

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

March 14, 2022

School Committee Members Present:           Eric Crane, Chair  
  Robin Doherty, Secretary  
  Alice Campbell  
  Jeffrey Kay  
  Gabe Lopes

**VOTED:** Election of Chairperson - Dr. Doherty nominated Mr. Crane as Chairman of the Committee. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Election of Secretary – Mrs. Campbell nominated Dr. Doherty as Secretary. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Appointment of School Attorney - Dr. Doherty moved to retain the legal services of Long & DiPietro, LLP. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Discussion and potential votes regarding Central Office administrative positions – Mrs. Campbell moved to appoint Mrs. Mary Wermers as Interim Superintendent for the 2022-2023 school year or such time as a new Superintendent is appointed. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Interim Superintendent Salary - Dr. Doherty motioned to set the salary for the Interim Superintendent at \$190,000.00. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Interim Superintendent Contract - Mr. Kay motioned to allow Mr. Crane, as Chair, to have a contract for the Interim Superintendent drawn up by legal counsel. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** North Shore Educational Consortium Board Member Appointment - Dr. Doherty motioned to appoint Mrs. Wermers as the North Shore Educational Consortium Board Member to represent Danvers. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Consent Calendar- Mr. Kay motioned to approve the Consent Calendar items as presented. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Minutes – (The Secretary) moves to approve and release the minutes from the April 11, 2022 regular meeting and approve but not release the April 11, 2022 Executive Session minutes. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Adjournment – Dr. Doherty moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:01 p.m. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

### Regular Meeting Call to Order

Mr. Taverna, acting as temporary Chairman of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and Danvers Public Schools Mission statement were recited. Mr. Taverna inquired whether the meeting was being recorded by audience members and announced that the meeting was being broadcast on DCAT.

## **2. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION**

- A.** The Acting Co-Superintendent, acting as temporary Chair, set forth voting to appoint a new Chair and Secretary for the Committee. As voted
- B.** The Committee motioned to reappoint Long & DiPietro, LLP as the school attorney. As voted
- C.** The Chair asked the Acting Co-Superintendents to check the School Committee's liability insurance and confirmed that School Committee meetings would continue to take place on the second Monday of the month unless otherwise noted.
- D.** Mr. Crane welcomed new member Gabe Lopes to the Committee and asked if Mr. Lopes would agree to be the signatory on the school's bill sheets. He also thanked the Committee for the opportunity to serve as Chair once again.

## **3. ITEMS OF INTEREST**

- A.** Mr. Taverna shared the interview process for the Human Resources position noting that another round of interviews would be taking place in the morning and that the Business Manager posting is still open.
- B.** Mrs. Wermers thanked teachers for a successful year saying that they have met many new challenges during the year back after COVID.
- C.** Community members shared their concerns and thoughts regarding exit interviews for students leaving the system, looking at the way co-taught classes are utilized, addressing equity and classes size and revamping fee schedules.
- D.** Post Graduation Plans for DHS Class 2022 - Mr. Crane announced this would be tabled until a future meeting.

## **4. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Student Representative, Reese MacDonald, gave a brief update about the events happening at the High School. Mr. Taverna thanked her and announced that she would be returning next year.

## **5. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

- A.** Danvers Pride Presentation - Mrs. Powers shared the presentation for the new Smith School mural. Art teacher Amy Groberio said the theme is Bulldog Brave. Brave standing for Believe, respect, accept, value and engage. Students Pedro Do Nascimento, Mia Yeanacopolis,

Max Dubiel, Aubree Holl, Louis Picariello and Ava Mora, thanked artist Yetti Frenkel and presented a slideshow titled “Together We Are...” saying it embraces the old, new and future. It was shared that the old Smith School mural would be placed in another part of the building. Students each shared a snapshot of the mural, their experiences while working on the mural and invited all to attend the unveiling on May 25, 2022 at 8:45am. The students thanked the Smith School Community, DPS, Yetti Frenkel and all that participated in any way. The Committee shared their enthusiasm for the presentation and project.

