

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

December 9, 2019

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: Homeschooling Proposal -The Superintendent recommended approval of the Notice of Intent for Home Education for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Skarmas moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

VOTED: Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of Overnight/Out of State Field Trip requests from DHS to Italy, Austria and Germany, February 12th - 20th, 2021, Smith School chorus and band to the Great East Festival at Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NH on May 29, 2020 and DHS Ski Club to Bretton Woods, January 4th, Loon Mountain, January 11th, Ragged Mountain, February 1st and Cannon Mountain, February 29, 2020. Mr. Skarmas moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising request for the DHS class of 2023, DHS Basketball Cheering, the DHS Swim Team Boosters and DHS Students against Destructive Decisions. Mr. Skarmas moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mr. Crane moved to accept and release the minutes from the November 4, 2019 regular meeting. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:11 p.m. Mr. Skarmas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Verry called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and DPS Mission statement were recited. Mrs. Verry 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 led the Committee in sending their condolences to the Town of Peabody for the loss of their Superintendent, Cara Murtagh and Assistant Vice Principal Judith Maniatis.
- B.** Mr. Thomson congratulated the cast of “The Adams Family” play saying the performance was amazing.
- C.** Mrs. Verry congratulated the girls volleyball team on a wondrous season.
- D.** Mr. Thomson congratulated Max Lette on being featured on Channel 5’s “High 5”

III. INFORMATION FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

- A. Cynthia Boyd and Max Lette presented news and events of the seven district schools.

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Danvers Pride - Dr. Colombino introduced english teacher Kristina Aste-Mayer to speak about her experience with ELA 12 Electives - Stage to Page. She explained the course as using drama and theatre to invigorate English lessons. Students Sam Patterson and Megan Moriaty shared the feeling of being allowed to guide the lessons, creating community and giving confidence where there may not have been before. Next teachers Pamela Foss and Lisa Trask summarized their seminar on the "Case Study Project" at Harvard Business School. They explained giving the students debatable subjects then allowing them to meet in one on one group to discuss their view points. The group would enlarge until the entire class discussed viewpoints as a whole. Students Colby Pelletier, Collin Hawkins, Jasmine Tylus and Miguel Frontera expressed their enthusiasm for this new course noting they would take this course each year if it were allowed. Lastly Colby Thomson, Skylar Crane and Piper Crane talked about the Falcon's Nest and the work happening there. Students learn about basic retail business skills leading up to a DECA competition December 19th. The Committee collectively said they were impressed with the programs being offered and the enthusiasm the students showed.
- B. NEASC Report - Dr. Colombino shared a presentation of NEASC 2 year report, including a summary, recommendations made by NEASC and the next steps. Mr. Emberly and Mr. DiMauro spoke on the TLC room and SEL. Mr. Emberly explained the PASS program, housed at a Beverly YMCA out building, which is an alternative to suspension. The program teaches students responsibility for their actions and gives incentives to be reflective and self-aware. Students come back to school with a re-entry plan in place with strategies and support. Mrs. Gerade spoke about creating cross discipline course, implementing more co-taught classrooms, allowing more common planning time, working on student engagement and working with the FAR cycle. The DHS team fielded questions from the Committee.
- C. Wellness Committee Annual Report- Mr. St. Pierre gave a brief summary of the school year agendas for the Wellness Committee. He also highlighted programs and training such as Atlas and Athena, impact testing, the Youth Risk Survey, Concussion Policy, epi-pen training. The Committee thanked Mr. St. Pierre for his hard work.
- D. "Emerging Technologies to Support Student Accessibility" - Mr. Liberman and Dr. Tatem gave a presentation on the use of virtual reality for students with special needs. They said allowing a student with anxiety to use the virtual reality goggles to see where they are going before they get there lessens their stress level and enables the student to accomplish things they could not without this technology. The presentation also showed glasses that worked similarly to the goggles and a robot to assist with interaction and engagement. Questions were asked by the Committee about the amount of students this would benefit and the implementation of such technology.
- E. Strategic Plan Update - Mrs. Wermers gave a brief update on the on the Strategic Plan informing the Committee of the work being implemented with 2 teams, one for SEL professional development for teachers/staff and the other is a steering committee for SEL for students. She noted working collaboratively with the Essex County Learning Community Grant.

- F. Facilities Update - Mr. Taverna said there would a Smith School Building Committee meeting on Friday the 13th at 8:00 at Town Hall and concrete will be poured on Friday as well to begin the foundation.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. There was no unfinished business to address.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Superintendent Annual Review - 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 expressed their fortune for having her as Superintendent and thanked her for her longevity. They shared their dislike in the evaluation forms and discussed an alternative as being a progress report every other year. Dr. Dana thanked the Committee for their support and feedback and agreed that the progress report seemed to be a good fit for the District.
- B. Homeschooling Proposal -The Superintendent recommended approval of the Notice of Intent for Home Education for the 2019-2020 school year. As voted
- C. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Requests – The Superintendent recommends the approval of the out of state field trip from DHS to Italy, Austria and Germany, February 12th - 20th, 2021, Smith School chorus and band to the Great East Festival at Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NH on May 29, 2020 and DHS Ski Club to Bretton Woods, January 4th, Loon Mountain, January 11th, Ragged Mountain, February 1st and Cannon Mountain, February 29, 2020.. As voted
- D. Fundraising Requests –The Superintendent recommended the approval of the fundraising request from the DHS class of 2023, DHS Basketball Cheering, the DHS Swim Team Boosters and DHS Students against Destructive Decisions. As voted

VIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications – Dr. Dana shared the NEC annual report would be available in January.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane shared the legislators are off on break but the budget for the upcoming fiscal year has passed.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP – Mrs. Verry announced the next meeting to be Wednesday, December 11th at 7:45 a.m. at DHS and thanked the community and vendors for a successful Holiday Festival stating it was a collaboration with DanversCARES and Essex Tech. had students sharing their skills.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay gave an overview of programs reviewed at their recent meeting. He also shared that the Teen Health & Safety Guide will be coming out soon and there would be a vaping seminar tomorrow.

SEPAC - Dr. Dana shared the link to facebook and said they continue to update and share great information and resources.

Policy - There was nothing to share with policy this meeting.

DHRIC - Mr. Crane explained the work for the MLK event continues with looking for a speaker to be the priority and note the lighting of the Menorah would be on December 23rd.

IX. MINUTES – As voted

X. BUDGET and DONATIONS

Mr. Taverna provided the Committee with the November budget report stating we are over budget on tuition out due to new enrollments and placement shifts. He will be keeping a watch on that account line. He also thanked Shady Hill School for the donation of IMacs and Macbooks and the Oreto and Wright families for donations to Smith School after school program.

XI. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated November 2019 welcoming Irene Lynch and congratulating Mary Jane Welch on her retirement.

The next regular meeting will be held on January 13, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Crane, Secretary
Danvers School Committee