

Danvers School Community –

From the December 13th Danvers School Committee, here are some of the highlights:

Statement from the Superintendent:

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Dana made a [statement](#) regarding the issues of racism, homophobia, and anti-semitism and its impact on the district and the community.

Information from the Student Representative for the School Committee:

Reese Macdonald has joined Lil Montevocchi, as a Student Representative for the School Committee. They will either present together or take turns as their schedules permit. Reese provided a brief update on activities taking place at DHS.

Covid-19 Update:

- Keith Taverna provided the latest [DPS statistics](#) related to Covid-19.
- [Mask Mandate](#): As it currently stands, The Department of Secondary Education has issued a mask mandate in public schools through at least January 15, 2022.
- Reminder: Stay home when not feeling well and check our [Family Covid Information Update](#) for symptoms that require students to stay home and be tested.
- Reminder: Share your child's vaccination card with your school(s) principal or nurse to assist in contact tracing and information gathering in regards to masking policy decisions

Strategic Plan:

We presented a comprehensive update on the district's work related to [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#). Mary Wermers explained what the district has been doing on the issue since 2018 when we began deepening our commitment to culturally responsive and inclusive work. She explained how efforts have been redoubled to continue to be an inclusive community.

We explained how we are working with our community partners, both the Danvers Public School Community and the wider Danvers Community. One of our new partners is the Lappin Foundation which is hosting an Intergenerational Holocaust Symposium. This was mentioned in last week's district message that we were looking for 25 community members to join 25 DHS students in this innovative endeavor. DHS Principal, Adam Federico, noted that all 50 slots filled up very quickly.

An overview of work related to Anti-Bias and Anti-Racism work can be found [here](#).

Equity Sub Committee:

The committee is focused on providing a safe and supportive environment for all students.

We are looking to bring the community together - School Committee, administrators, parents, and community members - for sessions (likely two 2-hour sessions) and will have more information about our plans at our January meeting and will let people know how they can get involved.

Community Engagement

As we continue to review our community engagement strategies, we are looking at conducting surveys for families and staff with follow-up interviews with engagement consultants. The committee supported the plan, which could cost up to \$50,000, by shifting funds from other areas.

Summary:

The next regular Danvers School Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 10, 2022. It will be held at Danvers High School. The meeting is open to the public. The meeting may also be watched live on DCAT - Comcast channel 8 and Verizon channel 37. Previous school committee meetings can be viewed at <https://www.danverstv.org>.

As we approach our holiday break, please keep school attendance in mind and remember that Every Day Matters! Together we can improve school attendance. Please see the 2021/22 School calendar for early release days, holidays, and vacation periods, to ensure your child is in school every school day.

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