

Danvers School Community –

Last night, the Danvers School Committee held their September meeting. Here are some of the highlights:

- **Covid-19 Workshop:** The School Committee hosted a follow up workshop that included Ade Solarin, Director of Public Health, Dr. Thomas McLaughlin, Danvers Public Schools Physician/Danvers Board of Health Chair, and representatives from the Danvers Teachers Union, Danvers Teacher Aide Union, and the Danvers Administrative Assistants Union. Keith Taverna provided [weekly data](#) and our DPH Director went over statistics. The committee and its guests discussed concerns about the discrepancy that exists between students who are deemed close contacts while in school versus out of school. Chairman Crane is bringing the committee's concerns to Senator Lovely, and Representative Keran's offices. Dr. McLaughlin provided a presentation related to virus mitigation. Information about close contacts and the Test and Stay Protocols that are currently being implemented can be found at the following [link](#).
- **Special Meeting:** The committee discussed the requirement for preschool students to wear masks and decided to vote on the issue at a special meeting to be held at the Holten Richmond Middle School on **Friday, September 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** Delaying the vote until Friday allows parents of preschool students to provide feedback to committee members.
- **Student Representative:** Lil Montevocchi, a Junior at DHS, was introduced as the new Student Representative for the School Committee. We look forward to Lil's perspective on topics discussed at the school committee level.
- **Opening of School:** Mary Wermers talked about orientation for new teachers and new teacher aides as well as the professional development opportunities that all faculty and staff participated in which were focused on our three themes for the year: 1) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; 2) Coherent Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; 3) Safe and Supportive Learning Environments. Dr. Dana provided an update on enrollments and our work with students over the first three days of school. The Strategic Plan can be found [here](#).
- **District Council:** At the last meeting we introduced the Portrait of the Graduate concept and announced we will be forming a District Council to guide the visioning and implementation. The organization we want to work with wasn't available to meet with us prior to last night's meeting so we have opted to wait until after our meeting with them so we can provide more details. We will share more on this effort at the October School Committee meeting. As mentioned in our previous update, we will be looking for volunteers from across the community to get involved with this initiative.
- **Danvers Citizens Academy:** The school department will present to this group on September 30th.

- **Smith School Update:** The Smith School is open, and the community is invited to a ribbon cutting and open house for the new Smith School on **Saturday, September 25, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Pre-K-12 School Improvement Plans:** The School Committee voted to approve the proposed 2021-2022 K-12 School Improvement Plans. Principals will be sharing their individual school plans this week.
- **SEPAC Meeting:** SEPAC is working on scheduling a welcome meeting and our annual resource fair. School newsletters will share more details or go to the [Danvers SEPAC](#) Facebook page.

The next Danvers School Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 18, 2021. The plan is to move back to our Danvers High School location. The meeting is open to the public. The meeting may also be watched live on DCAT - Comcast channel 8 and Verizon channel 37. Last nights and previous school committee meetings can be viewed at <https://www.danverstv.org>.

As a reminder, please see the [2021/22 School](#) Calendar for early release days, holidays, vacation periods, and other important dates.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the principal of the school your child(ren) attends or contact central office.