

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

November 13, 2017

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

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

VOTED: Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trip requests from DHS Spanish students to Madrid and Andalusia Spain, April 12-20, 2019. Mr. Skarmas moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for DHS Ice Hockey, DHS Girls Basketball and DHS Basketball Cheering. Mr. Skarmas moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mrs. Verry moved to accept and release the minutes from the October 16, 2017 regular meeting. Mr. Skarmas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:45 p.m. Mr. Skarmas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Kay called the meeting to order at 7:00 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.

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

- A. Mrs. Verry attended this year's MASC/MASS conference and shared her experience with the Committee. Mrs. Verry stated there were over 1000 attendees including vendors. She gave feedback on the workshops she attended and her enjoyment with the guest speakers. Mr. Verry felt she came back to the Committee with great resources and found this a wonderful way of networking.
- B. Mr. Thomson congratulated the DHS Girls Soccer team for their win of the Division 2 North Championship and moving on to the State finals while Mrs. Verry congratulated the volleyball team on a job well done.

3. INTRODUCTION AND INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Daisy Powers presented news and events from the seven schools.

4. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Danvers Pride – Riverside School – Mrs. Powers presented on School Wide Read of the book “Wonder”. Students Ava Seberino, Dodge Roberts, Sam Randall, Giavanna Barrows, Alex Cerat and Lily Patterson spoke on their feelings on the book and spoke frankly about stereotypes and what they have learned from “Wonder”. Riverside’s grades 3-5 also planned a field trip for a viewing of the upcoming movie. Mrs. Powers said they have been working on stereotyping and the effects that has. The Committee commented on the appropriate timing of this book and discussions on stereotyping as the world and the people in it change. Mrs. Verry stated her agreement and enjoyment of the book.
- B. DanversCARES - Mrs. Sallade gave an update on DanversCARES. Mr. Harrod presented on the DanversCARES 2017-2018 focus being coalition capacity and strategic planning. He stated the support of

youth and family to be successful with youth initiatives such as summer learning programs and the First Job program which has giving teens jobs in Falcon Fun Club and DCAT. They spoke on FalconCARE creating and strengthening positive behaviors at DHS and the 3rd annual Leadership Retreat taking place in November. Mrs. Sallade and Mr. Harrod answered questions and accepted congratulations on the success of Parent University.

- C. Annual Overview of Student Achievement - Mrs. Wermers and Dr. Colombino presented MCAS and graduation data. Dr. Colombino shared the finding showing that Danvers' results prove to be in line or above the state average. He stated PSAT testing participation has a high percentage and it as well as the SAT scoring is in line with the state average, while AP participation is above the state average. Although the drop-out rate has increased to 2% the college admission rate has risen. Mrs. Wermers showed the elementary schools to be focusing on writing. Holten Richmond Middle School's focus is writing and critical thinking. She noted 75% of all students have mastered the goals set forth for critical thinking skills. She also shared the implementation of "Next Generation MCAS Testing" in the Spring of 2017 to be a factor in the testing results and next steps for improving and maintaining scores. Mrs. Wermers, Dr. Colombino and Mr. Federico fielded questions from the Committee on specifics of the new MCAS tests and the differences in performance. The Committee agreed they have a clear view of the work they need to do and plans to refocus. They also thanked the Curriculum Directors for doing a great job.
- D. Superintendent Professional Practice Goals - Dr. Dana gave a review of 2017 Practice Goal of 1:1 initiative with Chromebooks and summarized the 2018 goal for this year of collaborative skills to build relational trust in effective teams and clarifying expectations for our district goals .
- E. MSBA/Smith School Update - Mr. Taverna gave an update on the progress for the Smith School Building Project noting TAPPE Architect has been appointed. A meeting was held with Town staff to discuss the best way to deliver educational programs and instruction during construction.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Requests - Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of Out of State/Overnight Field Trip requests from DHS Spanish students to Madrid and Andalusia Spain, April 12-20, 2019. As voted.
- B. Fundraising requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for DHS Ice Hockey, DHS Girls Basketball and DHS Basketball Cheering. As voted

7. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications – Dr. Dana shared the link to NEC as well as sharing a clear audit report with more information on the report coming in December..
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane stated his fear of the proposed change in the Federal tax cut could impact the growth and stability of the Town and impact the ability of students to go to college.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update
DEEP – Mrs. Verry announced the next DEEP meeting will be on November 15th at the First Ipswich Bank and that the annual DEEP wine tasting at the Danversport Yacht Club was a success again this year noting all proceeds will be distributed to teachers.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay said the work on DanversCARES strategic plans continues as was stated in Mrs. Sallade’s presentation earlier in the evening and commented on the great turn out for Parent University.

Policy - Dr. Dana said there are no policy updates but work on the DHS handbook will be taking place in December.

SEPAC – In the absence of Mr. Savage, Dr. Dana updated the Committee on SEPAC’s next meeting on February. 7, 2018, “Meet the Advocate” presented by SPAN.

Diversity - Mr. Kay shared that a tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. will again be held in January 2018.

8. MINUTES – As voted

9. BUDGET

Mr. Taverna reported on the October 2017 budget report.

10. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated November 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Verry, Secretary
Danvers School Committee