danvers Herald in the audience as recording the meeting.

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

Dr. Dana spoke about the DPS Mobile App and encouraged the community to download the it. She also informed the committee about the Thorpe Elementary School's 50th anniversary celebration and the grand opening of the learning commons on October 13, 2016.

Mr. Crane congratulated the DPS Administration and the Fields committee for the grand opening of the new football field.

Members of the community addressed the committee regarding supporting a no vote on Question 2 on the ballot regarding charter schools. Mr. Crane moved to discuss the issue for a resolution to support voting on the ballot question. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. Mr. Skarneas stated that since the item was not on the agenda, that the discussion should be moved to the October meeting. He also stated that would give all of the committee members more time to get more information before discussing. Mr. Crane withdrew the motion after the committee agreed to add this item to the October meeting agenda.

II. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – The student rep was not in attendance at the meeting.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. 16-17 Opening of Schools – Dr. Dana thanked to the DPW, administrators, technology department and staff for their work in preparing DPS for the 16-17 opening of schools. She spoke about the annual DPS tour of the schools. Faculty began the year on September 6^h with a presentation by keynote speaker, Bob Kelleher. Dr. Dana visited all of the schools and noted that the opening was one of the best to date.

2. Introduction of new DHS Administration – Dr. Dana introduced Mr. Todd Maguire, DHS Curriculum Director and Sean Emberley, Assistant Principal at DHS. Both thanked the committee for their support and expressed enthusiasm for their new positions.

3. 2016 Summer School Program – Mrs. Ambrozavitch presented an overview of the summer school program and congratulated Mr. Mark Strout for his work in overseeing the success of the program.

4. New Teacher Orientation and Summer Professional Development – Mrs. Ambrozavitch noted that 26 teachers and over 20 paraprofessionals were hired over the summer. She outlined the topics covered at the new teacher orientation day held on August 24th.

Mary Wermers spoke about the 27 workshops offered to teachers over the summer, which were categorized into four themes – The 1:1 Chromebook initiative with training on Apps that could be used in the classroom; Curriculum mapping; Elementary curriculum updates/upgrades and Special Education. All sessions held both in June and August were very well attended. She noted that she has noticed a yearly increase in the number of teachers who take advantage of the professional development offerings.

5. Fields and MSBA update – Mr. Taverna spoke about the final work done on the field for the first football game; the grass fields and maintenance; a new course for cross country and Project Adventure. He also spoke about continued discussions regarding fund raising opportunities.

Mr. Taverna informed the committee of a meeting with MSBA on September 19th to discuss enrollment. He also said that the district's capital maintenance plan must be submitted to MSBA by the beginning of October. Dr. Dana said that the committee would be updated in October with the results of the 9/19 MSBA meeting.

6. DESE Targeted Review overview – Dr. Dana presented an overview of the DESE Targeted review report to the committee and noted that, overall, it was a very positive report. She thanked the visiting team from DESE for their work in March 2016. The review targeted Student Centered Standards - Curriculum and Instruction, Assessment and Student Support. Dr. Dana reminded the community that the entire report is on the DPS website for the review. Dr. Dana highlighted strength findings and areas for growth from the executive summary of the report. She stated that she was very proud and encouraged by the positive findings in the report.

Mary Wermers spoke about how the review report findings connect with setting the four FY17 Goals. The members of the committee were very enthusiastic about the report findings and congratulated the administration for their successes. Dr. Dana and Ms. Wermers fielded questions regarding data and growth targets from the committee members.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2016-2017 Danvers Public Schools District Goals – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2016-2017 Danvers Public Schools District Goals, second reading. As voted.

B. K-12 School Improvement Plans, The Superintendent recommended the approval of the K-12 School Improvement Plans, second reading. As voted.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Homeschooling Proposals – The Superintendent recommended the approval of seven homeschool proposals. As voted.
- B. Fundraising requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising request for the DHS Class of 2020. As voted.

VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A - **Communications** – Dr. Dana reviewed the communications in the packet, which included a thank you note from DHS scholarship recipient and a letter from Senator Lovely to HRMS for their work against bullying.
- B. **Legislation** – Mr. Crane shared information regarding Kindergarten grants that were not funded for FY17.
- C. **Subcommittee/Liaison Update:**

DEEP – Mrs. Verry reminded the committee and community about the DEEP Food and Winetasting on October 29th at Danversport Yacht Club. First meeting is Wednesday, September 14th.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay spoke about DanversCARES providing funding for jobs for high school students this summer with DCAT and the Danvers Rec Department, which was very successful. Students attended a Youth Leadership conference with students from other local communities. Mr. Kay also reminded the committee about the medication disposal program available in Danvers and a presentation on October 25th at DHS – “The Secret Lives of Teenagers”, free and open to the public.

SEPAC – Mr. Skarmeas announced the first meeting on September 14th in the Library at DHS. The presentation topic will be “Basic Rights”.

VII. MINUTES – As voted

VIII. PERSONNEL

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

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Kay, Secretary
Danvers School Committee