



DANVERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING: December 9, 2019

The following is a summary of the School Committee Meeting, which took place on December 9, 2019. To watch the full meeting, please visit [Danvers Community Access TV](#).

ITEMS OF INTEREST



DHS Students participated in Page to Stage



Google professional development at HRMS



Falcons won Thanksgiving game vs Gloucester, 61-12



The Addams Family performed November 22 - 24

- 1. Danvers Pride Presentation: Danvers High School**
 - **Page to Stage:** DHS is offering several new english electives including the innovative "Page to Stage" course designed to help students to align creativity with communication strategies, grow analysis skills, and critical thinking.
 - **Case Study Method:** A partnership with Harvard Business School has brought the "[Case Study Method](#)" to DHS. History teachers present real case studies that expose students to college level reading, engaging content, and group discussions.
 - **Falcon's Nest:** Life Skills students are working in the school store to learn basic retail operations. They will compete in a life skills competition at [DECA](#) districts on 12/19
- 2. Wellness Report**
 - This year's topics include Atlas and Athena (Athletes Targeting Healthy Exercise & Nutrition Alternatives), General Wellness Policy, Concussion Policy, Vaping Initiative, Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- 3. Technology**
 - On 11/7 DPS & [Google for Education](#) hosted a tech conference about the recent and emerging technologies that support student accessibility.
 - Mr. Liberman, the district's technology director, shared how students are learning with accessibility tools. For example, [Virtual Reality](#) is used "to go places and see things virtually without actually having to go there," and it offers a low-stakes opportunity to practice critical life skills.
- 4. Schools Collaborate**
 - A DECA group collaborated with 4th graders at Thorpe to help them build business and leadership skills. Last week, the elementary students pitched their business plans in a "Baby Shark Tank" event at DHS. Great work Thorpe and DECA students, and thank you family, students, and staff who were a captive audience.
- 5. Congrats to all our Fall sports teams for a fantastic season. Volleyball and Football are NEC champions!**
- 6. Congratulations to the DHS Academy Theatre on a fantastic performance of the Addams Family Musical!**



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DPS Strategic Plan Update

The following highlights of Danvers High School's two-year progress toward re-accreditation for the NEASC Committee on Public Secondary Schools show alignment with our strategic plan.

Safe and Supportive Learning Environments

- Therapeutic Learning Center has been established to better support students with mental health challenges

Coherent Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

- Multiple cross-disciplinary learning opportunities, including
 - **American Studies, a co-taught course that blends themes from American literature and history**
 - **Animal Form and Function, a co-taught course that merges biology and art**
- “Common Planning Time”: allows teachers to collaboratively analyze student achievement data for the purpose of improving instruction

Student Engagement

- DHS has received an additional \$150,000 in funding through the Capital Skills grant for the purchase of durable materials for the new pathways
- “Innovation Pathways” courses at Danvers High School help to better engage students and prepare them for post-secondary life, including
 - **Advanced Manufacturing**
 - **Information Technology**
 - **Health Care and Social Assistance**
 - **Performing and Fine Arts**
 - **Business and Finance**
 - **Civic Engagement & Public Policy**
 - **Environmental & Life Sciences**
 - **Early College**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Remaining Winter Concerts: Great Oak (12/19 9 am) & HRMS (grade 6 1/14, grade 7 1/15, & grade 8 1/16 at 6:30 pm each night)
- 12/23 - 1/1 NO SCHOOL: Winter Break
- 1/6 9 am-10 am [DanversCARES](#) Meeting
- 1/13 7pm November [School Committee](#) Meeting
- 1/13 - 1/17 9 am - 1 pm Weeklong Kindergarten Registration, DHS Atrium

SMITH SCHOOL PROJECT UPDATE



- Thank you for attending our successful [groundbreaking ceremony](#)!
- 2/14 8 am School Building Meeting, Town Hall - All are welcome
- Have more questions? [Please see the town hall website here](#)

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