

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

March 11, 2019

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

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

**VOTED:** Public Hearing and Vote on School Choice – The Superintendent recommended the School Committee vote not to accept School Choice students for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Final Adoption of FY20 Budget– The Superintendent recommended the final adoption of the FY20 Budget. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the review of sections I and J 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 the review of sections K and L as per MASC requests for a first reading. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** 2019-2020 School Calendar/Early Release Days –The Superintendent recommended the approval of the 201-2020 school calendar/early release days for a first reading. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of a Family Bingo Night on April 11, 2019 run by the Football Boosters, a Yankee Candle fundraiser by Riverside School in April of 2019 and DHS Best Buddies to sell raffle tickets throughout March. Mr. Thompson moved to approve. Mr. Crane 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 DECA to Orlando Florida, April 27, 2019. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Minutes – Mr. Thomson moved to accept and release the minutes from the February 11, 2019 regular meeting. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:28 p.m. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Skarmas called the meeting to order at 7:03 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.

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

- A. Commissioner's Visit - In Dr. Dana's stead, Mr. Taverna stated the Commissioner's visit went well and he had exciting things to say about Danvers Public Schools. He acknowledged Meghan Beaulieu's and the DECA presidents' invitation to attend the Commissioner's kickoff at UMASS Amherst.
- B. DAA Art Show - Mr. Taverna shared that HRMS students' art work would be displayed at the DAA Art Show on Friday, March, 8, 2019.
- C. BOS Budget Hearing - Mr. Crane thanked everyone for their hard work in preparing the budget for the Board of Selectmen meeting.

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

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

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

- A. Danvers Pride Presentation - Mrs. Jones summarized Highlands Elementary Schools work with the Lucy Calkin's Reading Workshop. She then introduced first and fourth grade teachers Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Cockfield, Mrs. McKinnon, Mrs. Bullers, Mrs. Doucette, Mrs. Marques who presented students Brynn Stefanek, Penelope Tavilla, Addison Hamel, Odin Prudente, Summer Horgan, Ethan Senn, Elliot Esslinger, Ellie Whyman, Emily Sullivan to share their experiences. The first grade students enjoy visits from the "Word Detective" who taught the students word decoding skills and reading strategies. The fourth grade students shared their love for Book Club and the discussion about their interpretation of the text. They learn to determine themes and show support of them throughout the story. The Committee enjoyed the children's presentation as well as the slide show.
- B. DHS English and NY Times - Mr. White and Mr. McGillen shared the "Learning Network" sponsored by the NY Times. Students take historic articles that were once posted to the times and create their own poem. Students entered a contest during the summer where they would write about an article they had read giving their perspective on it. They would then submit it to the Times. Participation and quality of the Danvers students was such that Danvers was asked to be part of the N.Y. Learning Network International Webinar! Student Ezra Lombardi shared his experience and how special he felt the program is. He stated the program has matured his writing and his submissions have opened doors for him. The Committee was impressed with the students' submissions and felt that this was a great way to show the progression between elementary and high school writings.
- C. Strategic Plan Update - Mrs. Wermers gave an update on the strategic plan and said that the presentations from the elementary and high school show the student engagement that is part of the Strategic Plan. She spoke on the Essex County Committee Grant and the way the funds help to pull

the plan together. An action plan has been created and will be presented in December. She summarized objectives of the plan and shared the March 28, 2019 dated for a Community Visioning Day for SEL said she is securing the curriculum base with MTSS. The Committee feels the District is moving in the right direction.

- D. Facilities Update- Mr. Taverna spoke on the Smith School Project Funding and stated the MSBA design team meeting will be upcoming. Detail meetings and the construction kick off is coming fast and furious. A meeting to discuss playground designs will be held on March 15, 2019. The Highlands Elementary roof has been approved for project scope and budget with MSBA and work continues with the BOS and FINCOM for additional funding.

#### V. **PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE ON SCHOOL CHOICE**

- A. Public Hearing and Vote on School Choice – The Superintendent recommended the School Committee vote not to accept School Choice students for the 2019-2020 school year. As Voted

#### VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Final Adoption of FY20 Budget - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the FY20 Budget. As voted
- B. Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the review of sections and Section I and J as per MASC requests for a second reading. As voted

#### VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the review of sections and Section K and L as per MASC requests for a first reading. As voted
- B. 2019-20 School Calendar/Early Release Days –The Superintendent recommended the approval of the 2019-20 school calendar/early release days for a first reading. As voted
- C. Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for a Family Bingo Night on April 11, 2019 run by the Football Boosters, a Yankee Candle fundraiser by Riverside School in April of 2019 and DHS Best Buddies to sell raffle tickets throughout March. As voted
- D. Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Request - The Superintendent recommends the approval of DECA to Orlando, Florida April 27, 2019. As voted

#### VIII. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- A. Communications – Mr. Taverna stated minutes for NEC could be found on their website.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane said he did not have anything to share this meeting.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP – Mrs. Verry stated the next DEEP meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 7:45 at First Ipswich Bank and that DEEP teachers’ grants applications close on March 29, 2019.

DanversCARES – Mr. Skarmeas shared work continues with the Family Workshop Series. the ext being a vaping seminar and a “hidden in plain sight” on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 6 p.m. in the DHS atrium.

SEPAC – In Dr. Tatem’s absence, there was no update.

DHIRC - In Mr. Kay’s absence, there was no update.

**VII. MINUTES** – As voted

**IX. BUDGET and DONATIONS**

Mr. Taverna spoke on the February budget reporting to be on budget and was thankful for the donation of the buddy bench to Thorpe School.

**X. PERSONNEL**

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated February 2019.

The next regular meeting will be held on April 8, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Thomson, Secretary  
Danvers School Committee