

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

August 22, 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 second reading. - Mr. Kay motioned to approve. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. After discussion the motion was modified to table the vote until the next meeting. Dr. Doherty made the motion, Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Policy- The Interim Superintendent recommended the approval of the amendment to policy JFABD Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services for a second reading. Dr. Doherty made the motion to approve, Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: The Committee will vote on MASC Contract for Superintendent Search- Mr. Crane made the motion to approve the MASC contract. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

VOTED: 2022-2023 Pre- K-12 School Improvement Plans - The Interim Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2022-2023 K-12 School Improvement Plans for a first reading. Mr. Kay made the motion to approve, Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Annual vote of Student Activity Accounts - The Interim Superintendent recommended the approval of the 2022-2023 list of accounts and maximum balances. Mr. Kay motioned to approve. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: The Interim Superintendent recommended the approval of the amendment to policies - AC and AC-E for a first reading - Dr. Doherty motioned to approve. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

VOTED: Minutes – (The Secretary) moved to approve and release the minutes from the June 13th regular meeting, the June 29th special meeting and to approve and release the SY 2021-2022 executive session minutes. Mr. Kay seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Dr. Doherty moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:47 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 7:02 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.** Mrs. Wermers told the Committee and audience that the block party, brought about by the Citizen Academy program, will be held on August 31, 2022.
- B.** Mr. Crane shared the Town moderator, on recommendation of the School Committee, will be appointing a Danvers representative to the Essex Tech School Committee on September 8, 2022.

3. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A.** Introduction of new administrators - Mrs. Wermers introduced long time teacher, Sarah Fitzgerald, as interim principal of Riverside Elementary School. Mrs. Fitzgerald said she is very excited and thanked Mrs. Wermers for the opportunity to hold the position. The Committee thanked and congratulated Mrs. Fitzgerald.

- B.** Strategic Plan - Mrs. Wermers gave a brief summary on the summer programs with ‘enhanced academics and project based learning. The children worked with engineering, STEM learning and design. These programs were very well received and attended. Programs for middle school age children integrating social skills were not as well attended. She shared pictures of the programs showing weekly field trips and visits to the police and fire departments as part of Super Hero week.

The Special Education program will be addressed at the September meeting as Mrs. O’Neil was not in attendance.

Mrs. Wermers spoke on the open of schools activities that have been taking place. She noted that August 22nd and 23rd were days of professional development for the administrators, Wednesday is New Employee Orientation, the staff returns on August 31st for 3 days of professional development and the students return on September 7th with the 7th, 8th and 9th being early release days.

Mr. James Sullivan, Technology Director, briefed the Committee on the distribution of new chromebooks for the middle school. He said they have distributed approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of the computers this week and plan to be available for students and parents during new student orientation to make the start of the year as easy as possible.

Mrs. Wermers then presented a slideshow sharing the focus for this school year is building relationships, creating a sense of belonging and connections to students, staff and the District. Staff have attended workshops on ways to foster a sense of belonging, receiving a feeling of value and creating an opportunity for engagement/creating an engaged student. She shared school based activities and how those played out in academics. Mrs. Wermers shared the District goals of Safe & Supportive Learning, use of Formative Instructional and data to meet the needs of all students and building relationships. The Committee shared questions and comments.

- C.** Facility Update - Mr. Adam Federico gave an update on refining safety protocols, making sure that everyone feels safe. He said they are investing in new equipment and updated technology. Enhanced Lockdown drills and practice continues and he is working with police and fire to conduct the drills. Mr. Federico will be stressing the importance of the entry and exit protocol with the addition of screening visitors before they enter the building and noted that a new lobby camera will be installed at Thorpe and additional door fobs at Great Oak. Mr.

Federico then thanked the DPW for all the hard work they have done throughout the summer to get the schools ready for the beginning of the year.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. The Interim Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2022-2023 Pre-K-12 Student/Parent Handbooks for a second reading. The Committee discussed the addition of language to the Bullying Policy in the handbooks to cover a broader scope as is suggested by the MASC. The motion was made to table the vote until the next meeting. As voted
- B. The Interim Superintendent recommended the approval of the amendment to policy JFABD - Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services for a second reading. There was no discussion. As voted
- C. The Committee will vote on MASC Contract for Superintendent Search - Dr. Doherty and Mrs. Campbell filled in the Committee on the progress they've made with the superintendent search stating they agreed with the recommendation to allow MASC provide a consultant who would take the lead. They were both very impressed with all the consultant had to offer and could provide. Next steps will be to create a focus group. As voted

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2022-2023 Pre- K-12 School Improvement Plans - The Interim Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2022-2023 K-12 School Improvement Plans for a first reading. - The Committee reviewed the SIPs and shared they found exit interview information helpful and felt the District is working more on motivation and a sense of community. Mr. Dimauro and Ms. Leblanc spoke on identifying students that may need additional support. Mrs. Posternack stated the reading level for the elementary was at the point of pre-COVID ranking. It was also noted that Project Hawk at HRMS would now meet once per cycle rather than once per month. As voted
- B. Annual vote of Student Activity Accounts - The Interim Superintendent recommended the approval of the 2022-2023 list of accounts and maximum balances. There was no discussion. As voted
- C. The Interim Superintendent recommended the approval of the amendment to policies - AC and AC-E for a first reading - As voted
- D. The Chair will appoint two school committee members to the Essex Tech Study Committee - Mr. Crane, as School Committee chair, explained the study committee's purpose and appointed himself and Mr. Gabe Lopes. He noted the first meeting would be held in September. As well, he discussed the need of one more participant to the Wellness Committee and agreed to address the melding of the Curriculum & Assessment and Equity subcommittees at the September meeting.

6. 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 June 13th regular meeting, the June 29th special meeting and to approve and release the SY 2021-2022 executive session minutes. As voted
- C. Communications

NEC - Mrs. Wermers announced that she is now a member of the NEC board and the next meeting will be held on September 14, 2022.

Legislation – Mr. Crane told the Committee that the State Board will be increasing the MCAS score required for graduation. This will be in effect for the Class of 2026.

Subcommittee/Liaison Update - The 2022-2023 Subcommittee/Liaison chart was updated and Mr. Crane made note that there is still a vacancy on the Wellness Committee.

Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee - It was agreed that Curriculum & Instruction and the Equity Subcommittees would join as one subcommittee.

Equity - It was agreed that Curriculum & Instruction and the Equity Subcommittees would join as one subcommittee.

Policy - The Policy update was addressed earlier in the agenda.

DEEP – There was no update from DEEP at this meeting.

DanversCARES – There was no update from DanversCARES at this meeting.

SEPAC - There was no SEPAC update for this meeting.

DHRIC - There was no DHRIC update for this meeting.

On a closing note, Mr. Crane announced there would be a Special Meeting, held virtually, on August 30, 2022 at 7:00 pm

7. BUDGET and DONATIONS

Mrs. Wermers thanked Mr. Brian Crosby for the generous donation of a digital piano to the DHS music program.

The next meeting will be held on August 30, 2022 at 7:00 p.m
Virtually

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Doherty, Secretary
Danvers School Committee