

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
September 11, 2017
Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

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

VOTED: 2017-2018 Danvers Public Schools District Goals — The Superintendent recommended the adoption of the proposed 2017-2018 Danvers Public Schools District Goals. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: 2017-2018 K-12 School Improvement Plans — The Superintendent recommended the adoption of the proposed 2017-2018 K-12 School Improvement Plans. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: 2017-2018 Homeschooling Proposals — The Superintendent recommended the Notice of Intent for Home Education for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising requests — The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for the DHS Football Cheerleading and the Class of 2019. Mr. Skarneas moved to approve. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes — Mrs. Verry moved to accept and release the minutes from the August 21, 2017 regular meeting. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment — Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:20 p.m. Mr. Crane 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.

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

Dr. Dana presented a thank you note that was written by a scholarship recipient.

Mr. Kay appointed Mrs. Verry as delegate to MASC/MASS. Mrs. Verry accepted the appointment and will be attend the Nov 1st-4th conference with Dr. Dana.

III. INTRODUCTION AND INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Daisy Powers presented news and events from the seven schools. She also shared her experiences while working with DCAT over the summer and thanked the Committee for allowing her to be the Student Representative again this year.

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. School Opening Overview — Dr. Dana gave an overview of the opening days events. She then shared a video made by the elementary principals and announced that Danvers Pride would begin at the October meeting. Survey results from opening day were shared. Dr. Dana said she has visited all 7 schools and is seeing the professional development implemented and is looking forward to the 2017-18 school year.
2. New Employee Orientation - Mr. Taverna reported on New Employee Orientation stating there were 2 orientations this year; one for the teachers and another for the aides. 15 teachers took the annual tour of

Danvers with Bill Clark this year, which is always a highlight. Both orientations were well attended. Mr. Taverna thanked the DPW and Grounds department for having the schools up and ready to go.

3. Facilities Update - Mr. Taverna gave an update on facilities and the Smith School project. He noted that 8 applicants sent in proposals for the architect position adding the Project Committee will attend a BSA meeting on October 2, 2017. The Technology Department is still fine tuning things as we move to digital curriculum. Another GB will be added to the system for optimum speed. Mr. Taverna also gave a summary of the annual safety meeting held at the end of August.

4. Summer Professional Development Overview — Mrs. Wermers gave an overview of the summer professional development days stating that she was impressed with this years' participation. On August 28th outside consultants gave presentations for the middle school math and science teachers. The consultants will return in October, January and during the spring to support the teachers that attended. 88 teachers took part in the optional professional development days at the end of the year. Those days focused on word study program, Foundation and "words their way" at the elementary level, authentic assessment, digital curriculum, rubrics and logistics and technology training for the middle school. The high school worked on Powerschool training, Peardeck, and project based learning. Mrs. Wermers answered questions from the Committee who thanked all the Curriculum Directors for providing professional development that is beneficial to the teachers.

5. NEASC Report — Mr. Colombino thanked the faculty for assisting with the NEASC process. He explained the 2 year progress report would be due in October of 2019 as well as a 5 year follow up. The next steps are to continue to implement 21st century learning skills and the introduction of Stem class, building pathways to prepare students for college, build data literacy skills and maximize common planning time for teachers. Mr. Colombino stated they are in the planning phases of creating an ELA/History course for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Crane both felt this was a great report and the report should be used as a bit of a blue print. Mrs. Verry thanked everyone for all their hard work with the report.

6. Student Services Update — Mrs. Tatem along with Ms. Maroncelli gave an update on Student Services. Mrs. Tatem commented that the Special Education teachers took part in a professional development that will allow them to teach the same curriculum in an adaptive way closing the gap between typical and special education. She and her staff are excited about implementing what they have learned. She then told the Committee that this years' summer program was attended by 175 students from Pre-K through students 22 years of age with the older students working on community projects. Ms. Maroncelli, one of the co-leads for the summer school program, spoke of Kid Strong, run by Amy Weeden. Kid Strong is a program that utilizes an obstacle course that is used for occupational therapy. The students that participated seemed to really enjoy the program. Some of the other activities that took place were field trips to the movies, Stone Zoo, bowling and Boston Bounce. A therapy dog from Perfect Paw Dog Ministry was brought in. The middle school did an ice cream social and field day along with field trips. They focused on friendship, cooperation, empathy and using mindfulness. A video was shown with highlights of the summer program. The comments of the Committee were that they were impressed with the program and would like to see the continuation of community building and increased social skills. They agreed this is a wonderful program.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. 2017-2018 Danvers Public Schools District Goals — The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2017-2018 Danvers Public Schools District Goals for a 2nd reading. Mr. Thomson stated that he likes the quantitative assessments. As voted
2. 2017-2018 K-12 School Improvement Plans — The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2017-2018 K-12 School Improvement Plans for a 2nd reading. There was no discussion. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. As voted.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2017-2018 Homeschooling Proposals — The Superintendent recommended the Notice of Intent for Home Education for the 2017-2018 school year. As voted
2. Fundraising requests — The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for the DHS Football Cheerleading and the Class of 2019. As voted

VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications — Dr. Dana shared the link to NEC which highlights their summer program.
- B. Legislation — Mr. Crane stated that Senator Lovely is working on a bill in the Senate regarding the battle against sexual misconduct, raising the age of consent between students and staff in a high school environment to 19. Mr. Crane will forward the link to the bill to the Committee.

Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP — Mrs. Verry announced the next DEEP meeting will be on September 20th at the First Ipswich Bank and the annual DEEP wine tasting will be held on October 19th at the Danversport Yacht Club. Tickets can be purchased on the DEEP website or at Merchants Liquor.

DanversCARES — Mr. Kay said their strategic program is being defined and announced Parents University will be held on November 4th at the middle school from 8 a.m. to noon. More information can be found the website.

SEPAC — Mr. Savage gave a review of this years' resource fair saying it was the best fair to date. 60 parents signed in but there were many more that attended along with several vendors and organizations. Mr. Savage shared that he felt as though they were a part of something.

VIII. MINUTES — As voted

IX. BUDGET

Mr. Taverna reported on the acceptance of donations. He stated there would be 3 reports to speak on at the October meeting.

VII. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments — Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated September 2017 and said the positions are 90% filled with only a few positions remaining to fill.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 16, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Verry, Secretary
Danvers School Committee