

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

June 8, 2020

REMOTE - Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

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

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

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

**VOTED:**   Teacher Contract - Mr. Crane moved to approve the 1 year DTA tentative agreement. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:**   Minutes – Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the May 11, 2020 regular meeting. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:**   Adjournment – Mr. Skarmeas moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:07 p.m. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**I.    CALL TO ORDER**

**A.   Executive Order on Remote Participation & Remote Conduct for Open Meetings**

The Script for Remotely Conducted Open Meetings was read.

**B.   Regular Meeting Call to Order**

Dr. Dana, acting as temporary Chairman of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and informed the audience that the meeting was being recorded and being broadcast on DCAT.

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

**A.**Dr. Dana shared a letter sent to the Community from the District which gave parents resources for parents to help explain these unprecedented times to their children. Mr. Kay thanked her for sharing the letter with the Community.

**B.**Dr. Dana spoke on the Gifts that Matter Grant and thanked Maryann Myers for the group's contribution to small teachers grants to support learning.

- C. Mrs. Verry shared her feelings of pride for the community, students and families for involvement in the protest that was held the previous Friday night. Mr. Crane said the evening was positive and filled with good energy.
- D. Mr. Thomson thanked Mrs. Verry for her leadership over the past year and congratulated the Administration for making the senior celebration as positive as possible.
- E. Dr. Dana addressed concerns from a parent regarding options for continued remote learning.
- F. Mr. Thomson asked Mr. Taverna if bus refunds were issued. Mr. Taverna stated  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the fee was refunded to those who paid.

### III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

#### A. Highlight of Accomplishments

Dr. Dana gave a summary of the End of Year Final Accomplishment. She spoke on commitment to SEL professional development, student engagement and working on ways to address social injustice in our changing world. Dr. Dana also shared highlights of elementary, middle and high school accomplishments. Questions from the Committee were answered.

#### B. Update on Remote Learning

Mrs. Wermers gave a presentation on teaching and learning saying connections and providing engaging core instruction are a priority. Danvers continues to follow recommendations set forward by DESE offering 3 hours per day of remote learning consisting of synchronous and asynchronous learning, providing as many opportunities as possible. Google meets are offered for elementary SEL while continuing to reach out and support families that may have issues with participation. Focus on breaking down barriers that may have an effect on successful remote learning is of importance. Mrs. Wermers noted a survey has been sent to teachers. Comments and discussion with the Committee took place.

#### C. Facilities/Human Resources/Reopening of Schools Update

Mr. Taverna informed the Committee that a meeting would be held the following day with representatives from each Town level to discuss reopening of schools with 14 members on the committee but at this point there seems to be more questions than answers. Sub-committees for SEL and curriculum delivery consisting of teachers, specialists and coaches are formed as well. Mr. Taverna told the Committee about the products that have been ordered to date in preparation for the reopening. Chromebooks will be distributed throughout the District so all students in grade 5 will be able to have one at home as well as in school. Mr. Taverna answered questions asked by the Committee.

### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**There was no unfinished business for this meeting.**

### V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. School Committee Vote - Teacher Contract - The Committee reviewed the tentative agreement for a 1 year contract with the DTA for a 1.5% pay increase for the FY21 and language to include preschool as a grade level. As voted

### VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications – Dr. Dana said NEC is completing their budget with no increase in tuition with a vote for the revised budget coming up in a couple of weeks. She also thanked the Committee for the vote for the revised agreement.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane said the House and Senate agreed to amend sections 12 & 13 to continue to approve payment for tuition out students. He noted emergency licensing for educators is taking place and grants for remote learning have been approved. MCAS testing is not mandated for this school year and return to work working groups are being assembled with feedback coming sometime in mid-June.

C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP – Mrs. Verry announced the next meeting has not been scheduled but will give updates on the website and Facebook. She also shared that the annual Breakfast of Champions celebration did not take place this year but gifts were delivered to those that would have been acknowledged.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay said the Scholarship announcements would take place on June 15th and the final DanversCARES meeting of the year took place on June 1st.

SEPAC - There were no new updates for SEPAC this meeting.

Policy - There were no new updates for Policy this meeting.

DHRIC - Mr. Crane shared thoughts of a virtual reading of the Declaration of Independence to be held on July 4th and a tremendous job was done to organize the demonstration the previous Friday.

**VIII. MINUTES** – As voted

**IX. BUDGET and DONATIONS**

Mr. Taverna provided the Committee with the May budget report stating the budget stands in good shape awaiting clarity for the end of the year resources. He updated the Committee on the status of coaching stipends for the Spring and agreement letters being sent to private schools.

**XII. PERSONNEL**

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated May 2020 and thanked retirees for their years of service.

The next meeting will be held on July 13, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Crane, Secretary  
Danvers School Committee