

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

March 12, 2018

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

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

VOTED: Final Adoption of FY19 Budget– The Superintendent recommended the final adoption of the FY19 Budget. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: 18-19 School Calendar/Early Release Days–The Superintendent recommended the approval of the 18-19 school calendar/early release days for a first reading. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events DHS Boys Lacrosse and Ms. White’s Service Learning Class. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the additional of the overnight/out of state field trip request to the agenda. Mr. Crane moved to approve, Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
The Superintendent then recommended the approval of an overnight/out of state field trip request from DHS DECA to Atlanta, GA, April 20-25, 2018. Mr. Skarmeas moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mrs. Verry moved to accept and release the minutes from the February 12, 2018 regular meeting. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:53 p.m. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Kay called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 Salem News.

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

- A. Dr. Dana congratulated the DHS DECA move advancing to the Nationals and Drama Fest for a wonderful performance.
- B. Mr.s. Verry echoed Dr. Dana’s sentiments and mentioned attending Credit For Life, hosted at NSCC.,as being a great event.

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 Presentation – Smith School presented on a concept known as WIN TIME. Mrs.

Mara, along with teachers Bailey Malone and Cindy Marshall, shared a presentation showing WIN (what I need) Time within the classroom. After teaching a lesson, teachers are able to assist students grasp on what was presented immediately. They are then able to score the lessons and address students concerns or questions enabling them to “reteach, regroup and re-engage”, turning the class into smaller groups of students that seem to be at the same level. Teachers have WIN Time 1-2 times per week for 30 minutes each time, working on step 4 of the FARR cycle. Students gave their feedback in the video presented sharing they enjoy WIN Time, feeling more successful and less anxiety about asking questions or needing additional explanation on a lesson. Mrs. Mara answered questions from the Committee.

- B. Smith School Visioning – The Danvers Pride presentation was a great segway to the Smith School Visioning portion of the meeting. Teachers Caroline Cunha, Bree Plummer and Cindy Grady spoke on the 2 day visioning workshop. They updated the Committee on the vision of 21st Century Learning along with open space for collaboration that they are expecting Smith School’s new construction to encompass. Fifth graders Michael Rinella and Gia Simpson took part in the workshop and shared that other than the possibilities of having garage doors, picking out furniture was their favorite part of the process. They also thanked the Committee for allowing them the opportunity to be a part of this. The Committee as a whole voice the importance of having students and facility have input in the process. Dr. Dana shared with the Committee that she and Mr. Taverna met with the architect and the administrators were able to meet with Frank Locker for a ½ day update on the progress.
- C. Student Services Update- Dr. Tatem and Emily Goncalves spoke on SEL, Social, Emotional Learning. Dr. Tatem said SEL has now been accepted as part of the core work with MASS DESE. Anxiety, depression, stress and other social and emotional issues making learning more difficult have increased dramatically within the past 10 years according to Dr. Tatem. She and Mrs. Goncalves went over the many services that the social workers offer at all schools, noting that the middle school also is provided with the additional services of a “SAP” counselor offered through Lahey Health. Mr. Crane felt that the social workers are the “unsung heroes” of the school system, stating that in today’s world, with social media and the extended stressors put on students, social workers make a difference for students that otherwise may not be able to attend school. Dr. Tatem gave accolades on the professionalism of the team of social workers the system employees.
- D. Perspectives on the Schools Survey - Dr. Dana presented the district survey results sharing a detailed powerpoint presentation. Dr. Dana voiced that the survey gives the community an opportunity to tell the school how they are doing and feeling the participants are supportive of the Strategic Plan. A good percentage of parents participating have students in grades K-2, keeping this in mind when determining the timing of surveys. The survey shows the community feels the District is moving in the right direction. Results have been consistent over the past 5 years. Mr. Skarmas said this not only shows the District is doing well as the results are high, but that the survey itself is a good and consistent one. The Committee feels that the survey shares important data to move the District forward with the next Strategic Plan and are pleased with the results.
- E. Facilities Update - Mr. Tavern referred to the Smith School Visioning portion of the meeting.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Final Adoption of FY19 Budget– The Superintendent recommended the final adoption of

the FY19 Budget. The Committee thanked the administration for all the hard work and time put into creating a fiscally responsible budget. As voted

- B. 18-19 School Calendar/Early Release Days –The Superintendent recommended the approval of the 18-19 school calendar/early release days for a first reading. Discussion took place on the movement of 2 professional development days to August and questions were asked about the possibility of changes to the school year. As voted
- C. Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events DHS Boys Lacrosse and Ms. White’s Service Learning Class. As voted
- D. Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the additional of the overnight/out of state field trip request to the agenda. As voted
The Superintendent then recommended the approval of an overnight/out of state field trip request from DHS DECA to Atlanta, GA, April 20-25, 2018. As voted

7. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications – Dr. Dana shared the link to NEC and noted NEC is working on their budget for a final draft at April’s meeting.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane stated after speaking with Senator Lovely and Representative Spiliotis’ office he has learned that revenue looks healthy and they are looking to fund Circuit Breaker in full. A supplemental budget may be able to be put in place to close the financial gap. He also shared the Joint Ways & Means Committee will be hosting a lecture at Peabody City Hall on March 18, 2018 on Local Aide & Educational Funding.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update
DEEP – Mrs. Verry announced the next DEEP meeting will be rescheduled to on March 21st at 7:45 a.m. at the First Ipswich Bank. DEEP grant applications are online and can be submitted through March 16th.
DanversCARES– Mr. Kay said the work on DanversCARES is focusing on their strategic plan with a preliminary reading of the survey set for next month. Light the Night Purple is scheduled for May 9, 2018 and an Internet Safety night presented by Katie Greer is slotted for March 19, 2018.
SEPAC– In the absence of Mr. Savage, Mr. Skarmeas announced he had no SEPAC update.
Policy- Mr. Thomson had no current policy update.
Diversity- Mr. Kay said a recap on MLK event was done and the Diversity Committee is working on scholarships and summer plans. .

8. MINUTES – As voted

9. BUDGET

Mr. Taverna reported on the February 2018 budget stating the District is on budget.

10. PERSONNEL

Mr. Taverna presented his memo with Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absences and Appointments dated March 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Verry, Secretary
Danvers School Committee