

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

March 14, 2022

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: Discussion and potential votes regarding Central Office administrative positions - Dr. Doherty motioned to accept the terms and conditions of the separation agreement brought forth for Dr. Dana. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Policy - The Acting Co-Superintendents recommended the approval of revised policy manual of Section D as per MASC revised model policy for a second reading. - Mr. Skarmeas motioned to approve. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Policy - The Acting Co-Superintendents recommended the approval of review of Danvers School Lunch charging procedure for a second reading. - Mr. Skarmeas motioned to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: 2022-2023 School Calendar/Early Release Days –The Acting Co-Superintendents recommended the approval of the 2022-2023 school calendar/early release days for a second reading. - Mr. Skarmeas motioned to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Consent Calendar- Mr. Skarmeas 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 March 14, 2022 regular meeting and approve and not release the minutes from the March 14, 2022 Executive Session. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Skarmeas moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:29 p.m. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Regular Meeting Call to Order

Mr. Crane called the meeting to order at 7:12 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.

2. ITEMS OF INTEREST

- A. Update from our State Legislator** - Senator Joan Lovely attended the meeting and filled the community in on the State budget, informing them of the 6.5 billion dollars in the “Rainy Day” account, Chapter 70 funding being \$673, 000 higher than the previous year although student

enrollment is down by 84 students. She spoke on ESSER funding, ARPA spending and wanted to recognize the nurses for the care they have given the students throughout the pandemic. She then answered questions from the Committee.

- B. Recognition of Lappin Foundation - Mrs. Wermers wanted to recognize the Lappin Foundation and announced the Town will be presenting them with a certificate in May for their work for the Holocaust Foundation.
- C. Danvers High School - Recruiting Video - Mr. Federico introduced Mrs. Julie O'Neill who presented a video on Danvers High School life. Senior, Rachel Sherrick said the video captures what the schools means to the students. The students created the video themselves to share with others and showcase the inclusiveness of their school and the many clubs and activities offered to students. The video was posted on Youtube and will be shared with the 8th grade classes to show them what DHS has to offer and is all about.
- D. Mr. Crane thanked Mr. Skarmeas for his years of service on the Committee and to the students as this was to be Mr. Skarmeas' last meeting. Mr. Skarmeas said it was an honor and he thanked the present and past Committee members for working with him.

3. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Student Representative, Reese MacDonald, spoke about the Prism Club celebrating the trans community on March 31st, with a Pride celebration taking place on June 4th a. She also mentioned the start of Drama Fest at DHS and anti-bias training that is taking place.

4. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Danvers Pride Presentation - Mrs. Rita Ward introduced grades 3 and 4 to present the "Tiger Five". Mrs. Baltimore and Mr. Amaral assisted the students and spoke of the multi-tiered system of support which promotes traits and characteristics we want to grow with. They said the leadership has utilized resources to incorporate SEL and Behavioral Learning into the program. A slide show was presented while speaking about building a committee of 10 volunteers for an inclusive environment which aligned with the behavior support system. The third grade students spoke about books they have been reading which teach the importance of having a growth mindset, focused on teamwork, empathy and to realize actions have consequences. They are learning they all play a part in the community and they must all feel safe and happy together.
The fourth grade students presented on Tiger Week. They read the Tiger Pledge and shared slides showing their growth in teamwork, integrity, growth mindset, empathy and responsibility. They also discussed what being a Tiger means to them.
The Committee shared their excitement about the "Tiger Five" and told the students what a wonderful job they did.
- B. Strategic Plan - Mrs. Wermers, Guidance Counselor James Sullivan and DHS students gave an overview of the Early College program. The program allows students to take a course at North Shore Community College during their school day and receive college credits. This is a State program and upon completion the participant will receive 5 college credits. This year the students are currently taking "Understanding Higher Education and Career". The second cohort is scheduled for the Fall and next Spring. There are 19 students currently

enrolled in the program. The students said that although the work is plentiful, the program is amazing and inspiring. Mrs. Wermers thanked Mr. Sullivan for all the hard work he has put in to make this program a success. The Committee and community members said they were impressed with the students as well as the teachers and that great things are being done here at DHS.

- C. Student Services Update - Student Services Director, Lyn O'Neil, presented her "Learning Tour". She shared the ways that she acclimated herself to Danvers Public Schools and the way the Student Services Department is run, speaking on its structure and reorganization of the office. She also looked at the Special Education models and programs, building relationships both in and out of District and is working on staffing consistency. She spoke on SEPAC and how very much they had to offer. The Committee asked questions and shared comments.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and potential vote regarding Central Office administrative positions - Mr. Crane shared details regarding the terms of and entering into a separation agreement with Dr. Dana. He gave her retirement date of August 31, 2022 with a buyout amount of \$280,000.00. He read a prepared statement from the Committee which outlined her 32 years with Danvers Public Schools, thanked her for her many contributions and wished her well in her retirement. The motion to accept the terms of the agreement was made. As voted.
The Committee also touched base on the interview process for a Human Resource Director, the hiring of a Business Manager and Pam Crum accepting the temporary position of interim Finance Director as of June 1, 2022.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Policy - The Acting Co-Superintendents recommend the approval of the revised policy manual of Section D as per MASC for a Second reading. As voted
- B. Policy - The Acting Co-Superintendents recommend the approval of review of Danvers School Lunch charging procedure for a second reading. As voted
- C. 2022-2023 School Calendar/Early Release Days - The Acting Co-Superintendents recommended the approval of the 2022-2023 school calendar/early release days for a second reading. As voted

7. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Consent Agenda - motion to approve fundraising requests, homeschool requests and field trip requests as presented. As voted
- B. Minutes - (The Secretary) moved to approve and release the minutes from the February 14, 2022 regular meeting and approve and not release the minutes from the February 14, 2022 Executive Session. As voted
- C. Communications

NEC - Mr. Taverna said the NEC budget has been approved and will be finalized in

May.

Legislation – Legislation was addressed earlier in the meeting with Senator Lovely’s presentation.

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

Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee - Dr. Doherty noted changes with reading and Carnegie math were topics of the subcommittee’s last meeting.

Equity - Mrs. Campbell said the Equity subcommittee met in March and she appreciated the conversation around the read aloud books.

Policy - Policy was covered earlier in this meeting.

DEEP – Mr. Skarmas announced the next meeting would take place on the following Wednesday at 8:00 am at the Brookline Bank.

DanversCARES – Dr. Doherty mentioned that the Teen Health and Safety Guide would be distributed late April, Light the Night Purple will be held on May 4th and Health and Unity will be held on June 4th. She also shared that prom donations were being collected in the High School office.

SEPAC - Mr. Crane covered the last SEPAC meeting which covered Basic Rights and the referral/eligibility process for Special Education.

DHRIC - Mr. Crane stated that the NAACP presented their report to the Committee and that the next DHRIC meeting would be held on April 21, 2022..

8. BUDGET and DONATIONS

Mr. Taverna shared the budget report for March 2022.

9. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated March 2022 sharing personnel changes.

The next meeting will be held on May 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m in
Room E105 at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,
Arthur Skarmas, Secretary
Danvers School Committee