

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

February 24, 2020

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: Holten Richmond Program of Studies - Second Reading - The Superintendent recommends the HRMS Program of Studies for a second reading. Mr. Thomas moved to approve. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

VOTED: DHS Program of Studies - Second Reading- The Superintendent recommends the DHS Program of Studies for a second reading. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous..

VOTED: Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising request for Boys and Girls Winter Track Boosters, classes of 2021 and 2022 for the Powder Puff Game, DHS Girls Tennis Boosters, DHS Football Boosters, the Class of 2020, DHS Boys Lacrosse, DHS Softball Boosters and the DHS Mock Trial Team. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Request - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the overnight/out of state field trip requests from DHS Chorus to Boston, March 5th - 7th, 2020, DHS to Germany, Austria & Italy, February vacation of 2021, DHS to Rome & Greece, February vacation of 2021, HRMS grade 8 to Washington, DC, June 9th - 12th, 2020 and Smith School Kindergarten to Portsmouth, NH. Mr. Skarmeas moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the December 9, 2019 regular meeting and to approve but not release the minutes from the December 9, 2019 executive session. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:16 p.m. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Verry called the meeting to order at 7:01 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. There were no items of interest this meeting.

III. INFORMATION FROM STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

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

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A.** Danvers Pride Presentation - Mrs. Jones, Principal of Highlands Elementary School, introduced fifth grade teachers Ashley Doucette, Patrick Cox and Kellee Boudreault who assisted students Allen Gomez, Nate Wise, Natalia Faustino, Jasmine Vaquerano, Andrew Dos Santos, Vivienne Loughlin, Rylee Sheppard, Julia Lembo, and Kendall Murphy in giving their perspective on SEL. The student spoke along with a slideshow about emotions and using their toolbox which contains strategies to help them work through their emotions and behaviors. They shared lessons on bullying, social, physical and mental strength and role playing and interactive lessons with other students teaching you to understand how and why others feel the way they feel. Students also said they have a check in on Mondays to go over how they feel and a check out on Fridays. The Committee thanked the students and teachers for their presentation and asked questions of the students.
- B.** Inclusion with Athletics - Mr. St.Pierre and Max Travers gave a summary of the Unified Basketball program that works in conjunction with MIAA and the Special Olympics. They explained this to be a 7 week program which includes “typical” students and students with needs to form the team. They said they had a very successful experience and look forward to participating again next year. Students Kevin Lenox and Mike Goodwin shared involvement with the team, stating the Jamboree to be their favorite activity of the program. Students answered questions asked by the Committee who found the program to be a great addition.
- C.** Strategic Plan -Mid Year Accomplishment Update - Mrs. Wermers and her ECLC team which in part includes Juliana Robbins, Alex Grover, Cindy Grady, Will Ford and Ellyn Feerick gave an overview of the mid-year accomplishments. Highlights of the presentation were use of MTSS, focus on CORE & MORE, the FAR Cycle and FIRME Action. It was explained that the SSR block at the HRMS would be replaced with RISE(Reteach, Intervention, SSR, Extension). Data meetings will take place on a scheduled basis allowing teachers to see students progress or difficulty in an area in real time. It was noted that 40 participants participated in the SEL Visioning Day assisting in developing and defining SEL in the District. Excitement over the new opening day SEL workshops and participation was shared. The ECLC team fielded questions and the Committee shared their feelings that the District is moving forward in a positive way.
- D.** Grants Update Mr. Taverna gave a brief summary saying the Federal Entitlement grant stands the same as previous while we see an increase in funding due to application to more grants this year.
- E.** Facilities Update - Mr. Taverna showed a timeline video of the progress taking place at Smith School. Steel is being delivered for “building B” while the foundation to “building A” is being poured.

- V. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE DANVERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS** - Dr. Dana and Mr. Taverna gave a presentation on the requested FY21 school budget. The Committee answered questions asked by Community members.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A.** Holten Richmond Program of Studies - Second Reading - The Superintendent recommended the HRMS Program of Studies for a second reading. As voted

- B. DHS Program of Studies - Second Reading- The Superintendent recommended the DHS Program of Studies for a second reading. As voted

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for Boys and Girls Winter Track Boosters, classes of 2021 and 2022 for the Powder Puff Game, DHS Girls Tennis Boosters, DHS Football Boosters, the Class of 2020, DHS Boys Lacrosse, DHS Softball Boosters and the DHS Mock Trial Team. As voted
- B. Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Request - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the overnight/out of state field trip requests from DHS Chorus to Boston, March 5th - 7th, 2020, DHS to Germany, Austria & Italy, February vacation of 2021, DHS to Rome & Greece, February vacation of 2021, HRMS grade 8 to Washington, DC, June 9th - 12th, 2020 and Smith School Kindergarten to Portsmouth, NH. As voted

IX. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications – Dr. Dana said NEC is working on the FY21 budget and will be proposing changes to the agreement and will bring those before the Committee next month.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane said the Legislator will be taking up the budget immediately.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP – Mrs. Verry announced Kelly Huynh to be the winner of the 11th annual Spelling Bee. The next DEEP meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 11th at 7:45 at Riverside School and Credit for Life will be taking place at DHS on February 25th.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay noted the Teen Health and Safety Guide would be coming out soon and Narcan distribution training will be offered through the Public Health Nurse, Judith Ryan.

SEPAC - Dr. Dana said there are no updates for SEPAC this month.

Policy - Dr. Dana noted the next meeting to be held on Friday, February 28th. Work will be done on the Wellness and Concussion Policies.

DHRIC - Mr. Crane share the next meeting date for DHRIC to be on Thursday, February 27th.

X. MINUTES – As voted

XI. BUDGET and DONATIONS

Mr. Taverna provided the Committee with the January budget report stating the budget for Special Education is holding and we are in good shape.

XII. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated January 2020 noting the addition of personnel for the Learning Center at Riverside School.

The next regular meeting will be held on March 9, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Crane, Secretary
Danvers School Committee