

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

March 13, 2017

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

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

VOTED: Public Hearing and Vote on School Choice – The Superintendent recommended the School Committee vote not to accept School Choice students for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Crane moved to approve the non-acceptance of students. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Final Adoption of DPS 17-18 Budget – Mr. Skarmeas moved to adopt the proposed \$39,921,552 DPS 17-18 budget. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: 17-18 School Calendar/Early Release – The Superintendent recommended the proposed 17-18 School Calendar/Early Release Days for a first reading. Mr. Kay moved. Mrs. Verry seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Request – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the out of state field trip from DHS French Honors to Quebec City, October 6-9, 2017, DHS Ingrid Sound to Memphis Tennessee, April 19-24, 2017, DHS Boy's Lacrosse to Durham, New Hampshire, March 30, 2017 and DHS Basketball Cheerleaders to Providence, RI on March 18, 2017. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mr. Crane seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mr. Kay moved to accept and release the minutes from the February 28, 2017 regular meeting. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Crane moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:25 p.m. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Thomson 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 and Salem News.

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

Mr. Thomson complimented the administration for an incredible NEASC visit. Mr. Crane said he was very impressed at the number of teachers that attended. Mrs. Ambrozavitch stated all teachers of DHS were in attendance. Mr. Thomson shared the news that DHS would be sending 40 DECA students to the

international competition in California in April. Congratulations to the students and Mrs. Beaulieu.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

The student representative was unable to attend the meeting.

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Danvers Pride Presentation** – Mr. Anderson, interim principal of Highlands School did a presentation on Class Dojo, connecting teachers with students and parents. Fourth grade teachers Mrs. Doucette, Ms. Catto and Mrs. Bullers also assisted with the students presenting, Seanna Senn, Cole Waterman, Erica Langlais, Priyani Rawal and Brendan Gibbons. Class Dojo is a communications app. that helps teachers, students and parents work as a team. The focus is to create a positive culture, give students validation and share moments with families. Class Dojo reinforces positive behavior by allowing the teacher to award Dojo points which the students can then use to purchase rewards such as “comfy chair for a day”, lunch with the teacher or reading to a K-1 class. Teachers are able to post pictures of daily activities in live time and parents can log on and see what is happen in their students day. A message feature allows teachers and parents to communicate. Students seem to respond well to this program and love to earn Dojo points. Mrs. Verry thanked the students for a great presentation and feels this program is wonderful for open communication. Mr. Crane inquired about the ease of use and was told this program is very easy to use and learn. Mr. Anderson stated he was able to use it with virtually no training. Mr. Kay said he is very encouraged by the use of this technology. Mr. Thomson asked if the ability to have constant communication with parents becomes time consuming. Mrs. Doucette explained that it works well. Mr. Skarmeeas congratulated the students on a great presentation.
- B. Student Services Update** - Dr. Tatem, Director of Student Services, along with Sean Dunleavy and Bree Jacobsen, both of Holten Richmond Middle School gave a presentation on Language Based Learning Disabilities. Dr. Tatem stated the LBLD program has been in place for the 4th and 5th grade. This year they’ve instituted those techniques and strategies for the 6th grade students. Ms. Jacobsen spoke on students taking ownership of their own progress focusing on small positives, consistency by using common terminology and utilizing many of the same instructional strategies such as pairing visuals with written/verbal language, using sentence frames and repetition of skills. Mr. Dunleavy noted the transition from 5th to 6th grade is the most difficult. This program helps to develop consistency and organization. One way in doing this is to create a “common binder”. This is one binder used for all subjects. Developing common cueing strategies and setting expectations at the beginning of the year is also an important function of this program. Techniques such as Tic-Tac-Toe vocabulary, 2 column notes, using task and time analysis and Click or Clunk includes the students in the learning process. Both Mr. Dunleavy and Ms. Jacobsen spoke on Making Thinking Visible using See-Think-Wonder and Google Read to Write to assist students to become more successful with their writing. Mr. Skarmeeas inquired how long the professional development course was. Dr. Tatem answered it was taken over time, 1 professional development day in the spring , 3 days over the summer months and monthly evaluations. The course was provided by Landmark School. She also

stated that a 7th grade team will be trained in LBLD for next year so the 6th grade students that are enrolled in the program this year will have that consistency moving forward. Mr. Kay felt this program fits into the #1 Mid-year Goal and asked if students can progress out of the program and was told that there is one student that will be leaving the program at the end of the school year. Mr. Kay also asked if there would be a full year accomplishment to quantify progress. Ms. Jacobsen said she keeps data on each student's progress. Other School Committee members commented that they love this program and are very happy that the need for such was identified and implemented.

- V. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE ON SCHOOL CHOICE** - The Superintendent recommended the School Committee vote not to accept School Choice students for the 2017-2018 school year. Dr. Dana stated that each year the committee must revisit the option to allow or deny school choice students. She explained that at this time the District does not have the capacity to allow this. Mr. Crane moved to approve the non-acceptance of school choice students. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Final Adoption of DPS 17-18 Budget** – The Superintendent recommends the approval of the DPS 17-18 proposed Budget. Discussion was held explaining that the majority of the \$39,921,552 was contractual obligations. Mr. Crane felt this was a responsible budget and was in line with the Town's vision. As voted
- B. 17-18 School Calendar/Early Release** – The Superintendent recommends the approval of the proposed 17-18 School Calendar/Early Release Days for a first reading. Mr. Kay commented that he appreciated the professional development days being moved to the Tuesday after a long weekend. Dr. Dana stated this would make for more consistency in the classroom, having 3 days at school rather than a broken up week. Mr. Thomson asked if the professional development days were part of the teacher's contract and if one could possibly be moved to Good Friday affording the students one less day off school. Dr. Dana shared that the District is in negotiations for the next teacher's contract and that this idea was worth of a discussion. As voted.
- C. Out of State/Late Night Field Trips** - The Superintendent recommends the approval of the field trip requests from DHS French Honors to Quebec City, October 6-9, 2017, DHS Ingrid Sound to Memphis Tennessee, April 19-24, 2017, DHS Boy's Lacrosse to Durham, New Hampshire, March 30, 2017 and DHS Basketball Cheerleaders to Providence, RI on March 18, 2017. As Voted.

VIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications** – Dr. Dana shared the NEC website noting the minutes and budget subcommittee information are available as well as a link to the Annual Report Update.

B. Legislation – Mr. Crane stated he had nothing new to share since the February 28th meeting.

C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP – Mrs. Verry commented they have received 26 applications for the DEEP grant in the requested amount of \$29,945.02. These requested were made by 73 teachers and will be awarded at the June School Committee Meeting. Mrs. Verry shared this was the largest amount requested to date.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay shared DanversCARES’ focus remains on positive parenting strategies, knowing where your children are and who they are with. He asked that parents view literature on the website. Light the Night walk takes place on May 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Peabody Institute Library. Other important dates for DanversCARES events are March 25th, Adolescent Health at Lahey Clinic, April 5th, School Safety Conference and June 9th, Youths at Risk at Salem State.

SEPAC – Mr. Skarmeas announced Sally Palmer of Revive Mindfulness will present on Turning Negative to Positive on April 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the HRMS Library. He shared that the Resource Fair went well and plans are in place to move the date to September next year.

IX. MINUTES – As voted

X. BUDGET

In Mr. Taverna’s absence, Dr. Dana presented the February 2017 budget report stating we are on budget.

XI. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mrs. Ambrozavitch presented her memo dated March 2017 and asked the committee to contact her with questions.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 10, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Kay, Secretary
Danvers School Committee