

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

November 14, 2022

School Committee Members Present:

Eric Crane, Chair
Robin Doherty, Secretary
Alice Campbell
Joshua Kepnes
Gabe Lopes

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

VOTED: Minutes – (The Secretary) moved to approve and release the minutes from the October 24, 2022 regular meeting. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Dr. Doherty moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:43 p.m. Ms. 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 7:00 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. Mr. Crane acknowledged Veterans and their dedication to service.
- B. Ms. Verry thanked everyone that participated in the DEEP Wine tasting. She also presented on the Town's collaboration for the Wonderland Festival to take place on December 3rd from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Endicott Park, Tree Lighting at 5 p.m., and Candy Cane Hunt at Plains Park after tree lighting. Ms. Verry also expressed her appreciation to the students on their MCAS.
- C. Mr. Zubric addressed the committee with his concerns regarding enrollment for Essex North Shore. Mr. Zubric also expressed his thoughts that the results of the survey for Superintendent should be made available.
- D. Mr. Oreale expressed his concern regarding the 25% decrease in enrollment since 2015. Mr. Crane asked this to be an agenda item for a later meeting. Mr. Federico addressed the audience and committee to invite families in to tour the schools to see what they are doing on a daily basis. Mr. Lopes suggested that a sub-committee be formed to go into the schools to become informed as to the daily events.

3. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

Dr. Doherty and Ms. Campbell thanked everyone who has applied for the Superintendent's Search Committee. Dr. Doherty shared the timeline for the process beginning with the first meeting of November 30, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. The hope is to have the appointment of a Superintendent by the end of January beginning of February. The list of committee applicants was presented to the Committee. Mr. Crane asked for a motion to accept the screening committee, Dr. Doherty motioned, second Ms. Campbell.

4. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Academic Excellence Award - Ms. Wermers introduced 12th grade student Shea Nemeskal as the recipient of this year's award. Shea's academic achievements were highlighted as well as her athletic achievements.
- B. Introduction of Human Resources Manager - Ms. Wermers introduced Ms. Kimberley Bevan as the new Human Resources Manager. Ms. Bevan joined the district in July and addressed the committee. The School Committee welcomed Ms. Beval
- C. Student Services and SEPAC - Ms. Lyn O'Neil spoke on behalf of SEPAC and read the vision of SEPAC to the Committee. Ms. O'Neil advised of the next meeting being held via Zoom on November 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. If anyone had any questions or concerns for SEPAC they are asked to email sepacofdanvers@gmail.com.
- D. Danvers High School Athletics Update - Ms. Wermers notified the School Committee of the resignation of Athletic Director, Andrew St. Pierre. Mr. Federico shared the accomplishments of the various athletic teams for the fall season. He then highlighted the programs student athletics have participated in (Atlas and Athena, Wellness workshops) as well as the collaboration with Northeastern University and MIAA summits.
- E. Transportation Update - Ms. Wermers touched on the challenges that every district has been facing. Mr. Federico elaborated on the issues and reassured the Committee the district was working diligently on a solution. Danvers is working in collaboration with Salter to possibly hire current employees and train as drivers.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Recap of MASC Conference - Ms. Wermers presented an overview of the various presentation she attended. Many of the topics discussed were student mental health and Special Education issues.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Fiscal Year 2024 Town Budget Policy/Timeline - DRAFT - Mr. Crane spoke to the timeline of the budget process. The process begins in December and runs through approximately March when the Finance Committee votes then it goes to Town Meeting in May.
- B. Discussion regarding Interim Superintendent's Evaluation - Mr. Crane asked the Committee if they felt an evaluation should be done. Ms. Campbell said she believed it should and Mr. Kepnes agreed. Dr. Doherty believes there is a standard form that could be used and possibly move it out to March, a true six month evaluation.

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 October 24, 2022 meeting. As voted

C. Communications

NEC - Mrs. Wermers announced that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022.

Legislation – There was no Legislation update for this meeting.

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

Curriculum & Instruction/Equity Subcommittee - Mrs. Wermers has met with the curriculum directors. Work will continue regarding SEL and professional development. The committee will be meeting again in January for MCAS results.

Essex Tech - There was no update on Essex Tech for this meeting.

Policy - Mrs. Wermers said the Policy Committee is working on the update of the bullying policy.

DEEP – DEEP was addressed earlier in this meeting..

DanversCARES –

SEPAC - SEPAC was addressed earlier in this meeting.

DHRIC -

The next meeting will be held on December 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Doherty, Secretary
Danvers School Committee