

Danvers School Community –

From the November 8th Danvers School Committee, here are some of the highlights:

**Response to Hockey Team Allegations:**

Local media recently ran pieces regarding the alleged behavior of the 2019-2020 DHS hockey team. Members of the School Committee provided their thoughts on the issue before asking DHS Principal, Adam Federico, to talk about what he is seeing and hearing at the high school.

Mr. Federico reported that in light of the article that ran in Sunday's Boston Globe, he spoke with all students and faculty on Monday in an effort to be open and transparent about it. His next step is to set aside time for students to have the opportunity to meet in small groups to discuss how they are feeling about the issue.

Mr. Federico was asked to also speak about the current climate and culture at the school. He reported that all athletes and coaches have taken anti-bias and hazing training. Since the concern started with a sports team they had all student athletes complete the training with the goal of having all students take it before the end of the current school year.

He also reported that the new high school administrative team is working to be as visible as possible to provide a supportive and a safe environment. They are also actively supporting student voice and looking at the curriculum to make sure it allows for a variety of perspectives. Adam commented that there is still work to do, but he and his staff are committed to doing the necessary work.

Finally, Mr. Federico discussed Community Block, which he described as a new way to build community and dialog within the school day. It is a dedicated daily 25 minute block that is overseen by 2-3 faculty members that will stay with the student groups through their time at DHS. This summer the administrative team spent time putting together small groups to try to place students where they would feel comfortable. In addition, he has built in time to have grade specific assemblies and activities to discuss expectations and have dialog with larger groups.

Mr. Crane then asked Lil Montivechi, the Student Representative for the School Committee, to comment on the issue. She did not specifically address it but noted that the Anti Discrimination Club at DHS has not met this year due to lack of student's signing up and announced that they are looking for additional members.

Following Lil Montivechi's comments, several community members discussed their concerns and opinions regarding the DHS hockey team allegations.

### **Covid-19 Update:**

- Since our last meeting in October we have seen case counts come down. See latest [DPS statistics](#) related to Covid-19.
- [Mask Mandate](#): The Department of Secondary Education has extended the 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

### **Student Services:**

Lyn O'Neil, the district's new Director of Student Services, spoke about the strategies she has employed to get to know the students in the district and how she can contribute to their success. The SEPAC co-chairs were unable to attend so Ms. O'Neil talked about the two recent events the SEPAC held and are looking to get the information out to parents and caregivers with children receiving special education services to make sure they know they are a resource.

### **9th Grade Transition:**

Mr. Federico talked about the transition process timeline to make sure all 8th grade students and their families know everything that Danvers High School has to offer. He talked about how students can "Find Success at DHS" with a wide variety of courses, activities, and everything else going on at the high school. He also showed a picture of all students on the field spelling out the word "Kind" on Kindness Day on October 22nd in honor of Ms. Ritzer.

### **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:**

Mary Wermers presented on what the district is doing related to our work related to [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#) which included the Acceleration Road Map from the Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) and what the district was doing on these issues during professional development periods. The curriculum directors from the high school, middle school, and elementary schools each presented on what is being done at each educational level.

### **MASC Resolution:**

Dr. Doherty announced that all resolutions were passed at the MASC annual meeting in November.

### **Town Budget:**

A brief discussion was held regarding the town's budget policy.

The next regular Danvers School Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 13, 2021. 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 a reminder, 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.