

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

March 9, 2020

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:** Public Hearing and Vote on SOA plan – The Superintendent recommended the School Committee vote to submit the district’s SOA plan to DESE. Mr. Skarmeas moved to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Final Adoption of FY21 Budget– The Superintendent recommended the final adoption of the FY21 Budget. Mr. Skarmeas moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the following policies for a first reading.

- JFABD - Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services
- JFABE - Educational Opportunities for Military Children
- FFABF - Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
- ADF - School Wellness Policy
- JJIF - Concussion Policy

Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** 2020-2021 School Calendar/Early Release Days –The Superintendent recommended the approval of the 2020-2021 school calendar/early release days for a first reading. Mr. Skarmeas moved to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Fundraising Requests– The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising request for DHS Girls Lacrosse Boosters, DHS Spring Track, Class of 2023, the DHS Service Learning Group, the DHS Softball Boosters and DanversCARES for Light the Night Purple. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Request - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the overnight/out of state field trip requests from DHS Page to Stage to New York City, April 22nd and 23th, 2020, DECA to Nashville, Tennessee April 29th - May 4th, 2020 and DHS Wrestling to Virginia Beach March 26th - 30th, 2020. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Minutes – Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the February 24, 2020 regular meeting. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:21 p.m. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Verry called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and DPS Mission Statement were recited. Mrs. Verry 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.** Mrs. Wermers shared news of the DAA Art Show that took place on February 28th and 29th. 700 pieces of art were submitted by approximately 150 participants from HRMS. She thanked teachers Jeff Surrette and Anna Bond as well as Bob Levasseur and John Archer from the Danvers Art Association for their assistance in organizing the event.
- B.** Mr. Taverna congratulated Max Lette for coming in first in his wrestling weight class and moving on to the Nationals.
- C.** Mr. Taverna gave an update on the COVID-19 stating the District has been in constant contact with the Board of Health and the Department of Public Works for updates. Cleaning procedures have been changed to include disinfecting floors, handles, etc. and all international field trips have been postponed until further notice. After a conference call with DESE and the Department of Public Health a listserv has been created for updates.

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

- A.** Cynthia Boyd and Max Lette presented news and events of the seven district schools.

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

- A.** Danvers Pride Presentation - Mrs. Powers spoke on a new program introduced to the Little Falcons Preschool called Choice Workshop. She expressed the workshop provides a foundation for learning while at play. Ms. Amber Adair, said teachers researched models that would incorporate SEL and Choice Workshop does that will each center nurtures play as well as aligns with the K-5 curriculum model. Ms. Torey Krugle introduced students John (Jack) Miles, Welles Picard and Fenonia Flint who shared what they loved about Choice Workshop. They are able to choose between 4 and 5 activities each day and are learning to share, trading and other options to work collaboratively together. A short presentation was shown. The Committee thanked the students and teachers for their presentation and asked questions of the students.
- B.** Strategic Plan Update - Mrs. Wermers gave a brief summary on the recent Data Day saying the goal is to connect the FARR Cycle work with MTSS. She said the Data Leadership Team, which consists of 40-50 teachers, spent most of the day learning about the multi-tiered system of support and making sense of how it fits in each school. The Team will now take those lessons back and utilize them on professional development days. The Committee felt the District is moving forward in the right direction.
- C.** Facilities Update - Mr. Taverna showed a timeline video of the progress taking place at Smith School and noted that on March 16th and 17th students would be signing their name to the last beams being erected, March 20th at 8:30 there would be a tour and on March 27th and school-wide assembly will take place while the beams are placed.

## **V. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE ON DESE Student Success Plan (SOA)**

- A.** Public Hearing and Vote on SOA Plan – The Superintendent recommended the School Committee vote to submit the district’s SOA plan to DESE . Mrs. Wermers shared a presentation and noted the plan would include deepening the work already in place such as inclusion for students with

disabilities, increase staff to support student needs and continuation of early college programs. As voted

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Final Adoption of FY21 Budget - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the FY21 Budget. As voted

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the following policies for a first reading.

- JFABD - Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services
- JFABE - Educational Opportunities for Military Children
- FFABF - Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
- ADF - School Wellness Policy
- JJIF - Concussion Policy

Mr. Skarmas clarified that policies JFABD, JFABE and FFABF are policies recommended by MASC while policies ADF and JJIF only had title and language changes. As voted.

- B. 2020-2021 School Calendar/Early Release Days –The Superintendent recommended the approval of the 2020-2021 school calendar/early release days for a first reading. As voted
- C. Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for DHS Girls Lacrosse Boosters, DHS Spring Track, Class of 2023, the DHS Service Learning Group, the DHS Softball Boosters and DanversCARES for Light the Night Purple. As voted
- D. Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Request - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the overnight/out of state field trip requests from DHS Page to Stage to New York City, April 22nd and 23th, 2020, DECA to Nashville, Tennessee April 29th - May 4th, 2020 and DHS Wrestling to Virginia Beach March 26th - 30th, 2020. Mr. Taverna noted the District will continue to monitor travel advisories. As voted

## **IX. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- A. Communications – In lieu of Dr. Dana’s absence, Mr. Taverna said NEC is working on the FY21 budget.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane said there is no new information from the legislator at this time.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP – Mrs. Verry announced the next meeting to be Wednesday, March 11th at the Riverside School.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay shared the new link for DanversCARES’ webpage, that March 13th is the cut off for any ads being placed in the Teen Safety Guide and they are busy planning for Light the Night Purple to be held on May 13th.

SEPAC - Mr. Taverna said there are no new updates. Mrs. Verry share the SEPAC link on Facebook.

Policy - Mr. Skarmeas and Mr. Thomson stated policy was covered earlier in the agenda.

DHRIC - Mr. Crane gave a recap on the MLK Day event saying it was the most successful one to date and he is looking forward to Light the Night Purple.

**X. MINUTES** – As voted

**XI. BUDGET and DONATIONS**

Mr. Taverna provided the Committee with the February budget report stating the budget stands the same as last month and we are in good shape.

**XII. PERSONNEL**

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated February 2020.

The next regular meeting will be held on April 13, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Crane, Secretary  
Danvers School Committee