

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
September 13, 2021

School Committee Members Present: Eric Crane, Chair
Arthur Skarmas, Secretary
Alice Campbell
Robin Doherty
Jeffrey Kay

VOTED: 2021-2022 Pre- K-12 School Improvement Plans - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2021-2022 K-12 School Improvement Plans for a second reading/adoption. Mr. Skarmas moved to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Consent Calendar- Mr. Skarmas motioned to approve the Consent Calendar items as presented. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – (The Secretary) moved to approve and release the minutes from the August 23, 2021 regular meeting. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Skarmas moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:16 p.m. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Regular Meeting Call to Order

Mr. Crane called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Danvers Public Schools Mission statement were recited. Mr. Crane inquired whether the meeting was being recorded by audience members and announced that the meeting was being broadcast on DCAT. Mr. Skarmas joined the meeting at 6:31 pm.

II. COVID WORKSHOP

- A. Dr. Dana opened the workshop with details of the line up of information. Mr. Taverna gave a review of the past 3 weeks noting active cases and the vaccination rate within the town. He spoke on the DESE requirements consisting of weekly reporting and reporting all positive cases of enrolled students regardless of suspected origin. Conversation and questions took place regarding testing, close contact criteria and test and stay protocol. He touched base on the new resource, CIC , which allows outside nurses to come into schools to assist with testing. Dr. Dana then gave an overview of the quarantine requirements put forth by the DPH and will be following the DESE requirements, with the District and the public health department working collaboratively and supporting each other. She noted that teachers will provide work via Google Classroom for any students with extended absences and ongoing reviews will be done. She explained the new instructional technology that has been introduced. Discussion and questions followed.
- B. Mr. Ade Solarin, Director of Public Health gave a review of the State and Town's COVID statistics. He spoke on confirmed cases within Danvers and took part in discussion regarding

possible future scenarios.

- C. Mr. Crane introduced the School Physician, Dr. Thomas McLaughlin who gave a statement regarding preventative measures such as washing hands, social distance, masks and vaccination. The Committee thanked Dr. McLaughlin and he went on to answer questions both by the Committee and the audience.
- D. Mr. Crane shared that emails had been coming into the Committee members from parents concerned with a preschool mask mandate. He asked if the Committee felt they should vote on extending the mask mandate, or not, to preschool students. Mr. Skarmas said he would like to table the vote until the next meeting so the public could be invited to voice their concerns and opinions. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that a special meeting would be held the following Friday, September 17, 2021 to address the extension of the mask mandate.

III. ITEMS OF INTEREST

There were no items of interest at this meeting.

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

- A. Introduction of Student Representative - Dr. Dana shared that our new Student Representative would be 11th grade student, Lil Montevicchi. She said that Lil was a co-founder of the anti-discrimination club along with last year's representative Max Leete and we look forward to working with Lil.

V. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Strategic Plan - Mrs. Wermers gave an updated on the opening of school, welcoming 34 new teachers. She touched base on the professional development that took place in August covering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Coherent Curriculum Instruction and Assessment and Safe and Supportive Learning Environments, as well as the new aide orientation that took place on September 9, 2021. She thanked the DPW for their support. The student profile slide was shared. Dr. Dana presented the enrollment figures of 3234 students which will be reported on the October 1 report. She noted changes of 100 new enrollments, 190 withdrawals due to varying reasons such as moving, private schools, 61 students going to Essex Tech, a smaller incoming 9th grade class with a larger graduating class that just exited. She also went over the homeschool numbers showing a decrease from last year's numbers. Dr. Dana gave a summary and presentation of actions taken on the first days of school sharing changes such as Community Blocks, SEL Blocks and new positions thanks to ESSR funding. She reviewed safety procedures and shared the Theory of Action.
- B. Facilities Update - Mr. Taverna was excited for the opening of the new Smith Elementary School. He thanked the community for their support and bearing with the District during the construction. A slide show was presented and the September 25, 2021 ribbon cutting ceremony was mentioned.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. 2021-2022 Pre- K-12 School Improvement Plans - The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2021-2022 K-12 School Improvement Plans for a second

reading/adoption. As voted

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. MASC/MASS Conference and delegate - The School Committee appointed Dr. Doherty as it's delegate for the MASC/MASS conference in November with Mr. Crane standing in as an alternate.

VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Consent Agenda - motion to approve fundraising requests, homeschool requests, fundraising requests, budget report/donations and personnel memo. As voted
- B. Minutes - (The Secretary) moves to approve and release the minutes from the August 23, 2021 regular meeting. As voted
- C. Communications – NEC - Dr. Dana shared the first meeting for the BOS for NEC will take place on the following Wednesday, September 15, 2021.
- D. Legislation – Mr. Crane said Representatives Kerans and Lovely will be invited to attend the October meeting.
- E. Subcommittee/Liaison Update - Mr. Crane said the Subcommittee/Liaison chart would remain on the agenda as a point of reference.

DEEP – Mr. Skarmas noted the next meeting to be on September 15, 2021 at DHS where fundraising and the DEEP teacher's grant timeline would be discussed.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay shared that their first meeting was held today with a welcome back and review of 2020-21 accomplishments and 2021-22 goals and leadership plans.

SEPAC - Dr. Dana shared the facebook page has been updated and the resource fair has been booked for October 21, 2021 at the HRMS.

Policy - Mr. Skarmas reported no subcommittee meetings took place

DHRIC - Mr. Crane said DHRIC is holding a meeting Thursday, September 15, 2021 to plan for the upcoming year's events.

The next meeting will be held on October 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m in the Francis Mills Center, room E105 at DHS..

Respectfully submitted,
Arthur Skarmas, Secretary
Danvers School Committee