

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

September 12, 2022

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

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

VOTED: Minutes – (The Secretary) moved to approve and release the minutes from the August 22, 2022 regular meeting and the August 30, 2022 special meeting. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Kay moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:05 p.m. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Regular Meeting Call to Order

Mr. Crane called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Danvers Public Schools Mission statement were recited. Mr. Crane inquired whether the meeting was being recorded by audience members and announced that the meeting was being broadcast on DCAT.

2. ITEMS OF INTEREST

- A. Mr. Federico extended his sympathies to the Hurley family on the loss of their son, and DHS Alum, Eric Hurley.
- B. Mr. Kay announced that he would be moving out of Danvers and upon that move would be resigning as a School Committee member. The Committee thanked him for his service and told him that it was a pleasure to work with him. Mr. Crane then went over the process of electing a new member to fulfill Mr. Kay's term through April 2023.

3. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Federico introduced Reese McDonald as a returning representative and Lilian Abell as the newest student representative. The Representative gave an update on DHS activities and then held a discussion on ways to prevent bullying that they have seen take place. The Committee and Administration took part in the discussion sharing professional development taking place to assist in working with students regarding SEL and the work would be ongoing. They thanked the representatives for their courage in bringing the issue forward in a public forum. Mr. Crane said this would be a discussion at the next DHRIC.

4. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Danvers Pride - Mrs. Wermers introduced 8th grade students, Josie Vogel and DeAnna Figueiredo. As part of their Civics class, Josie and DeAnna organized a block party in Danvers Square. They met with Town officials and business to create a well attended and enjoyable event. They thanked the police, DPW, officials and Mrs. Wermers for their support with this event. The Committee praised the students who noted they raised over \$1500.00 for charity.
- B. Safety Update - Chief Lovell and Sergeant Colella of the Danvers Police Department gave an update on the safety plan for schools at their annual safety meeting that was held on August 25, 2022. Chief Lovell informed the Committee that Officer Chase presented training for lockdown for teachers and there will be an open forum meeting for parents and community members on September 29, 2022. The police will be hosting “Morning Coffee” in each school to allow school staff to share concerns and speak about checks during the school year. The department will also show a present at the schools and sporting events. The Committee, as a whole, shared their excitement with the partnership.
- C. Strategic Plan - Opening of Schools and Special Education Update
Mrs. Wermers shared a presentation going over the Theory of Action. She shared the sense of belonging and the importance of the tiers, building relationships, value and affirm diverse identities and create opportunities for engagements. She spoke on the work being done during professional development such as having students have a say and be engaged in the learning process. Principals are working to bring back school based activities to build a sense of community and belonging within their schools. Mrs. Wermers also gave a summary of the opening of schools, school tours, bus evacuation, fire drills and open house schedules.

Mrs. Lyn O’Neil gave an update on Special Education. She informed the Committee that 3 Special Education Coordinators were hired in a leadership position this year to assist in facilitating team meetings, along with other responsibilities such as supervising and evaluating, and to free up the psychologist’s time to be able to do more extensive testing and meet student needs. A summary of each of the Coordinators’ background and experience was given. Mrs. O’Neil said there are now 709 students with needs and Coordinators will focus on getting to know each student. Mrs. O’Neil field questions from the Committee and announced a future SEPAC project to practice understanding, kindness and acceptance, before moving on to the EYS program that took place over the summer saying the program serviced 288 students this year. The elementary age students focused on a new academic enrichment program while the secondary levels continued with the traditional tutoring program. Mrs. O’Neil shared the new officers for SEPAC and said they would be present at the upcoming open houses. It was noted that an Evening of Collaborative Communication would be hosted in October and December would see a Zoom workshop with the Federation of Children with Special Needs, March will host the annual resource fair and May will be a parent workshop.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. There was no unfinished business this meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The Committee to appoint a delegate and an alternative to represent Danvers at the MASC/MASS Conference and annual MASC Business Meeting on November 2-5, 2022.

The Committee decide to hold the appointment until the next meeting when the Committee would be able to determine their availability.

B. Superintendent's Evaluation - Student Learning and Professional Practice Goals

Mrs. Wermers shared her goals and reiterated the Frameworks. She spoke on the MCAS student survey which gives data on culture/climate and noted these surveys will be used more than usual. She presented on engagement, safety and environment, utilizing the DanversCARES Youth Risk survey noting these surveys offer much data. The presentation on the District wide data showed that Danvers meets or exceeds the State averages. Areas to improve upon were noted as deep critical thinking, growth mindset and formative assessment. Mrs. Wermers noted her goals as Frameworks sense of belonging and school climate. The Committee shared their thoughts.

7. ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Superintendent Search Update - Dr. Doherty and Mrs. Campbell gave an update on the Superintendent search stating they are working with a consultant from MASC weekly and will be asking for community feedback. They would like to hear the type of superintendent the community would like to see as leader of the District. Focus meetings will be hosted by the consultant without the school committee members present allowing people to feel free to voice their opinions. They are working on creating a job description and noted that anyone interested must apply for the position. A screening committee will be formed for those who are interested in being closer to the interviewing process.

B. Consent Agenda - motion to approve fundraising requests, homeschool requests and field trip requests as presented. As voted

C. Minutes - (The Secretary) moved to approve and release the minutes from the August 22,2022 regular meeting and the August 30, 2022 special meeting. As voted

D. Communications

NEC - Mrs. Wermers announced that the first meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022.

Legislation – There was no Legislation update for this meeting.

Subcommittee/Liaison Update - There was no update on the Subcommittee/Liaison Update for this meeting.

Curriculum & Instruction/Equity Subcommittee - Mrs. Wermers will be looking to host a meeting in the upcoming weeks.

Essex Tech - There was no update on Essex Tech for this meeting.

Policy - Mrs. Wermers said the Policy Committee will meet in October.

DEEP – Mrs. Wermers told the Committee of the next meeting being held on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 8:00am at Brookline Bank and announced the annual Wine Tasting event on October 27, 2022.

DanversCARES – It was announced that DanversCARES is looking for focus in the school year.

SEPAC - SEPAC was addressed earlier in this meeting.

DHRIC - Mr. Crane shared Thursday, September 15, 2022 as the next DHRIC meeting..

The next meeting will be held on October 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Doherty, Secretary
Danvers School Committee