

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

January 14, 2019

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:** Holten Richmond Middle School Program of Studies – The Superintendent recommended the Holten Richmond Middle School Program of Studies for a first reading. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** DHS Program of Studies - First Reading- The Superintendent recommended the DHS Program of Studies for a first reading. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the review of sections F and G as per MASC requests for a second reading. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of review of the Wellness Policy for a second reading. Mr. Thompson moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Superintendent Annual Review - Mr. Crane motioned to extend the Superintendent's contract for an additional year bringing her term to 2024. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Crane motioned to increase the Superintendent's salary by 3% . Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Out of State/Overnight Field Trip – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the out of state field trips from DHS Falconize, May 1-5, 2019 to Walt Disney World, Florida and the eighth grade, June 11-14, 2019 to Washington, DC. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the DHS Boys Basketball Team and the DHS Boys & Girls Lacrosse Team. Mr. Thompson moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Minutes – Mr. Thomson moved to accept and release the minutes from the December 10, 2018 regular meeting and to accept and not release the minutes from the December 10, 2018 Executive Session. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:55 p.m. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Skarmeas called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and DPS Mission statement were recited. Mr. Skarmeas 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, COMMUNITY**

- A.** Mr. Pawlak, representing the HRIC, announced the celebration of MLK Day to be held on January 21, 2019 from 4-6 in the DHS Atrium. Rabbi Allison Adler would be speaking and as in the past, student's artwork would be on display and refreshment were served.

## **III. INFORMATION FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

- A.** Cynthia Boyd and Clea Matt presented news and events of the seven district schools.

## **IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

- A.** Electric Light Department Poster Contest Winners - Ms. Bond stepped in for Mrs. Gail Bernard of the Danvers Electric Department to acknowledge the winners of the annual DPW Electric Division poster contest. HMRS principal Mr. Federico assisted in presentation of awards. Winners were Brendan Gibbons, Ella Ozzy Waters, Camila Ferrar Gomez, Kayleigh Silva, Priyani Rawal, Shea Doherty, Raina Langlais, Sophia Sanidas, Audrey Lapine, Brighid Forest, Tabitha Sears, Erica Langlais and Olivia Page. The Committee shared their appreciation for the student's artwork.
- B.** New Teacher Mentoring program - Mrs. Wermers, Ms. Franz, Ms. Grady and Mr. Buckhoff presented an update on the New Teacher Mentoring program, "The Power of Mentoring". The teachers took turns in sharing their experience, schedule for the mentor/mentee program and described the "wheel of support". The Committee views this as an important program that not only assists new teachers but helps to build a feeling of community and thanked the mentors for their dedication to the program.
- C.** Strategic Plan - Dr. Dana began the presentation with an overview of the new strategic plan. Mrs. Wermers then introduced the ECLC grant sharing there are 6 communities involved in the grant. She said she is working with a team of 16 teachers and administrators in creating an action plan. Mrs. Wermers gave an overview of the 4 teams and their challenges and work; such as support and intervention, SEL and the 5 competencies, self management and awareness, social awareness, relationship skills and the next steps to maintain the District's growth and implementation of the action plan. Mrs. Wermers and her team fielded questions from the Committee.
- D.** Facilities Update- Mr. Taverna spoke on the Highland roof project, noting the designs were submitted and approval of MSBA should be in by February. The Smith School Project is moving along with a December Board of Selectmen meeting and obtaining a signed funding agreement with MSBA. A FINCOM meeting regarding the project was to take place on December 15, 2018.

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

A. MTA Initiative - Ms. Adair, Ms. Ewing, Mr. Farrell and Mr. Hodsdon presented a MTA initiative

to the Committee. Mr. Farrell asked that the Committee to pass a resolution allowing the DTA to apply for the grant being offered. They stated the money for this resolution could be used for professional development, STEM education, consumables, robotics and the likes thereof. While the Committee is in support of the resolution the DTA did not present one in writing for signature.

They were invited back for the next meeting to rectify that.

B. Holten Richmond Program of Studies - First Reading - The Superintendent recommended the HRMS Program of Studies for a first reading. Mr Federico gave an overview of the HRMS Program of Studies noting changes and updates to descriptions and renaming, as well as additions of courses. As voted

C. DHS Program of Studies - First Reading- The Superintendent recommended the DHS Program of Studies for a first reading. Mr. Colombinos gave an overview of the DHS Program of Studies noting changes in graduation requirements, additional and deletion of courses as well as updating descriptions and renaming courses. As voted

C. Annual Review of the Superintendent's Contract – Mr. Crane motioned to extend the Dr. Dana’s contract for an additional year bringing her term to 2024 as well as to increase the Superintendent’s salary by 3% bringing her annual salary to \$186,430.00 . The Committee expressed their confidence in the work that Dr. Dana has and continues to do for the school’s progression. Dr. Dana thanked the Committee.

D. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the out of state field trip from DHS Falconize, May 1-5, 2019 to Walt Disney World, Florida and the eighth grade, June 11-14, 2019 to Washington, DC. As voted

E. Fundraising Requests –The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for DHS Boys Basketball Team and the DHS Boys & Girls Lacrosse Team. As voted

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the review of sections and Section F and G as per MASC requests for a second reading. As voted

B. Wellness Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of review of the Wellness Policy for a second reading. As voted

## VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Communications – Dr. Dana shared the NEC website link and gave an overview of the annual report saying it gives a snapshot of the prior year.

B. Legislation – Mr. Crane said there was nothing new to report.

C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP – Mrs. Verry stated the next DEEP meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 7:45 at the First Ipswich Bank. The HRMS Spelling Bee will be held on February 7, 2109 with a snow date of February 14, 2019. DEEP is also gearing up for the DEEP teachers’ grants.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay shared the dates of the DanversCARES Family workshops. This is a 6 session series held from 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Room at the Peabody Institute Library. The next session will be on January 22, 2019.

SEPAC – Dr. Tatem said a SEPAC meeting on the effects of the internet on speech and language development will be held in February.

DHIRC - Mr. Kay shared details for the annual MLK event.

**VII. MINUTES** – As voted

**VIII. BUDGET and DONATIONS**

Mr. Taverna spoke on the December budget report sharing the school is on budget and noted there was some fine tuning done for the end of the year transfers.

**IX. PERSONNEL**

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated December 2018 showing the increase of a .5 preschool program.

The next regular meeting will be held on February 11, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Thomson, Secretary  
Danvers School Committee