



Dear Danvers School Community:

I can't believe that we are heading into the last full week of October! This past week we had several whole-school community events in our schools. Danvers High School and Holten-Richmond Middle School had their Kindness Weeks where special events were held each day to highlight different aspects of kindness, unity, and belonging. Also, there were Walk-a-thons at the Smith and Highlands Schools - great community building events!

DHS Kindness Week

HRMS Unity Day (10/19)



Highlands Pep Rally & DHS Band

Smith Walk-a-Thon



The remaining newsletter shares this week's news along with the October School Committee recap.

Filling the Vacant Seat on the Danvers School Committee

We have several candidates who applied for the vacant seat on the Danvers School Committee. Interviews will be held on Monday night (10/24) at 6:00 PM at Danvers High School. The meeting is open to the public and may also be watched live on DCAT at <https://youtu.be/JiLhxGYtJvE>.

Superintendent Search Update

At the School Committee meeting, MASC Representative, Dorothy Presser, presented the superintendent profile developed from the results of focus groups and survey analysis. Additionally, she released an updated timeline for the process: [Superintendent Search Update](#). Finally, they announced the formation of the Superintendent Search Committee.

Application for the Superintendent Search Screening Committee

Please see [this letter](#) for details about the selection process for the search committee. All letters of interest should be addressed to the Danvers School Committee and submitted to Dr. Robin Doherty (robindoherty@danvers.org) and Ms. Alice Campbell (alicecampbell@danvers.org) by **Monday, October 31, 2022**.

NOTICE REGARDING STUDENT RECORDS

In addition to applicable federal law, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regulations found at [603 CMR 23.00](#) *et seq.* govern student records. A complete copy of these regulations is available online via the Department's website and can be obtained from any District school. Parents/guardians and/or eligible students have the right to access their students'/their own records in accordance with 603 CMR 23.01, 603 CMR 23.02, and 603 CMR 23.07(2), and to request to add relevant information to or remove certain information from the student record under 603 CMR 23.08.

Authorized school personnel, including but not limited to administrators, teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals, other professionals, and administrative or clerical personnel may access student record information without consent as set forth in 603 CMR 23.02 and 603 CMR 23.07(3).

The District may not release student record information to a third party without parent/guardian or eligible student consent, with limited exceptions, as prescribed in 603 CMR 23.07(4). Exceptions include: in response to court order or lawful subpoena; in response to request made by certain state agencies or courts; in response to request made by federal, state, and local education officials for limited purposes; in connection with a health or safety emergency if necessary to protect health or safety; in connection with law enforcement relating to a missing student; with notice, to authorized school personnel of a school to which a student intends to transfer; to school health personnel, and local and state health department personnel, when access is required in performance of official duties.

Under 603 CMR 23.07(4)(a), the District may release "directory information" without parent/guardian or eligible student consent, unless expressly requested otherwise by a parent/guardian or eligible student. Designated directory information is as follows: a student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major fields of study, dates of attendance, weight and height of members of athletic teams, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees, honors and awards, and post-high school plans. A parent/guardian and/or eligible student may request that the District not release directory information, or any stated portion thereof, without consent. Any such request must be

made annually, in writing, to the relevant building principal. If no such request is received by November 4, 2022, the District will assume that there is no objection to the release of directory information. Note: Absent parent/guardian or eligible student opt-out, the District is obligated to provide student names and mailing addresses to an approved third-party mail house in response to a valid request from a MA public charter school, and to provide requested directory information to U.S. military recruiters, in accordance with applicable law.

Families are encouraged to review 603 CMR 23.00 *et seq.* for more detailed information regarding parent/guardian and student rights and District responsibilities relative to student records.

Thursday is the DEEP Wine & Food Tasting!

The Annual DEEP Wine & Food Tasting will take place on **Thursday, October 27, 2022**, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. in the Harborview Ballroom at Danversport, 161 Elliott Street, Danvers. This year's theme is Halloween!

Attendees will be able to sample numerous wines from Merchants Liquor Mart. Food and desserts will be provided by local restaurants and establishments. There will also be door prizes and raffles.

