

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

December 10, 2018

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

School Committee Members Present:

Arthur Skarmeas , Chair
David Thomson, Secretary
Mary Beth Verry
Eric Crane
Jeffrey Kay

VOTED: Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the review of sections D and E as per MASC requests for a second reading. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of review of Sections F and G for a first reading. Mr. Thompson moved to approve. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of review of the Wellness Policy for a first reading. Mr. Thompson moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Out of State/Overnight Field Trip – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the out of state field trips from DHS Model UN to Boston, March 22-24, 2019. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for DHS Cheering Boosters, DHS Wrestling Boosters and DHS DECA. Mr. Thompson moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mr. Thomson moved to accept and release the minutes from the November 19, 2018 regular meeting. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Skarmeas moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:20 p.m. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Skarmeas called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and DPS Mission statement were recited. Mr. Skarmeas inquired whether the meeting was being recorded by audience members and announced that the meeting was being broadcast on DCAT.

II. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SUPERINTENDENT, SCHOOL COMMITTEE, COMMUNITY

- A.** Mr. Crane wanted to recognize and compliment DECA on the work they did with Best Buddies the previous Saturday, November 17, 2018.

III. INFORMATION FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

- A. Cynthia Boyd and Clea Matt presented news and events of the seven district schools.

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. M.A.S.S. Academic Excellence Award - Dr. Dana and Dr. Colombino presented Shelby Johnson with this year's M.A.S.S. Academic Excellence Award. Ms. Johnson was acknowledged for her high school career highlighting achievements such as excelling in 6 AP courses, captaining the field hockey, ice hockey and lacrosse teams as well as co-president of DECA and vice president of the DHS National Honor Society. The Committee congratulated Ms. Johnson.
- B. Danvers Pride- Danvers High School - Teachers Christian Mielcarek, Kristen Augulewicz, Peter DiMauro, Pamela Foss and William Ford, along with several students, gave a presentation on their work with the school's three improvement goals. Mr. Mielcarek expressed his feeling of being enriched by his work on "Leading Together" sharing the experience has made him realize why he became a teacher. He then asked the audience and Committee to participate in a "stand up/sit down" exercise which brings about a sense of community. Ms. Augulewicz, Mr. DiMauro students Rebecca Perkins, Hannah Golden, Ashley Curcuro, and Caitlin Hess shared their work with Biomedical science. In this course the students are given a mysterious death to solve and learn about diseases that may have been the cause, creating models to show what happens to the body with each disease. At the end of the unit they will have solved the mystery. Later students will design medical devices to help cure the diseases. Ms. Foss and Mr. Ford co teach a course that combines US2 and American Classic courses. Students Logan Blais, Charlotte Larson and Erin Lally shared their enthusiasm for the class. They felt bringing the two subjects together made for a more interesting learning experience. They said the teachers gave them the opportunity to express themselves freely and were encouraged to debate an issue. The Committee said these classes seemed to be engaging and the idea of a teaching team was excellent.
- C. Wellness Committee Update - Andy St. Pierre gave a brief summary of the Wellness Committee's agendas for the year. He then shared upcoming workshops and a conference attended by some of the DHS athletes. Mrs. Verry said she thought it would be good to offer the workshops and conferences to the coaches as well as athletes.
- D. DanversCARES Update- Lyle Harrod presented an update on DanversCARES for the Committee. Mr. Harrod touched base on the current strategic plan and working on SEL and developmental assets. He shared details on programs such as the summer job program, the explorer's program for outdoor skills, Project adventure and Parents' University. Mr. Harrod also gave a summary of upcoming events.
- E. Student Services Update - Mary Tatem gave an update on SEPACs' recent activities. She stated the resource fair was a success. A parent survey regarding workshops and events was sent out. SEPAC will be reviewing the results. There was a great turn out for the Parents' Rights workshop held in October and Parenting for Pre-school IEPs was presented on November 28, 2018. Workshops on mindfulness and effects of screen time on children's speech and use of language are in the works.
- F. Smith School Project/MSBA Update - Keith Taverna gave the Committee an update on the progress on the Smith School Project sharing that after the interview process W.T. Rich has been selected as the Construction Manager. Mr. Taverna will be at MSBA on Wednesday, December 11, 2018 to finalize the project funding agreement. He reminded all that the next Community Forum on the Smith Project will be on Thursday, December 13, 2018 and January 8, 2019 will be the Board of Selectmen meeting for approval.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the review of sections and Section D and E as per MASC requests for a second reading. As voted.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of review of Sections F and G for a first reading. Discussion took place saying the sections were on Facilities and Equal Employment Opportunity. As voted.
- B. Wellness Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of review of the Wellness Policy for a first reading. Discussion was had that there will be no substantial changes to the policy. As voted
- C. Annual Review of the Superintendent's Evaluation - The Committee went in turn giving Dr. Dana feedback and reviewing their findings of the Superintendent's Evaluation. As a whole the Committee expressed their feelings of confidence in Dr. Dana and the accomplishments she has made both with in the schools and the community. They shared their feelings that within the past year the enthusiasm of both teachers and students has seemed to increase and the level of engagement is spectacular. Dr. Dana thanked the Committee.
- D. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the out of state field trip from DHS Model UN to Boston, March 22-24, 2019. As voted
- E. Fundraising Requests - The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for DHS Cheering Boosters, DHS Wrestling Boosters and DHS DECA. As voted.

VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications - Dr. Dana shared the NEC website link and gave an overview of the annual report saying it gives a snapshot of the prior year.
- B. Legislation - Mr. Crane said there was not much to report only that the new civic requirements continue to move forward.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update
DEEP - Mrs. Verry said the Downtown Festival held on December first was a smashing success. She thanked the community for attending. She stated the next DEEP meeting will be held on December 12, 2018 at 7:45 at the First Ipswich Bank and the HRMS Spelling Bee will be held on February 7, 2109. DEEP is also gearing up for the DEEP teachers' grants.

DanversCARES - Mr. Kay and the Committee spoke on the event "Holiday cheer does not come in a bottle" which was part of the Holiday Festival and attended by over 400 people. He also said approximately 25 have signed up for the upcoming "Tips" presentation.

SEPAC - No update was given in lieu of Dr. Tatem's update.

DHIRC - Mr. Kay share the lighting of the menorah on December 3, 2018 and said DHIRC is preparing for the annual MLK event.

VII. MINUTES - As voted

VIII. BUDGET and DONATIONS

Mr. Taverna spoke on the November budget report sharing the school is on budget and noted there will be transfers made in January in preparation of the upcoming budget process. He also informed the Committee that the budget hearing would be held along with the regular school committee meeting on February 11, 2019. Mr. Taverna thanked the Danvers Rotary for their donation and continued support for the athletics department.

IX. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated November 2018 and recognized Mrs. Julie Macdonald for her years of service and upcoming retirement. He then welcomed Mr. Patrick Hamilton as the interim Assistant Principal to the HRMS.

The next regular meeting will be held on January 14, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Thomson, Secretary
Danvers School Committee