

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
November 8, 2021

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: Consent Calendar- Mr. Skarmeeas motioned to approve the Consent Calendar items as presented. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – (The Secretary) moved to approve and release the minutes from the October 18, 2021 regular meeting. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Skarmeeas moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:17 p.m. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Regular Meeting Call to Order

Mr. Crane called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Channels 4, 5 and 7 as well as audience member Mark Zuberek.

II. ITEMS OF INTEREST

- A. Dr. Doherty read a statement she prepared reminding the Community that the District remains focused on the need to support education. She then motioned to put Dr. Dana on administrative leave, Mrs. Campbell seconded. Mr. Crane informed Dr. Doherty that the motion was out of order and an executive session would need to take place. Dr. Doherty asked that the Executive Session take place immediately. The Committee moved to Executive Session. Upon returning Mrs. Campbell read a prepared statement as well and Mr. Skarmeeas reviewed the timeline of events being referred to in the statements.
- B. Mr. Federico spoke on the work being done at the high school with continued focus on safe and respectful learning environments. He stated holding the facility and administration accountable and being vigilant with training for coaches as well as athletes is ongoing and asked the Community for support. Taking time to examine the curriculum so all students have “a seat at the table”, having an open door policy and creating an infrastructure to help improve the culture at the high school with an emphasis on students' voice is being done. Mr. Federico answered questions from the Committee.
- C. Dr. Dana shared a commitment to focus on academic and social emotional well being and gave updates on training and programs taking place for both staff and students which will remain ongoing. She said policies and procedures have been reviewed and shared with the District's

attorney.

- D. Mr. Crane opened the meeting up to the audience noting 6 people had signed in to speak. The audience members gave their opinions, concerns and questions regarding the past DHS hockey incident, school culture and responsibility.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Lil Montevocchi told the Community that they are looking for members through the expanding anti-discrimination club and is looking forward to participating in the HRIC. Lil encouraged anyone that would like to participate to contact her.

IV. COVID STATISTICS AND NEXT STEPS

Mr. Taverna reminded all of the ongoing safety measures and shared the monthly COVID and vaccination rates. Comments were taken by the audience and questions were answered.

V. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Student Services and SEPAC - Mrs. Lyn O'Neil shared strategies she is using to get to know the District and students as visiting schools, classrooms, teachers, directors and principals. She has attended staff meetings, saying she is excited to be here. In the absence of the SEPAC co-chairs, Mrs. O'Neil said they have held a welcome meeting via Zoom and held the annual resource fair which was very well attended. She then read the SEPAC vision statement and noted the co-chairs are excited to support families and said they could be reached by email or the SEPAC facebook page.
- B. DHS Communications for 9th Grade Transition - Mr. Federico shared a slideshow on transition of 8th grade students to high school. He gave a timeline of events leading up to entry. He noted the focus to be on the entire high school showing support and a positive culture and community. Mr. Federico spoke on the many extra curricular activities saying there is something for everyone. Mr. Kay asked the reasons for students either staying or leaving the high school could be looked into.
- C. Strategic Plan - Dr. Dana shared the priorities of the Strategic Plan being Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Mrs. Wermers gave a presentation showing the highlights of work for each grade level. She said using self-assessment is being practiced. She explained the DESE Acceleration Roadmap which was created to support teachers and leaders in creating a culture where students have a sense of belonging and build help relationships between students and teachers. The Curriculum Frameworks was also explained. Mr. DiMauro spoke about tools put in place to move forward. Work with "no more teaching without positive relationships" is taking place. He noted that student identity is critical to success and students having a better experience. Mrs. Feerick summarized professional development work such as "start here, start now"(also used for elementary professional development), self-assessing and developing SEL through CASEL. She showed text for students so all students can find text that can reflect themselves. Mrs. Posternack said the elementary professional development is using "Being the Change", "Windows, Mirrors and Sliding Doors", building a community within the classroom and sharing teachers' reflections. The Committee thanked them for their work and gave comments.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. MASC Resolutions- Dr. Doherty told the Committee that all the MASC Resolution presented were voted on and approved.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Fiscal Year 2023 Town Budget Policy - DRAFT - Mr. Taverna summarized the Town Budget Policy - DRAFT that was presented. He then answered questions from the Committee.

VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Consent Agenda - motion to approve fundraising requests, homeschool requests, fundraising requests, October 2021 Budget Report/donations and personnel memo. As voted
- B. Minutes - (The Secretary) moves to approve and release the minutes from the October 18, 2021 regular meeting. As voted

C. Communications

Due to the late hour and on suggestion of the Chair, Communications were not shared this meeting.

NEC -

Legislation –

Subcommittee/Liaison Update - Subcommittee/Liaison chart remains on the agenda as a point of reference.

Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee -

Policy -

DEEP –

DanversCARES –

SEPAC -

DHRIC - .

The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m in the Francis Mills Center, room E105 at DHS..

Respectfully submitted,
Arthur Skarmas, Secretary
Danvers School Committee