Tickets for this event are \$45 each and may be purchased online at <https://DEEPWineFood22.eventzilla.net>. You must be 21 years of age with a valid ID to attend. For more information or for sponsorship opportunities, please email deep@danvers.org.

DEEP Membership

It's that time of the year again. DEEP memberships are available for the 2022/2023 school year. You can sign up for a membership here [Contribute | DEEP \(supportdeep.org\)](#) or you can send in a check to DEEP c/o PO Box 387 Danvers, MA 01923.

Membership levels include:

- Individual = \$10
- Family = \$20
- Community Partnership = \$100
- Corporate Sponsorships are also available starting at \$250

For more information visit www.supportdeep.org

Job Opportunities in the Danvers Public Schools

The district is still hiring full and part time positions for teacher aides, cafeteria workers and long-term substitutes! If you are interested in working in our schools, please visit [SchoolSpring](#) to apply.

Additionally, we've increased the pay for substitute teachers to \$120 per day. ESS, our new substitute company, provides substitute teachers a daily rate *plus benefits* which is competitive with surrounding school districts. Please click on the link below if you would like to apply to be a sub:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CjUdREn12z6pdKFQl6yyL0id4m7u-ln>

October School Committee Recap

The remainder of this newsletter provides a recap of the information from Monday night's Danvers School Committee meeting. Please follow the following link to view the videotape of the meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVqeeiqfz5M&t=1s>

Information from the Superintendent and School Committee

- Dorothy Presser, from MASC, presented her analysis of the Focus Group meetings and the results of the surveys.
- Eric Crane informed the public about the process for interviewing the candidates for the open position on the School Committee as well as the voting process to determine the new member.
- Robin Doherty shared the [letter](#) detailing the process for selecting the Superintendent Search Committee.

Information From The Student Representatives

- Lillian Abel provided an update on activities at Danvers High School.

Information From The Superintendent

- **October 1 Enrollment Report** - The October 1 Enrollment Report stating we have 3337 students enrolled noting smaller high school classes while kindergarten was larger. Discussion took place on enrollment numbers and ways to promote increased enrollment at Danvers High School.
- **Strategic Plan - MCAS Presentation** - Mary Wermers and Curriculum Directors Julie Posternack, Ellyn Feerick, and Peter DiMauro presented the results of the Spring 2022 MCAS Results. Mr. DiMauro highlighted the MCAS scores for the high school saying math is the biggest area for growth and that the Carnegie Learning program has been adopted for Algebra I. He said there have been improvements in both ELA and science. Mrs. Feerick spoke for the middle school showing those grade levels to be trending with the State numbers

but saying grade 7 has lost some ground. She noted the accountability percentile has shown an increase which is encouraging. Mrs. Posternack enthusiastically updated the Committee on the progress at the elementary level. She presented the district MCAS scores which were above the State average and shared new approaches for structured literacy.

Subcommittee Reports

Curriculum and Equity Subcommittee - The first meeting of the Equity and Curriculum Subcommittee will take place on Tuesday, October 25th at 8:30 am.

Essex Tech - Mr. Lopes shared his conversation with Mr. Landers to say that Essex Tech has plans to expand their campus and enrollment. They will move to a lottery system for out of district schools. Mr. Lopes said that Danvers needs to promote themselves in order to reestablish a larger enrollment. Mr. Landers will be invited to attend an upcoming meeting.

DEEP – Mrs. Verry told the Committee of the next meeting being held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 8:00am at Brookline Bank and reiterated that the annual Wine Tasting event would be held on October 27, 2022.

DanversCARES – It was announced that DanversCARES has been looking at data regarding student mental health, substance abuse prevention and bullying/harassment prevention.

SEPAC - SEPAC will hold a virtual meeting, “Meet your Special Education Team” with a hopeful date of November 16, 2022.

DHRIC - Mr. Crane shared Thursday, October 20, 2022 as the next DHRIC meeting. He addressed the messages that were left on the Rt. 1 overpass.

Summary

The next regular Danvers School Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, November 14, 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 your child’s school principal or contact the district’s office.

Best wishes,

Mary Wermers
Interim Superintendent

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