

Danvers School Community:

Here are some highlights for the week and from **Monday** night's Danvers School Committee meeting:

COVID Testing Update: The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) are extending the statewide testing options currently available to districts and schools past April 22, 2022. DESE and EOHHS will continue to monitor factors related to COVID-19 and may make further adjustments to the statewide K-12 COVID testing options this school year. We anticipate following up later this spring with more information, including next steps for the summer and fall.

School Committee Meeting

Update from State Senator Joan Lovely: Senator Lovely highlighted that the public school stabilization fund has been replenished since the pandemic and will have a total of \$6.64 million in it with the passing of the next state budget. She also talked about some funding that Danvers is/will be directly receiving, including Chapter 70 (school aid), Student Opportunities Act and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.

Danvers Pride Presentation: Thorpe School presented their "Tiger Five" which is a multi-tiered system of support for all students. Ten volunteer teachers worked on a program of support and strategies using school-wide, community-wide, unified language, which is tied into student behavior, support and success. Several 3rd and 4th grade students presented the Tiger Five in action. Watch the presentation at [Tiger Five - Thorpe School](#).

Recognition of Arthur Skarmeas: School Committee Chair Eric Crane recognized Arthur Skarmeas for his 15 years on the School Committee. Arthur thanked his fellow committee members and administration, both past and present, for the opportunity to work with them over the last 15 years.

Information from the Student Representative to the School Committee: Reese MacDonald highlighted some recent activities, including a successful Trans Day Visibility Vigil, DramaFest, Anti-Bias Training from Northeastern University, and the upcoming Seussical, The Musical.

Danvers High School Video: Mr. Federico introduced a video that highlighted many of the great things that are taking place at DHS. It was created by Ms. O'Neill's TV

Seminar class. Rachael Sherrick, a DHS senior who was one of six students that worked on the project, discussed the important rationale for creating the video. Watch it [here](#).

Strategic Plan: Early College Program: DHS Guidance Counselor James Sullivan, and DHS sophomore Lilly Abell, presented an update on the Early College Program, which allows students to take courses in conjunction with North Shore Community College. It allows students to complete up to five college courses by the time they graduate high school. The students also have access to mentoring, tutoring, accessibility services, early college coaches and staff, college professors, and the North Shore Community College facilities.

Student Services: Lyn O'Neil, Director of Student Services, said she has been spending her first year in the position listening. She is focused on the profile of learners, out-of-district students, SEPAC, and building relationships. She is also looking at the administrative structure of the Student Services Department and how things might be able to change in the future.

School Administration Announcements:

- The School Committee voted to enter into a separation agreement with Superintendent, Dr. Lisa Dana. Her last day of employment will be August 31, 2022. She will use sick time until that date. Chairman Crane read a statement thanking Dr. Dana for her 30 years of service to the district, and wished her a happy and healthy retirement. Read the statement [here](#).
- Alice Campbell and Robin Doherty will serve on the subcommittee of the School Committee in the search for a new superintendent.
- The district has posted an opening for a Human Resources Manager and have begun interviewing candidates.
- The district will be posting an opening for a Business Manager. Jeff Kay will be helping out with interviews on behalf of the School Committee.
- Pam Crum will take on additional duties by serving as the district's Interim Financial Director.

Policy:

- The Acting Co-Superintendents recommended the approval of a revision of [Section D](#), as per MASC request, which was approved by the School Committee for a second reading.
- The Acting Co-Superintendents recommended the approval of review of the [Danvers School Lunch charging procedure](#), which was approved by the School Committee for a second reading.

2022/2023 School Calendar:

- [2022-2023 School Calendar/Early Release Days](#) – The Acting Co-Superintendents recommended the approval of the 2022-2023 school calendar/early release days for a second reading, which was approved by the School Committee.

Subcommittee Reports:

- **Curriculum & Assessment**

Robin Doherty discussed the subcommittee's discussions regarding the Science of Reading at the elementary level and the Carnegie Learning math program being used at the middle school.

- **Equity**

Alice Campbell acknowledged the calls and discussions she has had about the culturally responsive read-alouds, as well as complimenting all of the school principals that have had these sometimes difficult conversations.

- **DEEP**

The next meeting is Wednesday morning at 8:00am at Brookline Bank.

- **DanversCARES**

Robin Doherty reported that there are many upcoming activities, including:

- The 8th annual Teen Health & Safety Guide will be in the April 29th issue of the *Herald Citizen*, with copies available at public buildings.
- Light The Night Purple, a free community event to support people in recovery, will be held on May 4th, with registration opening at 6:30pm at the library lawn.
- Plans are underway for the free Healing & Unity Experience (HUE) taking place on June 4th at the high school. A variety of cultural activities and entertainment is being planned.
- Prom dresses are being collected by DHS students to be sold at very affordable prices to those in need.

- **DHRIC**

Eric Crane noted that the North Shore chapter of the NAACP made a presentation at the group's last meeting and followed up with a presentation at the Select Board Meeting.

Budget Hearing: Chair Crane reminded the public that the school budget for the next fiscal year will be presented to the Finance Committee on Tuesday evening and that it is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend.

Summary: The next regular Danvers School Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 9, 2022. It will be held at Danvers High School. The meeting is open to the public and 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.

We hope you have a wonderful April vacation next week.

Best Wishes,

Keith Taverna and Mary Wermers
Acting Co-Superintendents