

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
September 17, 2021

School Committee Members Present:

Eric Crane, Chair
Arthur Skarneas, Secretary
Alice Campbell
Robin Doherty
Jeffrey Kay

VOTED: Mask Mandate - Mr. Skarneas moved to extend the DESE Commissioner's mandate that students age 5 and older must wear masks while in school buildings to preschool students. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote carried with a 4-1 vote.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Skarneas moved to adjourn the special meeting at 6:40 p.m. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Crane called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Special Meeting - Mask Mandate

Mr. Crane stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and vote on extending the mask mandate to preschool students as well as students age 5 and older. He welcomed the audience and said that all comments and concerns were welcomed but that a 3 minute time limit must be observed and asked the audience to keep comments to the mask mandate topic only. Mr. Crane then invited those who cared to speak to go to the podium.

Community members and parents spoke on their feelings and thoughts to having preschool students mandated to wear masks or if this should be a personal/family decision. Personal stories and scientific data were shared. Parents spoke on experiences they have had thus far and what they felt were the benefits and disadvantages of a mask mandate for younger students. Questions were asked by the Committee and discussion followed.

Mr. Skarneas motioned to extend the DESE Commissioner's mandate that students age 5 and older must wear masks while in school buildings to preschool students. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. As voted

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Skarmas, Secretary
Danvers School Committee