

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

October 17, 2022

School Committee Members Present:

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

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

VOTED: Minutes – (The Secretary) moved to approve and release the minutes from the September 12, 2022 regular meeting. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Dr. Doherty moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:51 p.m. Mr. Lopes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Open & Regular Meeting Call to Order

Mr. Crane called the open meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. Discussion took place Setting expectations around internal communication within the Committee. Addressing the Committee in a more formal was (ie. Dr., Mrs. or Mr.) set. The length of the meetings to be shorter was spoken about and agreed upon. Discussion took place on the process of filling the open vacancy on the Committee and the Chair agreed to confer with Counsel on the manner of discussion candidates after the interviews.

The Committee then proceeded in regular meeting at 7:09. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Danvers Public Schools Mission statement was 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. Student Advisory Committee - Mrs. Wermers shared information on the Student Advisory Committee. She said the committee is comprised of 9 members, 2 students from each grade level and 1 at large. The committee serves as liaisons between the school department and the Town. They will be undertaking projects under the tutelage of the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager. The students are scheduled to present before the Select Board on October 18, 2022.
- B. Mr. Wermers noted, after working with Jasmine Ramon from Town Hall, that Elementary

Community Learning will begin in November.

- C. Mr. Crane informed the audience of the process for interviewing the candidates for the open position on the Committee as well as the voting process.
- C. Mrs. Verry announced DEEP's annual Food and Wine Tasting to be held on October 27, 2022 at Danversport beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- D. Superintendent Search Update - Ms. Dorothy Presser, MASC Representative, gave an update on the progress and process of the Superintendent Search and shared results from the survey. She gave accolades to Mrs. Campbell and Dr. Doherty for their hard work. Dr. Doherty shared a letter that was to be sent out the following day for people that are interested in taking part on the Screening Committee.

3. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Lilian Abell gave a brief overview of activities taking place at the High School.

4. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Introduction of Kimberley Bevan - Mrs. Bevan was unable to attend. This will be moved to November's meeting.

B. Danvers High School Athletic Update - Mr. St. Pierre was unable to attend. This will be moved to November's meeting

C. Review of the October 1, 2022 student enrollment report - Mrs. Wermers presented the October 1 Enrollment Report stating we have 3337 students enrolled noting smaller high school classes while kindergarten was larger. Discussion took place on enrollment numbers and ways to promote Danvers High School.

D. Annual MCAS Overview - Mrs. Wermers gave a brief overview presenting the MCAS scores for the District showing most scores to be at or above the State trend. She said the focus now is on student absenteeism and that there is now a new baseline after the pandemic. She shared the scores from 2019 - 2022 as well as an accountability chart. Mr. DiMauro highlighted the MCAS scores for the high school saying math is the biggest area for growth and that the Carnegie Learning program has been adopted for Algebra I. He said there have been improvements in both ELA and science. Mrs. Feerick spoke for the middle school showing those grade levels to be trending with the State numbers but saying grade 7 has lost some ground. She noted the accountability percentile has shown an increase which is encouraging. Mrs. Posternack enthusiastically updated the Committee on the progress at the elementary level. She showed them to be above the State average and shared new concepts for reading. Questions and comments were taken.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. MASC/MASS delegate - Mrs. Wermers announced that she will be attending the MASC/MASS workshop in November. When asked if a member of the Committee would be attending it was met with a negative answer as none of the committee members are able to attend.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business this meeting.

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 September 12, 2022 regular meeting. As voted
- C. Communications

NEC - Mrs. Wermers announced that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022.

Legislation – There was no Legislation update for this meeting.

Subcommittee/Liaison Update - There was no update on the Subcommittee/Liaison for this meeting.

Curriculum & Instruction/Equity Subcommittee - There was no update on the Curriculum & Instruction/Equity Subcommittee for this meeting.

Essex Tech - Mr. Lopes shared his conversation with Mr. Landers to say that Essex Tech has plans to expand their campus and enrollment. They will move to a lottery system for out of district schools. Mr. Lopes said that Danvers needs to promote themselves in order to reestablish a larger enrollment. Mr. Landers will be invited to attend an upcoming meeting.

Policy - There was no Policy update this meeting.

DEEP – Mrs. Verry told the Committee of the next meeting being held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 8:00am at Brookline Bank and reiterated that the annual Wine Tasting event would be held on October 27, 2022.

DanversCARES – It was announced that DanversCARES has been looking at data regarding student mental health, substance abuse prevention and bullying/harassment prevention.

SEPAC - SEPAC will hold a virtual meeting, “Meet your Special Education Team” with a hopeful date of November 16, 2022. .

DHRIC - Mr. Crane shared Thursday, October 20, 2022 as the next DHRIC meeting. He addressed the messages that were left on the Rt. 1 overpass.

8. BUDGET

FY22 Final Budget Report, 2022-2023 Budget Transfer Report, September 2022 Budget Report/donations - Mrs. Crum shared the FY22 budget ended as a zero with the deficit being covered by the Town. The September budget report showed a deficit in student services with the tuition out expenses being the leading cause of the issue and noted we will continue to work to rectify this. The budget transfer report will be addressed at a later date.

9. PERSONNEL

Notification of Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Retirements and Appointments - Ms. Wermers

A special meeting will be held on October 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m
The next regular meeting will be held on November 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Doherty, Secretary
Danvers School Committee