

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
January 24, 2022

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

VOTED: Holten Richmond Program of Studies - The Acting Co-Superintendents recommended the HRMS Program of Studies for a 1st reading. Mr. Skarmeas motioned to approve the Program of Studies, Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

VOTED: Danvers High School Program of Studies - The Acting Co-Superintendents recommended the DHS Program of Studies for a 1st reading. Mr. Skarmeas motioned to approve the Program of Studies, Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

VOTED: Consent Calendar- Mr. Skarmeas 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 December 13, 2021 regular meeting and December 30, 2021 special meeting and to approve and not release the minutes of the December 30, 2021 Executive Session. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Skarmeas moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:30 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 7:14 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.

II. ITEMS OF INTEREST

- A.** Electric Department Calendar Contest (moved forward from Information from the Superintendent) – Ms. Erica Hillier, HRMS art teacher, introduced HRMS calendar contest winners, Zayd El-Kashawy, Raylee Anthony, Lia Chiarenza, Giana Cash, Emily Vaughan, Jane Koulopoulos, Lillian James, Elizabeth Sher, Maria Eduarda Bravim, Connor Chagnon, Charlotte Walfield, Mia Sawz and Cian McCarty. Students were presented with a certificate as well as a copy of the calendar showing their artwork. Ms. Hillier said the calendar's subject was

electrification and gave praise to the students' talent. She thanked the DPW, the Committee and Eric DeDonato, Recycling and Energy Conservation Coordinator for the Town of Danvers.

- B. Mr. Taverna reminded all about the Kindergarten registration noting appointments could be made on the website or by email.
- C. Mrs. Wermers thanked the District, DHRIC and the participating students, Nora Nickerson , Andreas Pierce , Camila Ferrer-Gomez , Ty Langlais, Jewo Jatta and Milena Aggelikas, for the Martin Luther King Jr. event and the shared presentation.
- D. Mrs. Campbell shared her concerns regarding Boston's mandate for proof of vaccination for all entering buildings and the impact this could have on the DECA competition when an exception has been made for athletes. She asked Representative Kerans for some direction and assistance.
- E. Mr. Crane mentioned scheduling an executive session to appoint an Acting Co-Superintendent to the North Shore Educational Consortium Board temporarily.
- F. Audience members spoke on their concerns regarding vaccination and the interpretation of studies found online.
- G. Representative Sally Kerans thanked the Committee for the invitation to attend the meeting. She spoke to Mrs. Campbell regarding her concerns about the DECA Club students. She congratulated the staff for "hanging in there" during these tough times. Representative Kerans then shared information regarding funding for COVID testing and masks and wanted to acknowledge the shift in the guidelines for COVID protocol. She spoke on facility grant funding, workforce challenges and COVID's impact on health/mental health. She spoke on the recent passing of the Genocide being taught in schools and the increasing enrollment at Essex North Shore. Representative Kerans then answered questions.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

There were no student representatives in attendance at this meeting.

IV. COVID STATISTICS AND NEXT STEPS

Mr. Taverna shared the COVID statistics and vaccination rates. He thanked all for being mindful of how they are feeling and staying home should they feel ill and said Danvers' positivity rate is lower than the state average. The new testing option recommended by the State that has voluntary weekly at home testing and discontinues contact tracing and the test and stay program was discussed and supported and recommended for adoption by the Committee. Mr. Taverna fielded questions.

V. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. DEEP Grants - DEEP President Mary Beth Verry and Grant Coordinator Mari Matt, spoke to the Committee about this year's teacher grants. Five of the seven schools were represented in applying for a grant. DEEP awarded over \$22,800 in funding with 16 recipients. Mrs. Verry noted the annual HRMS Spelling Bee will take place on February 9, 2022 and that the annual wine tasting was rescheduled to October.

- B. Danvers Pride Presentation** - Mr. Brendan Norton presented “We All Belong” which was shared at the MLK event. Students spoke on the Civics course they are enrolled in, spoke on the different Civics units they are learning, projects to help identify with other individual’s backgrounds and took part in the presentation. Ms. Amy Fessette, HRMS teacher, explained more about the course and their work with the Town government. She noted the curriculum is connecting the past with the present, teaches about bias and making choices within yourself. She touched on units that will be addressed in the future and thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present.
- C. Strategic Plan** - Mrs. Wermers spoke on safe and supportive work focusing on “everyone belongs”, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, engaging students to feel they are seen, heard and valued and reminded all of the priorities and SEL values and vision. She discussed the PPS and SEL for different grade levels.
- Whitney McNeilly, DanversCARES Program Coordinator, said they’re work continues with the Every Day Matters campaign focusing on Attendance Matters. She acknowledged community partners such as North Shore Alliance for LGBTQ+Youth, The NAN Project, bringing mental health speakers into school and Beverly Hospital health assessment focus group.
- Mr. St. Pierre gave a Wellness Committee update sharing that their anti-bias work done at the last meeting was very productive.
- Mr. Federico shared the DHS Anonymous Report Form given to the student body in an effort to enable the students to report when they are feeling unsafe or have seen something that may impact another person negatively. They can be found in several places throughout the building.
- The Committee said the District is doing great work and acknowledged that it will take time for the effects to be seen.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Holten Richmond Program of Studies** - The Acting Co-Superintendent recommend the HRMS Program of Studies for a 1st reading. Mrs. Ellyn Feerick highlighted and gave a summary of the proposed changes to be made to the 2022-2023 Program of Studies. As voted
- B. Danvers High School Program of Studies** - The Acting Co-Superintendent recommend the DHS Program of Studies for a 1st reading. Mr. Peter DiMauro went through the summary of proposed changes being made to the 2022-2023 Program of Studies. As voted

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A.** There was no unfinished business this meeting.

VIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Consent Agenda** - motion to approve fundraising requests, homeschool requests and fundraising requests. As voted
- B. Minutes** - (The Secretary) moved to approve and release the minutes from the December 13, 2021 regular meeting and December 30, 2021 special meeting and to approve and not release the minutes of the December 30, 2021 Executive Session. As voted
- C. Communications**

NEC - There were no updates for NEC this meeting.

Legislation –Mr. Crane noted the presentation earlier in the evening by Representative Sally Kerans.

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

Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee - There was no update from the Curriculum & Instruction subcommittee this meeting.

Policy - There were no updates for Policy this meeting.

DEEP – Mr. Skarmas referred to the presentation given by DEEP President, Mary Beth Verry, and Grant Coordinator, Mari Matt earlier in the agenda.

DanversCARES – Dr. Doherty also noted the presentation given by Director Andy St.Pierre, earlier in the evening.

SEPAC - There were no updates for SEPAC this meeting.

DHRIC - Mr. Crane mentioned the MLK event and presentation and said they look forward to the elementary curriculum meeting the following night.

IX. BUDGET and DONATIONS

Mr. Taverna shared the budget report for December 2021 and gave a summary of the January 2022 Transfer memo.

X. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated December 2021 sharing personnel changes.

The next meeting will be held on February 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m in the Multi-Purpose Room at HRMS..

Respectfully submitted,
Arthur Skarmas, Secretary
Danvers School Committee