

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

June 12, 2017

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

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

VOTED: K-12 Student/Parent Handbooks – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2017-2018 K-12 Student/Parent Handbooks for a first reading. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Homeschooling Proposal – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the Notice of Intent for Home Education for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Skarmear moved to approve. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. 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 the HRMS art department to New York, April 26th-28th, 2018. Mr. Skarmear moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous..

VOTED: Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fund raising events from DHS class of 2020 for class events. Mr. Skarmear moved to approve, Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Ms. Verry moved to accept and release the minutes from the May 8, 2017 regular meeting. Mr. Skarmear seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Kay moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kay called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and DPS Mission statement were recited. Mr. Kay 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

A. Sally Kerns and Bob Gamer as representatives of the Danvers Committee for Diversity presented their statement on “Safe Community”. The statement reads;

First and foremost, we remain committed to the inherent worth and dignity of every person at every level: neighborhood, local, state, federal, and the world.

We are committed to ensuring that all persons in our town feel safe and welcome. We are informed and are mindful that not all people feel welcome and safe. We are mindful that some single parents, women, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, people of various religious and ethnic backgrounds, immigrants, the economically disadvantaged, and all who experience some form of marginalization may not always feel safe and welcome. We cannot tolerate this. Because of this awareness, we embrace and proclaim our cherished history, by which Danvers welcomes all peoples. We are particularly mindful that the current controversy sweeping our nation impels us to state that we are, all of us, immigrants, or descendants of immigrants, and we welcome all who seek peace and a better life on our shores to become part of the great tapestry that is America and we reaffirm that all are welcome in Danvers. It is our goal that all people feel safe. We acknowledge that and appreciate that the Danvers Police Department does not use local resources to check or report on the immigration status of those they encounter in routine interactions. The Danvers Police Department has always had the practice of protecting all persons who fear any form of danger, whether real or perceived, We publish this statement of a Safe Community as a Resolution of the Danvers Committee for Diversity.

The Committee thanked Mr. Gamer and Ms. Kerns and agreed that this is the right time for this statement and all students should feel safe.

- B.** Mr. Kay recommended the members of subcommittees and liaison remain in the roles that they currently hold.

- C.** Mr. Kay recommended moving the August 14th meeting to August 21st. This will give administrators and teachers time to organize their goals for that meeting.

- D.** Mr. Kay then thanked Sue Ambrozavitch for her many years of service to the Danvers Public Schools. Mr. Skarmas spoke on Mrs. Ambrozavitch's making a profound difference in the life of his own children and presented her with a plaque from the Committee. Mr. Bill Bates then spoke on behalf of State Representative Ted Spiliotis and presented her with a Proclamation from the House of Representatives.

- E. Mr. Thomson thanked Mark Strout for his years of service and great contribution to Danvers High School.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Daisy Powers presented news and events from the seven schools.

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. DEEP Teacher Grants – Mary Beth Verry, as a representative for DEEP, introduced incoming DEEP vice president Mari Matt and incoming DEEP secretary Angela Tsiumis who presented teachers awarded the DEEP grants. She stated that over \$20,000.00 in grants were gifted from DEEP and thanked the business of Danvers and the grant committee for their support. The Committee thanked DEEP and the teachers for their great work.
- B. NEASC Report –Mrs. Ambrozavitch report on the NEASC findings. In 2106 a self study of 7 strands as was recommended by NEASC was conducted. All Danvers High School participated. The visiting committee from NEASC came out to conduct their study on March 12th - 15th, 2017. Mr. Maguire presented the highlights of the report, standards 1-7, sharing that several of the recommendations were “continue to” stating this was the best report he has ever seen. He then fielded questions and accepted accolades from the Committee.
- C. FY17 District Wide Goals – In Dr. Dana’s stead, Mrs. Ambrozavitch reviewed accomplishments related to FY17 District Wide Goals stating this was year 4 of a 5 year strategic plan. She summarized the accomplishments as: Theme I - Academic Achievement- Accessibility, social media and digital apps., Theme II - Family and Community Engagement- parent survey and mobile app, Theme III Human Resources and Management -Holten Richmond , Off to a Great Start for paraprofessional training and skillful teaching 3 for administrators, Theme IV -Management and Operations, building project,direct look initiative at DHS and safety planning. Mary Beth Verry said this was a testament to the teamwork of Danvers Public Schools. Mr. Crane feels Danvers is above the curve in technology while Mr. Thomson asked questions about the success of the therapy dog at Riverside School. Mrs. Powers shared that the dog is a huge success. Mr. Kay stated he feels our students are well prepared when graduating.
- D. Final School Council Accomplishments – In Dr. Dana’s stead, Mrs. Ambrozavitch reviewed the final School Council accomplishments sharing DHS had the huge accomplishment of NEASC and large strides in technology. Holten Richmond Middle School’s goals were closing the achievement goals and working with project HAWK, focusing on acceptance at the middle school level, while the elementary schools increased in writing mini lessons, technology and Math with each school having their own specific goals.. The Committee applauded the administration and principals on a job well done. They felt that family participation that was shown to be important and loved the use of the therapy dog at Riverside School.

- E. Facilities Update – Mr. Taverna provided a update on the Smith School project stating PMA was hired as Project manager and accepted at the June MSBA meeting. A request for the architect for a feasibility study will be presented in late August/early September. PMA will be on hand for all to meet at the next building meeting. Mr. Kay asked about the completion date. Mr. Taverna answered the expected date of completion to be for the 2021 opening of Smith School.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NONE

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. K-12 Student/Parent Handbooks – Mrs. Ambrozavitch as designee of the Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2017-2018 K-12 Student/Parent Handbooks for a first reading. As voted
- B. Homeschooling Proposal –Mrs. Ambrozavitch as designee of the Superintendent recommended the approval of the Notice of Intent for Home Education for the 2017-2018 school year. As voted
- C. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Request – Mrs. Ambrozavitch as designee of the Superintendent recommended the approval of the out of state field trip from the HRMS art department to New York, April 26th-28th, 2018. As voted.
- D. Fundraising Requests – Mrs. Ambrozavitch as designee of the Superintendent recommended the approval of fund raising events from DHS class of 2020 for class events. As voted

VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications – Mrs. Ambrozavitch shared the NEC website link.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane stated there are no real changes. The future State budget is still up in the air. The Federal government has earmarked money for Charter schools possibly taking money from programs already funded.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update
DEEP – Mrs. Verry thanked Michuad Mitzubishi for providing the vehicle for “Keys to Success” with Jacob Walker winner the car. She then announced upcoming events such as “Breakfast of Champions” and their monthly meeting.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay shared DanversCARES annual meeting to focus around success, reflecting on the work that has been done this past year. He also announced Sentor Loveley and Alison Bauer will be presenting on the Opioid challenge.

SEPAC – Mr. Savage thanked Mr. Taverna and the staff for their help in making “Desert Night” a success. He shared the resource fair will be held at Riverside with the date being changed to September this year.

VII. MINUTES – As voted

X. BUDGET

Mr. Taverna presented the May 2017 budget report stating we are on budget. He also recognized the donations from Lahey for Parent University and Light the Night Purple.

XI. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mrs. Ambrozavitch presented her memo dated June 2017.

The next regular meeting will be held on August 21,, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Verry, Secretary
Danvers School Committee