

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

August 20, 2018

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

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

VOTED: Pre-K-12 Student/Parent Handbooks – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2018-2019 Pre- K-12 Student/Parent Handbooks for a second reading. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Revised Calendar– The Superintendent recommended the approval of the 2018-2019 revised school calendar. Mr. Kay moved to approve. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: 2018-2019 Danvers Public Schools Strategic Plan and Year 1 Goals – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2018-2019 Danvers Public Schools Strategic Plan and Year 1 Goals for a 1st reading. Mrs. Verry moved to approve. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: 2018-2019 K-12 School Improvement Plans - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2018-2019 K-12 School Improvement Plans for a 1st reading. Mr. Thompson moved to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Homeschooling Proposals -The Superintendent recommended the approval of the Notices of Intent for Home Education for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Thompson moved to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Request – The Superintendent recommended the approval of
of
the out of state field trip from DHS Cross Country to Warwick, RI, September 22, 2018 and Grade 6 to Stone Environmental Camp, Madison, NH, October 10th -12th and October 22nd -24th, 2018. Mr. Thompson moved to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fund raising events from Great Oak, Highlands, Riverside, Smith and Thorpe School PACs, DHS soccer boosters and DHS field Hockey boosters. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Ms. Verry moved to accept and release the minutes from the June 11,2018 regular meeting. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Skarmeas moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Skarmas called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and DPS Mission statement were recited. Mr. Skarmas inquired whether the meeting was being recorded by audience members and announced that the meeting was being broadcast on DCAT and the Danvers Herald.

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

- A. Dr. Dana shared her condolences on the passing of Carol Eaton, a past Asst. Superintendent.
- B. Dr. Dana shared thank you notes sent by recipients of scholarships.
- C. Dr. Dana made mention of the listing for School Committee Subcommittees and Liaisons.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. School Opening – Dr. Dana gave an overview of opening day activities and change of location to the HRMS for opening day presentations. Dr. Dana also announced changes to DanversCARES and introduced Lyle Harrod as interim Director.
- B. DanversCARES – Mr. Harrod gave a summary of the DanversCARES strategic plan, noting the emphasis on social/emotional learning and the 5 core competencies. He touched on Parent University and future plans for youth and family development. Mr. Crane said he was impressed that the strategic plan aligned nicely with those of the District and thanked everyone involved for their hard work.
- C. DHS Updates - Dr. Dana introduced Amy Gerade as the new DHS Curriculum Director. Mrs. Gerade expressed her excitement of being part of the Danvers team. Mr. Emberly then reviewed the results of the survey recently sent to parents of seniors participating in internships. He noted results were very positive and most seniors interned in a field related to their future career plans. The Committee gave some suggestions for internship guidelines for following classes. Dr. Esparza then shared DHS plans to facilitate a therapeutic learning center (TLC). This will be a safe place for students coming back to school after a traumatic event, hospitalization or long absence where reentry is causing stress. The room will be staffed with a social worker, aide and will rotate other essential staff. The goal is to get the student to the point that support is no longer needed. Dr. Esparza fielded questions and accepted accolades from the Committee.
- D. Professional Development - Mrs. Wermers informed the Committee of the change to staff required in-services days being moved to August 29th and 30th this year, noting that professional development days were kept in line with the strategic plan.
- E. Smith School - Mr. Taverna gave a summary of the progress with the Smith School project. Traffic flow has been studied, MSBA facilities assessment update as well as landscaping and HVAC are on the upcoming topics of discussion.
- F. Annual DPW Tour and Safety Meeting - Mr. Taverna said the annual tour was being planned and the safety meeting would be taking place the following day.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2018-2019 Pre-K-12 Student/Parent Handbooks for a second reading. As voted
- B. The Superintendent recommends the approval of the revised 2018-2019 school calendar. As voted

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2018-2019 Danvers Public Schools Strategic Plan and Year 1 Goals – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2018-2019 Danvers Public Schools Strategic Plan and Year 1 Goals for a 1st reading. Dr. Dana gave an overview of the strategic plan and work that has gone into the first draft. Mrs. Wermers gave a presentation on Year 1 Goals. Focus is on social/emotional learning (SEL), behavioral and cultural competencies and proficiencies. She shared that the leadership team meets monthly to assess progress. As voted.
- B. 2018-2019 K-12 School Improvement Plans - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2018-2019 K-12 School Improvement Plans for a 1st reading. Dr. Dana gave the highlights of school improvement plans submitted by each principal. Student engagement as well as SEL are key. She then field questions from the Committee who also shared their appreciation for the amount of work that has been put into these plans. As voted.
- C. Homeschooling Proposals -The Superintendent recommended the approval of the Notice of Intent for Home Education for the 2018-2019 school year. As voted.
- D. Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Request - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the overnight/out of state field trip request from DHS Cross Country to Warwick, RI, September 22, 2018 and Grade 6 to Stone Environmental Camp, Madison, NH, October 10th -12th and October 22nd - 24th, 2018. As voted.
- E. Fundraising Requests –The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for Great Oak, Highlands, Riverside, Smith and Thorpe School PACs, DHS soccer boosters and DHS field Hockey boosters. As voted.

VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications – Dr. Dana shared the NEC website link.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane spoke about the final budget passing, Chapter 70, Circuit Breaker, homeless transportation and school grants.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update
DEEP – Mrs. Verry shared the next meeting is September 19th at the First Ipswich Bank at 7:45 a.m. She also shared the October 25th date for the Food/Wine Tasting, tickets to go on sale in September.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay, noting the presentation earlier in the evening from Mr. Harrod, had no updates.

SEPAC – An announcement was made that the Resource Fair would be held on September 6th at Riverside School.

DHIRC - Mr. Kay said a letter was submitted on behalf of DHIRC to the Danvers Herald and the Salem News as a commentary of detainment of parents and separation of children.

VII. MINUTES – As voted

IX. BUDGET

Mr. Taverna shared there was nothing to report on the budget.

X. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated July 2018.

The next regular meeting will be held on September 10, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Thomson, Secretary
Danvers School Committee