

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

May 13, 2019

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

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

Dr. Dana, acting as temporary Chairman of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and Danvers Public Schools Mission statement was recited.

**VOTED:** Election of Chairperson -Mr. Crane nominated Mrs. Verry as Chairman of the committee. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Election of Secretary – Mr. Kay nominated Mr. Crane as Secretary. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Appointment of School Attorney -Mr. Crane moved to retain the legal services of Michael Long, Esq. of Long & DiPietro. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Donation -Mr. Richard Moody represented the Danvers Veterans Council and Danvers Rotary in an offer to purchase a flag pole for Deering Stadium. Mr. Skarmeas moved to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Student Services Director’s Contract - Mr. Crane moved to approve the renewal of the Student Services Director’s contract for an additional 3 years. Mr. Skarmeas seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Bullying Prevention Plan -The Superintendent recommended the approval of review of the bullying prevention plan for a first reading. Mr. Skarmeas moved to approve. Mr. Kay seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising requests DHS Girls Tennis. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mr. Kay 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 requests for DHS A.P. United States Government and Politics to Washington DC January 25th - 28th, 2020. Mr. Skarmeas moved to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Minutes – Mr. Crane moved to accept and release the minutes from the April 8, 2019 regular meeting. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Adjournment – Mr. Skarmeas moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:46 p.m. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

- A. Mr. Crane expressed the Committee's condolences for Mr. Thomson's loss of his brother as well as the family of Mr. Earl Clay.

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

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

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

- A. Danvers Pride Presentation - Mrs. Mara introduced teachers Stacey DePalma, Hannah Albright and Tony Vatousis to present on Project Based Learning. Teachers shared the intent of the program is to teach content while allowing choice, revision and reflection. They find that it is very powerful to give the students the benefit of choice, cultivating creativity and collaboration. The younger grades have 2 tasks to complete from the "main dishes". These could range from creating a glossary to making a flip book or brochure on your chosen subject. Once this has been accomplished they may move on to "dessert". Collaboration is a component in most of the dessert choices. Older grades criteria consists of an "appetizer" and "main dishes" before getting to "dessert". Mr. Vatousis introduced student Sebastian Ghiu who presented his project on the jazz great, Dave Brubeck. The Committee gave praise on Sebastian's choice of musicians and expressed their approval of the program.
- B. Facilities Update and Donations - Mr. Taverna introduced Mr. Richard "Dick" Moody who was representing the Danvers Veterans Council. Mr. Moody brought before the Committee an offer by the Veterans Council as well as Danvers Rotary to purchase a flag pole for Deering Stadium. The placement will hopefully be a prominent spot near the scoreboard. The Committee was very receptive and appreciative of the offer. As voted
- C. HRMS 2018-2019 Planning and DESE Report - Mr. Federico gave an update on achievement data and MCAS test results. He summarized the advancing use of technology and other support systems that have been put in place to assist in student success. He mentioned that teachers have taken part in training with the Far Cycle and adjustments have been made to align curriculum with the Standards. A plan has been developed and will be submitted to DESE in late June that will be implemented over the next 2-3 years. The Committee asked questions on plan specifics and gave reassuring comments.
- D. Strategic Plan Update - Mrs. Wermers gave an update on the collaborative work being done with teachers funded through the Essex County Learning Community Grant. Teacher leadership is the focus of work being done at this stage. Mrs. Wermers summarized the topical teams, onsite consultation and the expansion in the program through teacher's feedback. Teachers will be participating in a week long course in July with project based learning as a portion of the course. The Committee expressed their respect for the work being done.
- E. Last Day of School - Dr. Dana announced the last day of school for the 2018-2019 school year to be June 18, 2019.

## V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. There was no unfinished business.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Student Services Director's Contract - Mr. Crane moved to approve the renewal of the Student Services Director's contract for an additional 3 years. Mr. Skarmeas seconded. As voted
- B. Bullying Prevention Plan - The Superintendent recommended the approval of review of the bullying prevention plan for a first reading. Discussion took place noting there were no significant changes, only in the language of the policy. As voted
- C. Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising requests for DHS Girls Tennis. As voted
- D. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the out of state field trips requests for DHS A.P. United States Government and Politics to Washington DC January 25th - 28th, 2020. As voted

## VIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications – Dr. Dana stated the budget is posted and could be found on the NEC website and they are in the search for a new treasurer.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane spoke with Representative Speliotis' office and said a rally would be held at the State House on May 16, 2019. Increases in the Ch. 70 budget for Danvers will be seen in the FY20 funding.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP – Mrs. Verry stated the next DEEP meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:45 a.m. at First Ipswich Bank and the date for the Breakfast of Champions will be June 12, 2019 in the DHS Atrium.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay shared the Light the Night Purple event will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Peabody Institute Library.

SEPAC - Dr. Tatem said “How to prepare for an IEP meeting” took place on Tuesday, May 7, 2019. She felt the presentation was well put together by feared the weather kept people away. She asked that parents visit SEPAC on facebook for updates

DHRIC - Mr. Kay announced the date of the Gay Flag Raising to be Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in front of Town Hall.

## VII. MINUTES – As voted

**IX. BUDGET and DONATIONS**

Mr. Taverna spoke on the April monthly budget report stating it to be on budget. He also shared identifying a positive result from operations within the school budget and noting the importance to the Town of the amount in free cash this fiscal year, the intent to turn money back to the Town.

**X. PERSONNEL**

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

The next regular meeting will be held on June 10, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Crane, Secretary  
Danvers School Committee