

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

April 8, 2019

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

School Committee Members Present:

- Arthur Skarmees , Chair
- David Thomson, Secretary
- Mary Beth Verry
- Eric Crane
- Jeffrey Kay

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

**VOTED:** Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising requests for DHS Softball Boosters, DHS Boys & Girls Track and Girls Lacrosse Boosters. Mr. Thompson 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 March 11, 2019 regular meeting. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:58 p.m. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Skarmees called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and DPS Mission statement were recited. Mr. Skarmees 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. DESE Kairos Conference and DHS - Dr. Dana thanked and congratulated Mrs. Beaulieu and DECA Co-President Shelby Johnson and Executive Vice President Colby Thompson for being invited to and attending the DESE Kairos Conference, Moving our Way Forward, on March 19, 2019.

B. Ending the meeting, Mr. Crane thanked Mr. Skarmees for his years' services as the Committee Chair.

**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 - Mr. Federico along with Ellyn Feerick introduced teachers Lauren Lynch and Karen Butterworth who presented the “student podcast challenge”. The teachers shared some snippets of podcasts the students had comprised. Students..... spoke on choosing the land use conflict in the Amazon Rainforest as the topic for their podcast. In turn they spoke on collaboration, daily class life while making the podcast, the challenges and successes while working within a group setting and learning to compromise. The podcast ended with a “Call to Action” in which the students share their vision on how to help deforestation and submitted their podcast to MPR. The Committee voiced their enjoyment listening to the podcast and would love to hear more.
  
- B. Community Service Update - Mr. William Black gave a summary of the changes made to the community services requirements for graduation. He highlighted on transparency for students by redesigning and simplifying the webpage, giving a clear narrative on community services classifications and creating Hotlinks so everything needed is online and easily accessible. Mr. Black noted that “student of the month” has been created through the partnership with Rotary which continues to be a good networking opportunity for the students. He then fielded questions from the Committee.
  
- C. Strategic Plan Update - Mrs. Wermers gave an update on the March 28, 2019 Social Emotional Learning Forum saying the work was similar to the work done for the Smith School Building Project with Frank Locke. Participants ranged from students to teachers to community members and administrators. Romona Traveno from the Essex Community Learning Grant facilitated the forum. Next steps are visualization for future SEL and an action plan. Mr. Crane shared that he was enthused by the commitment by the community and felt it was an important and worthwhile day.
  
- D. Facilities Update- Mr. Taverna gave an overview on the Smith School Building Project announcing WT Rich Contracting as the general contractor. He, along with other administrators, attended a furniture show to view options for the new school and noted the site package for clearing the site is out to bid and will begin this summer. On another note, Mr. Taverna said the Highlands roof design is 60% complete and bids will be sent out next week.

#### V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the review of Section K and Las per MASC requests for a second reading. As voted
  
- B. 2019-2020 School Calendar/Early Release Days –The Superintendent recommended the approval of the 201-2020 school calendar/early release days for a second reading. As voted

#### VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising requests for DHS Softball Boosters, DHS Boys & Girls Track and Girls Lacrosse Boosters. As voted

## **VIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- A. Communications – Dr. Dana stated the Budget was voted on the past Wednesday and could be found on the NEC website.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane spoke with Representative Spilitotis' office and said education is the priority for the budget.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP – Mrs. Verry stated the next DEEP meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 7:45 at First Ipswich Bank and that DEEP teachers' grants applications have closed and are being reviewed.

DanversCARES – Mr. Skarmeeas shared the final Family Workshop Series as being "Behavior Influencers/Limit Setting and Problem Solving" on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 6 p.m. at the Peabody Institute Library. He asked that everyone look for the Teen Health & Safety Guide in this week's Danvers Herald and Light the Night Purple will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

SEPAC - It was announced that the next meeting titled "How to prepare for an IEP meeting" will be on Tuesday, May 7, 2019. visit SEPAC facebook for updates

DHIRC - DHS students supported United Nations Days of Observance - International Women's Day, March 8, 2019 and International Day of Elimination of Racial Discrimination, March 21, 2019.

## **VII. MINUTES – As voted**

### **IX. BUDGET and DONATIONS**

Mr. Taverna spoke on the March budget reporting to be on budget. He also said the FY20 budget will go before the FINCOM on Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

### **X. PERSONNEL**

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Thomson, Secretary  
Danvers School Committee