

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

December 12, 2016

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

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

VOTED: Danvers High School Program of Studies – The Superintendent recommended the Danvers High School Program of Studies for a 1st reading. Mr. Crane moved to approve a 1st reading. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising requests – Mr. Crane moved to approve the fundraising requests from DHS Swimming and Diving teams, Varsity Gymnastics, Boys Basketball and Boys Lacrosse. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mr. Kay moved to accept and release the minutes from the November 14, 2016 regular meeting. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mrs. Verry moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:41 p.m. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and DPS Mission statement were recited. Mr. Thomson inquired whether the meeting was being recorded by audience members and announced that the meeting was being broadcast on DCAT and recorded by the Danvers Herald.

**II. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SUPERINTENDENT, SCHOOL COMMITTEE, COMMUNITY
NONE**

III. INTRODUCTION AND INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Daisy Powers presented news and events from the seven schools.

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Danvers Pride Presentation – Third grade teachers Leanne Miraglia and Christine Proctor introduced their classes to give a presentation on Math Goals and use of technology. Mr. Kay commented that he was very impressed with the students and they should be proud of their use and knowledge of technology. Mr. Crane stated that students today are much more advanced than some adults. Mrs. Verry and Mr. Thomson both congratulated the students on a great job and thanked them for attending.
- B. Dr. Tatem and Kristen Maroncelli gave an update on the preschool program detailing the timeline for evaluations and processing of an Individual Education Plan (IEP). Ms. Maroncelli explained the differences between integrated (peer to peer learning) and intensive (highly structured and modified learning) preschool program. It was stated that the peer partner enrollment has increased by 88% over last year. Dr. Tatem noted that with the increase in students there will be a co-taught model added utilizing a larger classroom. Mr. Thomson asked how the program was funded. Dr. Tatem explained that peer partners are tuition based while the expense of students on an IEP are grant funded. Mr. Crane commented that early identification of preschool needs is critical. Mrs. Verry stated that the District is doing a wonderful job with the preschool program and feels first time parents are walked through the process. Mr. Kay felt the program to be a fantastic investment at an early age.

- C. Mr. Taverna gave an update on Safety and the Wellness Committee. Mr. Taverna stated that policies were reviewed in August and safety drill have been held in 6 out of the 7 schools. Go Kits will be discussed at the next meeting. Mrs. Verry asked about the funding for the Go Kits. Mr. Taverna responded that the funding would come from the School District. The Wellness Committee has reviewed the Atlas & Athena program while working with DanversCares and ParentsCares on Youth Risk Data. SBERT screening has taken place at DHS and is schedule for HRMS in the spring. The March Wellness Committee agenda will review AEDs, Epi-pens and concussions while getting an update from DanversCares on the Chemical Health Policy.
- D. Dr. Dana and Mr. Taverna updated the committee on MSBA/Smith Project stating that by January 2017 the request for owners' project manager will go to bid. A selection committee will then review and choose 3 finalists for the project. At that time the finalists will be scheduled for an interview Mr. Thomson questioned if the expectation was to have interviews by February. Mr. Taverna answered yes, with early March being the latest date.
- E. Mr. St. Pierre shared the Athletic Department has had a great fall with Atlas & Athena and the Senior mentor program. He noted that further information on Opioid and drug misuse resource material has been put online and Danvers has taken part in DEC leadership training as well as MIAA Hazing workshop and student ambassadors program. Mr. St.Pierre also acknowledged Mr. Morse and the field dedication. Mrs. Verry felt that the programs taking place off the field made the students more well-rounded and thanked Mr. St.Pierre. Mr. Crane agreed. Mr. Thomson wanted to share his thanks for the mentoring programs and stated that he was impressed with Mr. Morse, his family and the field dedication. Mr. Kay noted that these programs gave good insight and perspective.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Danvers High School Program of Studies – The Superintendent recommended the Danvers High School Program of Studies for a 1st reading. Mr. Thomson moved for the reading of the program of studies. Motion passed.
Mr. Maguire spoke on NEASC and the impact on the Program of Studies. He noted that upon collaboration with faculty they advise to make few changes until NEASCs' completion. Mr. Maguire noted that names of courses have been updated. The discussion led to talk of expanding offerings for strong core focus. Appreciation of painting and media courses was expressed.
- B. Annual Review of Superintendent Evaluation – Mr. Thomson noted that Mr. Skarmas was not in attendance and would mail Dr. Dana the evaluation.
Mr. Kay appreciates the substance and agrees with Dr. Dana's self - assessment of proficient in the 4 main standards, noting that her effort is reflected in the students' achievement in terms of writing and college areas that they may choose to go into. He expressed that Dr. Dana's management/operation and cultural proficiency are exemplary. The environment that Dr. Dana has set up within planning, procedure and routines helps the committee to focus. The only areas of improvement would be an overall commitment to higher standards for each student.
Mr. Crane felt similar to Mr. Kay noting Dr. Dana's proficiency in all areas while he felt she was exemplary within those criteria. Student learning goals have shown improvement. He expects that we are above other districts in student assessment and evaluation processes.
Mrs. Verry did not complete the evaluation feeling she has not been on the committee for a reasonable enough length of time.
Mr. Thomson agreed with others and stated that he found Dr. Dana to be proficient in standards 1-3 while exemplary in the 4th. Mr. Thomson noted that in his view proficient is where we want to be. He considers this to be the goal. He continues to be impressed with Dr. Dana's leadership. Dr. Dana shared her appreciation for the input and feedback stating that being able to facilitate this work for Danvers Public Schools is rewarding.

- C. Fundraising requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising requests from DHS Swimming and Diving teams, Varsity Gymnastics, Boys Basketball and Boys Lacrosse. Motion passed.
- D. Out of State/Late Night Field Trips - NONE

VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications – Dr. Dana shared the NEC website noting the minutes are available through it.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane stated that Governor Baker’s cuts to be less than expected and will not directly affect local aid to schools but will affect homeless funding. On the Federal front, nomination of Betsy Devose for Secretary of Education has some worried that funding to the Common Core could be cut and people are trying to project what education will look like in the future.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP – Mrs. Verry announced that a coffee hour hosted by DEEP Thanksgiving day before the field dedication was well received. Keys to success will now be funded through Michaud Mitsubishi. HRMS will be holding a spelling bee.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay shared that three other coalitions shared their work and noted that Wakefield holds a Saturday workshop for parents.

SEPAC – Co-Chair Tom Savage informed the committee that 11 new parents had attended the November meeting. He asked that SEPAC meeting dates be put onto school calendars and expressed concern that parents may not know what SEPAC is and does for the community and asked for suggestions for improvement. Mrs. Verry felt that parents could be better informed while going through the initial evaluation process with Student Services and possibly using Cable TV as a vehicle. Mr. Crane asked to arrange a meeting to accomplish this. The topic for the January SEPAC meeting is “Interactive discussion between parents and children around the subject of learning differences”.

VIII. MINUTES – As voted

IX. BUDGET

Mr. Taverna presented the November 2016 budget report along with a Draft for FY18 Budget Policy update.

VII. PERSONNEL

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

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Kay, Secretary
Danvers School Committee