

Danvers School Community –

Here are some highlights from last night's Danvers School Committee meeting:

**Items of Interest from the Acting Co-Superintendents:**

- Electric Department Calendar Contest – The School Committee recognized the calendar contest winners from a joint program with the Department of Public Works and the Holten-Richmond Middle School.
- The Acting Co-Superintendents reminded those with children who will turn 5 on or before September 1, 2022 that Kindergarten Registration is this week, today through Friday, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Evening hours will be held today and Thursday (January 25 and 27) from 5:00 to 8:00pm. Registration is in the atrium at Danvers High School and is by appointment only. Please click on this link to sign up for an appointment: [Kindergarten Registration Appointments](#) or email [kregistration@danvers.org](mailto:kregistration@danvers.org).

**Items of Interest from the School Committee:**

- Alice Campbell inquired about DECA students who aren't vaccinated being able to participate in the state competition in Boston since the City requires proof of vaccination to enter buildings. The administration is going to continue to advocate for students to be able to participate.

**Update from Representative Sally Kerans:**

- Representative Kerans spoke about funding for COVID testing and masks that is expected from the State, as well as some of the elements that are expected to be included in the next budget. The State also passed a bill in November requiring public school districts to teach about genocide.
- Mr. Crane brought up his concern about recruitment and acceptance rates from Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School. Representative Kerans understands the issue and is in support of Danvers' position on it.

**COVID-19 Update:**

- Keith Taverna provided the latest [DPS statistics](#) related to COVID-19.
- [Mask Mandate](#): As it currently stands, The Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) has issued a mask mandate in public schools through at least February 28, 2022.
- New Testing Option: The Acting Co-Superintendents informed the Committee that the District will be adopting the new COVID testing option recommended by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The program moves away from the Test and Stay program to weekly at-home tests for all interested families. Tests will be distributed by the District. Please look for more details in tomorrow's weekly update from the Acting Co-Superintendents.

- A new COVID dashboard will be shared on the DPS website this week.
- 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 information gathering regarding masking policy decisions.

#### **DEEP Update:**

- DEEP President, Mary Beth Verry, and Grant Coordinator, Mari Matt, spoke to the Committee about this year's teacher grants. Teachers representing five of the seven Danvers Public Schools applied for grants and DEEP awarded over \$22,800 in funding.
- The annual HRMS Spelling Bee will take place at DHS on February 9<sup>th</sup>.
- DEEP plans to host a wine tasting event in October.
- Learn more about DEEP at [www.supportdeep.org](http://www.supportdeep.org).

#### **Danvers Pride:**

- HRMS Principal, Brendan Norton, introduced 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher, Amy Fessette, and current and former students, who spoke about the 8<sup>th</sup> grade civics program. Their presentation can be accessed [here](#) without video or with video in the MLK Jr. Celebration video.

#### **Strategic Plan:**

- Mary Wermers [presented](#) an update on the District's work related to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; Social Emotional Learning (SEL), and Anti-Bias and Anti-Racism.

#### **DanversCARES Update:**

- Whitney McNeilly, Program Coordinator for DanversCARES, talked about the Every Day Matters posters at DHS that are focused on the importance of attendance, and the HRMS students who hosted an activity at the tree lighting in December.
- Whitney also mentioned community partners that have recently spent time at the schools, including: NAGLY (North Shore Alliance for LGBTQ+ Youth) at DHS and HRMS; The NAN Project, which brings mental health speakers to schools, who presented at DHS classes last week; and Beverly Hospital health assessment focus groups with 14 students at DHS.
- Learn more about DanversCARES at [www.DanversCARES.org](http://www.DanversCARES.org).

#### **Wellness Committee Update:**

- Andy St. Pierre, Athletic Director, presented on the Wellness Committee, which has had two meetings so far this school year that focused on the food service program, the Atlas & Athena student athlete mentoring program, the baseline concussion training program, and the reviewing of the District's concussion policy.

### **DHS Anonymous Reporting Form:**

- DHS Principal, Adam Federico, informed the audience that he worked with the Issues in Action and Anti-Discrimination Clubs to develop a paper-based form that students are able to complete and give to any adult in the building. Forms are sent to the office where all reports are investigated. Forms are available in all classrooms and learning spaces.

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Work:**

- Mary Wermers provided an update on the work the District is doing related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

### **Holten-Richmond Middle School Program of Studies:**

- Ellyn Feerick, HRMS Curriculum Director, provided an overview to the Committee, which was approved for a first reading. [HRMS Program of Studies - Draft](#)

### **Danvers High School Program of Studies:**

- Peter DiMauro, DHS Curriculum Director, provided an overview to the Committee, which was approved for a first reading. [Danvers High School Program of Studies - Draft](#)

### **Summary:**

The next regular Danvers School Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00pm on Monday, February 14, 2022. The annual Budget Hearing will take place at that time. It will be held at Holten-Richmond Middle 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 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 at 978-777-4539.