- B. Technology Update - Mr. James Sullivan, Technology Director, gave his mission statement of supporting teaching and learning and making safety and security of online information a priority. He spoke on the 1:1 Chromebook initiative and said all students kindergarten through 12th grade now each have a Chromebook. Mr. Sullivan informed the Committee that he had filed for a grant to assist in funding 600 new chromebooks. Mr. Taverna shared the replacement cycle noting that there would be no Chromebook older than 4 years of age. A snapshot of the helpdesk activity was presented and security and audiovisual upgrades were mentioned. Mr. Sullivan fielded questions from the Committee.
  
- C. Strategic Plan - Student Engagement- Mrs. Wermers shared what an engaged student looks like in their learning and shared different levels of engagement. Students Connor Horn, Caleb Raesly, Kendra Cone, Christina Tsiumis and Brendan Whalen shared their experience in their civics course named Project Citizen. They spoke on the class project of trying to save the old railway station and their surprise to see that the Town Government, along with many citizens and groups, have been working on saving the station for years. Mr. John White said they will be removing interior lumber to create furniture to donate before the structure is demolished. The students said they have learned that you need to be the change you want to see and have gained an appreciation for hands-on learning and Town Government. The Committee said they would love to see younger students involved in such a class and commended the students on their efforts.
  
- D. Last Day of 2021-2022 school year - Mr. Taverna announced the last day of school for the 2021-2022 school year, barring any unforeseen circumstances, to be June 23, 2022.
  
- E. Superintendent Search Committee - Mrs. Campbell gave a summary on the Superintendent Search Subcommittee progress. She said she and Dr. Doherty have had positive conversations with consultants and would follow up next month with more details. They thanked the community for their interest in participating in the search and will be notifying the public when the committee is being formed.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion and potential vote regarding Central Office administrative positions - Mrs. Campbell made a motion to appoint Mrs. Wermers as Interim Superintendent for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Crane shared his confidence in Mrs. Wermers abilities. She thanked the Committee and said she looks forward to helping the District move forward and is happy to be here to bridge the gap between now and the hiring of a Superintendent. It was agreed to place her salary at \$190,000.00 beginning July 1. Mrs. Crane asked that he be allowed to contact counsel to have the contract drawn up. As voted.

- B. Mr. Crane acknowledged Mr. Taverna's resignation and thanked him for everything he has contributed to the District in the past 12 years and wished him well.
- C. North Shore Educational Consortium Board Member Appointment - Dr. Doherty moved to appoint Mrs. Wermers to represent Danvers. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion.  
As voted
- D. Resolution in Support of Reinvestment in the Danvers Public Schools - Mr. Crane informed the Committee that the resolution would be tabled awaiting the decision of the Select Board.

## 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business

## 8. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Consent Agenda - motion to approve fundraising requests, homeschool requests and field trip requests as presented. As voted
- B. Minutes - (The Secretary) moved to approve and release the minutes from the April 11, 2022 regular meeting and approve and not release the minutes from the April 11, 2022 Executive Session. As voted
- C. Communications

NEC - Mr. Taverna said the NEC budget has been approved and is in line with other districts and thanked the finance team and NEC.

Legislation – There was no legislation update.

Subcommittee/Liaison Update - Subcommittee/Liaison chart remains on the agenda as a point of reference.

Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee - There was no Curriculum & Instruction update.

Equity - There was no Equity update.

Policy - There was no Policy update.

DEEP – Mr. Taverna gave the date of May 24, 2022 for the Breakfast of Champions taking place at Danvers High School.

DanversCARES – Dr. Doherty mentioned that the Teen Health and Safety Guide would be distributed this week, NAGLY presented on May 2, 2022 and the May 4, 2022 Light the Night Purple was a great success again this year.

SEPAC - There was no SEPAC update.

DHRIC - Mr. Crane stated that the DHRIC chair, Dr. Dutrochet Djoko, was very impressed with the strategic plan and efforts being made within the District.

## 9. BUDGET and DONATIONS

Mr. Taverna shared the budget report for April 2022 noting the deficit in the budget lines would be offset with funding through State reimbursement.

**10. PERSONNEL**

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated April 2022 sharing personnel changes noting the majority were maternity leaves..

The next meeting will be held on June 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m in Room E105 at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Doherty, Secretary  
Danvers School Committee