

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

November 4, 2019

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: Homeschooling Proposal -The Superintendent recommended the approval of the Notice of Intent for Home Education for the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Skarmeas 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 Model UN to Providence, RI, November 23 & 24, 2019 and DHS Ice Hockey to Providence College, Providence, RI, December 6th -8th, 2019. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising request for DHS Hockey Team for a comedy night and Raffle Blitz Day. Mr. Skarmeas 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 October 7, 2019 regular meeting. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:38 p.m. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Verry called the meeting to order at 7:03 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.** Dr. Dana Congratulated the DHS football team for being selected to be on Channel 5's High Five segment.
- B.** Dr. Dana announced the Finance Summit to take place on December 3, 2019 at Town Hall.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Danvers Pride - Mrs. Ward gave an introduction on the new sensory hallways at Thorpe School. She spoke about how the structured movement breaks aligned with SEL and the importance of the students being able to have a place during the day that they could “get the fidgets out”. Studies have shown that sensory hallways help with behavior and enable the students to focus better on the tasks at hand. Mrs. Ward thanked DEEP for the grant that allowed Thorpe School to have 2 hallways. Second grade students Luke LaHay, Mia Ciancarelli, Brynn Sherman, Jackson Donahue, Lyla Ringhoff and Madeline Shaffaval shared their feelings about the hallways and then took questions from the Committee.
- B. Student Services Update - Dr. Tatem introduced Kathryn Barry and Alissa Kostopoulos, the District BCBA's who explained the responsibilities of their position and how their roles support SEL. A presentation was shown sharing a SEL Strategies Guide they have created. Ms. Barry said she is training staff members to be safety care specialist. This will enable staff members to have the knowledge and ability to de-escalate behavior or a situation that may cause harm to the student or others. Mrs. Kostopoulos shared that 95% of students benefit from the strategies being used and showed a slide on the 3 tiered system and the procedures in place. They informed the Committee that by the end of this school year there would be 169 staff members that are trained. Ms. Barry and Mrs. Kostopoulos answered questions from the Committee.
- C. DanversCARES Update- Ms. Harrod gave an overview presentation of the programs that are youth specific. Although DanversCARES runs many Community programs, Ms. Harrod wanted to focus on the youth with her review. She spoke about Light the Night Purple being a success again this year having the best turn out to date with over 300 residents attending. She shared the benefit of the outdoor skills workshop (partnered with the Danvers Recreation Committee) and how these training tie into the core competencies of SEL. The outdoor skills give the students opportunities to gain hard skills giving them a sense of self-worth. The Atlas & Athena program, having senior athletes mentor incoming freshman athletes in subjects such as body image, nutrition, medication use and other topics was again successful. Other highlights were the summer employment program, therapy dogs, Project Adventure, “Combat on Vaping” and the Holiday Festival to name a few. As a whole, the Committee thanked Ms. Harrod for her hard work and acknowledged the program to be a benefit to the Community.
- D. Strategic Plan Update - Mrs. Wermers gave an update on the Strategic Plan and went over the 3 objects and initiatives as being Safe & Supportive Learning Environment, Coherent Curriculum & Instruction and Engaging Students. She spoke about planning for the 2020-21 school year with two SEL committees, leadership teams and upcoming workshops. Mrs. Wermers explained the multi-tiered system of support and its link to SEL and the FARR Cycle. Mrs. Wermers fielded questions from the Committee.
- E. Facilities Update - Mr. Taverna showed a video on the Smith School Project ground-breaking. Two students from each class were selected to participate. He said there would be a “topping off” presentation at the end of the project and each student will be able to sign their names to the last beam before it is erected.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. MASC Resolutions & Conference update - Mrs. Verry shared the particulars of the upcoming

MASC/MASS conference and shared that Mr. Taverna and Mr. Thomson will be presenting on Flexible Learning Environment.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Homeschooling Proposal -The Superintendent recommended the approval of the Notice of Intent for Home Education for the 2019-2020 school year. As voted
- B. Out of State/Overnight Field Trip Requests – The Superintendent recommends the approval of the out of state field trip from DHS Model UN to Providence, RI, November 23 & 24, 2019 and DHS Ice Hockey to Providence College, Providence, RI, December 6th -8th, 2019. As voted
- C. Fundraising Requests –The Superintendent recommended the approval of the fundraising request from DHS Hockey Team for a comedy night and Raffle Blitz Day. As voted

VIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications – Dr. Dana shared the NEC October Audit was clean and she would be forwarding the final details when they are available.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane shared the House and Senate passed the Chpt. 70 Reform Act increasing aide funding to public schools.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP – Mrs. Verry announced the next meeting to be Wednesday, November 13th at 7:45 a.m. at the Willis E. Thorpe School and thanked the Community for their support with the DEEP Wine Tasting.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay felt Ms. Harrod’s earlier presentation covered all updates.

SEPAC - Dr. Dana asked the Community to join SEPAC on Thursday, November 7th at 6:30PM in the Holten Richmond Middle School Library for a Parent's Basic Rights talk on the IEP. This presentation will be given by a speaker from the Federation for Children with Special Needs.

Policy - Dr. Dana said the Policy Committee will be looking into Student Handbooks and the Wellness Policy.

DHRIC - Mr. Crane informed the Committee the last DHRIC meeting had to be canceled due to the storm but the work for the MLK event continues.

IX. MINUTES – As voted

X. BUDGET and DONATIONS

Mr. Taverna provided the Committee with the October budget report stating we are on budget and will be analyzing tuition out costs.

XI. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated October 2019 and shared the FY21 Budget Draft Policy noting there will only be one change as a sentence will be removed.

The next regular meeting will be held on December 9, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills
Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Crane, Secretary
Danvers School Committee