

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

June 13, 2022

School Committee Members Present:

Eric Crane, Chair
Robin Doherty, Secretary
Alice Campbell
Jeffrey Kay
Gabe Lopes

VOTED: Student Handbooks - The Interim Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2022-2023 Pre-K-12 Student/Parent Handbooks for a first reading. - Dr. Doherty motioned to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Amendment to School Calendar for SY 2022 -2023: Preschool Calendar - Mr. Kay motioned to approve the amendment. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

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

VOTED: Minutes – (The Secretary) moves to approve and release the minutes from the May 9, 2022 regular meeting and approve but not release the May 9, 2022 Executive Session minutes. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Dr. Doherty moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:45 p.m. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Regular Meeting Call to Order

Mr. Crane called the meeting to order at 7:13 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. School Safety Update - Mrs. Wermers sponke on security and enhanced lockdown procedures. An update was given on the recent lockdown and it was noted that the custodians in each building do safety check rounds as part of their daily routine. A summary was given on the meeting with the principals and Danvers Police Department. Chief Lovell gave detail on the SRO's role in the school and work being done with the school social workers. The STARR Program was also mentioned. The Committee asked questions.

B. Mr. Crane shared that he felt the graduation ceremony was great this year and acknowledged Mr. Wayne Marquis passing.

- C. Mrs. Campbell wanted to acknowledge the staff for their efforts this year.

4. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

There was no representative for the students at this meeting.

5. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Danvers Pride Presentation - Mrs. Martha Jancaitis introduced the students of Great Oak school who shared their Kindness Rocks theme by sending cards and poems to the residents at Twin Oaks Nursing Home.
Grade 2 students Brady Trubiano, Camden Caron, Lucas Cerulli, Myles Gonzales and Chloe Billingsley spoke about their reading of books such as “The Trampoline Boy” which speak on acceptance and kindness. They shared the ways that they are implementing those thoughts into their daily lives.
Grade 5 students Reese Colombino, Grace Burnett, Kairi Hislop, Ian Sewyck and Shileigh Carpenter told the Committee about themselves and how they related to the book “The Color of Us”, using colors to describe and express themselves. They shared identity webs they created which enabled others to see their qualities and who they are and who they hope to become. The Committee shared their enthusiasm for the students’ presentation.
- B. Danvers Pride Presentation- Mrs. Julie Posternack shared Riverside’s Pride moto and what it means to the school culture. Ms. Kara Pirillo spoke on the student council and bringing the school together with fun events, using field day as an example.
Grade 5 students Simon Brown, Levi James, Madison Rosa, Izzie Ramirez, Genevieve Spera and Emma Urbanksi shared their Pride moto - P for positive, R for respect, I for includes, D for do the right thing and E for effective effort. A slide presentation was shown allowing students to share how they work the principals of their moto into the school culture. The Committee congratulated the students on a job well done with their presentation.
- C. Post Graduation Update - Mr. Adam Federico shared a slideshow sharing a collage of future college acceptances and the different military branches the students would be attending. He read the DPS Vision Statement and said an “Outcomes” page would be added to the website and social media next year to share the students progress as they learn and grow. The Committee asked questions related to surveying the graduates in the following years to track their academic careers.
- D. The Interim Superintendent announced the retirees - Mrs. Wermers acknowledged the school’s 2021-2022 retirees.
- E. 2021- 2022 Final Accomplishments - Mrs. Wermers gave a quick picture of the priorities; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She spoke on professional development on diversity and job fairs that have been attending in hopes of recruiting diverse employees. Mrs. Wermers told the Committee about equity audits for procedures and policies noting that handbooks

would be more equity inclusive and more diverse readings have been introduced into the curriculum. Ms. Violetta Powers, Mrs. Jancaitis and Mrs. Julie Posternack spoke on safe and supportive learning and building a sense of belonging and community, bringing the schools together. They mentioned the importance of family connections to enhance attendance and gave statistics on the percentage of students that are reading at grade level after the pandemic. They introduced the new civic units being worked on in grades 3-5 and spoke on diverse read alouds. Questions from the Committee were answered.

Mr. Brendon Norton, the principal for the middle school, spoke about the faculty development plan for SEL with went along with project HAWK. He said 14 PLCs met with SEL coaches to incorporate SEL into learning plans. Professional development was focused on SEL for both staff and students, learning how to address what the needs of the students are and having teachers check in with students for formative assessments using the FARR cycle. Mr. Norton said equity work on finding ways to support children from different backgrounds and ethnicity to ensure everyone is included has been taking place.

He then fielded questions from the Committee.

Mr. Federico, Danvers High School Principal, shared the work being done on safe and supportive learning and building positive relationships both with faculty and students. He gave detail on the Early College Program sharing that the program is involved with college curriculum and connects with students interests and possible career choices. They are working with DESE defining the Pathways program, updating and adding courses for career readiness. Mr. Federico mentioned the addition of three instructional technicians to the DHS staff and informed the Committee that of the universal commitment to the Community Block and are proud of the students for taking a leadership role. The work for transparencies, equity, diversity and inclusion will continue. The Committee shared comments and questions.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. FY23 School Committee - 2022-2023 School Committee Meeting Calendar & 2022-2023 School Committee Liaisons & Sub-Committees - Mr. Crane decided the Committee will revisit the assignment of the liaisons at the next meeting.
- B. The Interim Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2022-2023 Pre-K-12 Student/Parent Handbooks for a first reading. - As voted
- C. Discussion regarding Central Office administrative positions - Mrs. Wermers shared spreadsheets in support of positions for the upcoming school year.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Amendment to School Calendar for SY 2022 -2023: Preschool Calendar - As voted

8. 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 May 9, 2022 regular meeting and approve and not release the minutes from the May 9, 2022

Executive Session. As voted

C. Communications

NEC - There was no NEC update for this meeting.

Legislation – There was no legislation update for this meeting.

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

Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee - There was no Curriculum & Instruction update.

Equity - There was no Equity update for this meeting.

Policy - There was no Policy update for this meeting.

DEEP – Mrs. Wermers announced the next meeting would be the following Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. at Brookline Bank.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay shared that June 6, 2022 was the year end wrap up noting a good review of the year. He said the next meeting will be on September 12, 2022 at 9:15 a.m.

SEPAC - There was no SEPAC update for this meeting.

DHRIC - Mr. Crane spoke about Pride Day but was unable to attend the community day held at the high school.

On a closing note, Mr. Crane announced there would be a Special Meeting on June 29th at 7:30 a.m.

9. BUDGET and DONATIONS

Mrs. Wermers shared the monthly budget report saying we were closing out the year on budget.

10. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Personnel was addressed earlier in the agenda.

The next meeting will be held on August 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m in Room E105 at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Doherty, Secretary
Danvers School Committee