

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

May 11, 2020

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: Policy - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the following policies for a second reading.

- JFABD - Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services
- JFABE - Educational Opportunities for Military Children
- FFABE - Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
- ADF - School Wellness Policy
- JJIF - Concussion Policy

Mr. Skarmas moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion.
The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: 2020-2021 School Calendar/Early Release Days –The Superintendent recommended the approval of the 2020-2021 school calendar/early release days for a second reading.

Mr. Skarmas moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion.
The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Revised FY21 Budget Proposal – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the revised 2020-2021 DPS budget. Mr. Skarmas moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Public Hearing and Vote on School Choice – The Superintendent recommended the School Committee to vote not to accept School Choice students for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion.
The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: NEC Amended Agreement - The Superintendent recommended the School Committee to vote to accept the amendment agreement brought forth by NEC.
Mr. Skarmas 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 March 9, 2020 and April 13, 2020 regular meetings. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:32 p.m.
Mr. Skarmas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Executive Order on Remote Participation & Remote Conduct for Open Meetings

The Script for Remotely Conducted Open Meetings was read.

B. Regular Meeting Call to Order

Mrs. Verry called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Mrs. Verry informed the audience that the meeting was being recorded and being broadcast on DCAT.

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

- A.** Dr. Dana thanked faculty, students and parents for their efforts in making remote learning successful.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Student Representatives Thanked

Dr. Dana thanked Cynthia Boyd and Max Leete for servicing as a Student Representatives to the School Committee.

B. Update on Remote Learning

Mrs. Wermers gave an update on the progress of remote learning explaining phases set forward through the Commissioner. She spoke on Phase 3 beginning on May 4th and being important to move all students forward, strengthening areas individual to each student using Google Meets, Zoom and other forms of live streaming. Teachers began remote learning with a maintenance plan and have moved on to teaching new content. As a way of supporting students teachers have extended their “office hours” giving more availability for parents with questions or concerns. Dr. Dana noted Peer support groups are available as well as assistance from Title I tutors and teacher aides. Student Services has been reaching out to students and families for additional support. Dr. Dana addressed concerns on remote learning from a parent sent via email. Questions and concerns from the Committee were answered.

C. Facilities and Human Resources Update

Mr. Taverna informed the Committee of the progress taking place at Smith School. He said construction continues to be on schedule with the slab deck being poured and unground plumbing being placed. He also made note that the DPW is working to make all schools ready for reopening in September and that masks and gloves have been ordered and received. He shared the August 1st graduation date, with hopes of an August date for the Senior Reception, saying that banners and signs were being delivered and displayed as a means of recognizing the Class of 2020. He then took the opportunity to welcome Mr. John Obremski as Highlands School’s Principal and Ms. Julie Sgroi as an Assistant Principal at Holten Richmond Middle School. Mr. Taverna fielded questions from the Committee.

D. Special Education Update

Dr. Tatem gave an overview of remote learning through Student Services. She said she has taken part in meetings presented through DESE and student engagement seems to be the most important criteria. She stated her staff has stayed in contact with students through phone calls and Google, having virtual meetings with parents and sending out paperwork for compliance with DESE timelines. Google Hangouts has been a good tool to utilize sending students work and scheduling “office hours” for parents. She said they are working on finding a balance between what is enough but not too much information for her students. Student Services is working with DESE for summer services.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Policy** - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the following policies for a second reading.

- JFABD - Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services
- JFABE - Educational Opportunities for Military Children
- FFABF - Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
- ADF - School Wellness Policy
- JJIF - Concussion Policy

As voted

- B. 2020-2021 School Calendar/Early Release Days** –The Superintendent recommended the approval of the 2020-2021 school calendar/early release days for a second reading.

As voted

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Revised FY21 Budget Proposal** – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the revised 2020-2021 DPS budget. Mr. Taverna gave an overview of reductions made to the 2020-2021 DPS budget noting the work taking place town wide. The reduction brings the increase in the budget over last year down to 2.8% . Mr. Taverna answered questions from the Committee.

As voted

VI. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE ON SCHOOL CHOICE

- A. Public Hearing and Vote on School Choice** – The Superintendent recommended the School Committee vote not to accept School Choice students for the 2020-2021 school year.

As voted

VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications** – Dr. Dana gave an overview of the Amended Agreement presented from NEC to the Committee and asked that a vote for acceptance of the amendment be taken. As voted

- B. Legislation** – Mr. Crane spoke with Representative Spilitois regarding the expected shortfall for this years' budget. The Governor and Legislator are committed to no further cuts for this fiscal year. The State could be looking at a 1/12 budget moving forward. Dr. Dana said she spoke with Senator Lovely who had the same concerns. She also shared Representative Spilitois' upcoming retirement and shared her appreciation for all he has done for the District throughout the years.

- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update**

DEEP – Mrs. Verry announced the next meeting to be Wednesday, 20th at 7:45 a.m. and will be held virtually. She shared her concerns with the presentation of the Breakfast of Champions this year and how that may look.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay announced the scholarship deadline was May 8th, the Youth Leaders Virtual Kick Butt Day went off well and the Teen Health & Safety Guide will be coming out May 21, 2020.

SEPAC - There were no new updates for SEPAC this meeting.

Policy - Mr. Skarmeas and Mr. Thomson stated policy was covered earlier in the agenda.

DHRIC - Mr. Crane sent out his best to Mr. Dutrochet Djoko and his wife who are recovering from COVID-19.

VIII. MINUTES – As voted

IX. BUDGET and DONATIONS

Mr. Taverna provided the Committee with the April budget report stating the budget stands the same as last month and we are in good shape.

XII. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated April 2020.

The next meeting will be held on June 8, 2020 at 7 p.m. - Remote - DCAT

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Crane, Secretary
Danvers School Committee