

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

March 9, 2015

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

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

VOTED: Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities Civil Rights Policy update – Mr. Thomson moved to approve the Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities Civil Rights Policy update for a second reading. Mrs. Pawlak seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: FY15-16 Budget – Final Adoption Vote – Mr. Thomson moved to approve of the FY15-16 DPS Budget. Mrs. Pawlak seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Vote on the Statement of Interest for Smith Elementary School – Mr. Crane moved to adopt the MSBA voting language to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest form for the Ivan G. Smith Elementary School located at 15 Lobao Drive. Mrs. Pawlak seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: FY15-16 DPS School Calendar/Early Release Days – Mr. Thomson moved to accept the FY 15-16 DPS School Calendar/Early Release days for a first reading. Mrs. Pawlak seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Danvers School Committee Norms and Beliefs Policy – Mr. Thomson moved to approve the Danvers School Committee Norms and Beliefs Policy for a first reading. Mrs. Pawlak seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Out of State Field Trips – Mr. Thomson moved to approve the out of state/overnight field trip requests from the DECA class, (134 students) to travel to the Boston MA for the state competition on March 12-14 2015; the DHS A Cappella group, *Falconize* (19 students), to travel to New York City, NY on April 17-19, 2015 and for 1 DHS student to travel to Providence RI on April 9 – 12, 2015. Mrs. Pawlak seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising Requests – Mr. Thomson moved to approve the fundraising requests of the Class of 2018, DHS Boys Lacrosse team and DHS Baseball team. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Mr. Thomson moved to approve and release the regular meeting minutes from January 12, 2015. Mr. Thomson moved to approve the minutes from the Executive Session meeting held on January 12, 2015, not to be released. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:59 p.m. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Skarmeas called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and DPS Mission statement were recited. Mr. Skarmeas inquired whether the meeting was being recorded by audience members and announced that the meeting was being recorded by DCAT and that due to technical difficulties, the meeting was not being broadcast live.

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

Mr. Crane congratulated Danvers Kiwanis on its successful pancake breakfast held at DHS. He also spoke about the recent Library Fundraising Gala held at the Danvers Public Library. Finally, he expressed his appreciation to the parents who have been emailing the committee.

Mr. Skarmeas invited members of the audience to address the committee. Three Danvers residents made statements to the committee.

III. INTRODUCTION AND INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE – Haley O’Shea presented news and events from the seven schools.

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. Danvers Pride Presentation – Highlands School – Principal Liz Matthews and four grade 5 students spoke about programs at Highlands that focus on citizenship and being part of a school community.

2. Student Services Update – Dr. Mary Tatem spoke about the development of the new language-based program, identifying student needs, logistics, location, staffing and a schedule for providing services. She stated that IEP meetings for students identified to be in need of language based services will be held later in the school year to make sure that the program has been established to meet the needs of the IEP. Dr. Dana presented more specifics on the timeline for program development.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities Civil Rights Policy update – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities Civil Rights Policy update, second reading. As voted.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. FY15-16 Budget – Final Adoption Vote – The Superintendent recommended the adoption of the FY15-16 DPS Budget. As voted. Mr. Crane congratulated the administrators on their hard work for their preparation of a “reasonable” budget.

2. Vote on the Statement of Interest for Smith Elementary School – The Superintendent recommended that the School Committee vote to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest form for the Smith Elementary School located at 15 Lobao Drive. As voted. Mr. Thomson read the voting language required by the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Dr. Dana noted that this is the fourth time the SOI has been submitted and noted that last year, Smith was chosen for a senior study. She outlined the process for submitting by mid-April.

3. FY15-16 DPS School Calendar/Early Release Days – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the FY15-16 School Calendar/Early Release Days, first reading. As voted. Dr. Dana reviewed the 14-15 calendar and spoke about the six snow days used. She recommended no changes to the 14-15 calendar to accommodate those snow days, as the last day of school would be June 29, 2015, with no more snow days needed. She advised that the average number of snow days used over the last 13 years is 2.5/year.

Mr. Thomson asked the committee to consider taking Yom Kippur and Good Friday off the calendar as no school days due to the proposed calendar going to June 30th with five snow days.

Mr. Kay spoke about the late start, September 9th, and inquired why school could not start on September 1st. Dr. Dana advised that contractually, DPS is obligated to start school after Labor Day.

Mr. Crane stated that it is tradition in Danvers for the community to have religious holidays off. Mrs. Pawlak said that she would be very reluctant to vote to change early release days and professional development days, as they add to the strength of the district.

4. Danvers School Committee Norms and Beliefs Policy – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the Danvers School Committee Norms and Beliefs Policy, first reading. As voted.

Mr. Thomson stated that this policy is a result of the School Committee members meeting with a field representative from MASC, outlining procedures and how to conduct School Committee business.

5. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the out of state/overnight field trip requests from the DECA class, (134 students) to travel to the Boston MA for the state competition on March 12-14 2015; the DHS A Cappella group, *Falconize* (19 students), to travel to New York City, NY on April 17-19, 2015 and for 1 DHS student to travel to Providence RI on April 9 – 12, 2015. As voted.

6. Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the fundraising requests for the Class of 2018, DHS Boys Lacrosse team and the DHS Baseball Team. As voted.

VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

A - Communications – Dr. Dana reviewed the communications in the packet.

B. Legislation – Mr. Crane noted that the Governor's budget has been submitted, which includes a \$1M increase for homeless transportation. There are no initiatives in the budget to address the homeless problem, but has made it a priority in his administration. Mr. Taverna noted that there will be a decrease in the amount of homeless transportation reimbursement from the state due to the rise in homeless families and costs.

C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP – Mr. Skarmas stated that the DEEP Hall of Honor, held on March 5th, was a great event.

DanversCARES – Mrs. Pawlak spoke about recent programs scheduled by DanversCARES that address alcohol/drug treatment, Internet safety, opium addiction in teens and coping with anxiety. Mr. Thomson spoke about a prom safety guide for parents being developed.

SEPAC – Co-Chair Keri Smith Holian spoke about the success of the Resource Fair held on March 4, 2015. She stated that it was very well attended and many vendors. She spoke about the interest shown for the college vendors in attendance.

VIII. BUDGET

Mr. Taverna presented the February 2015 Monthly Budget report and invited questions from the committee.

IX. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mrs. Ambrozavitch presented her memo dated February 2015 and asked the committee to contact her with questions.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

David Thomson, Secretary
Danvers School Committee