

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
February 23, 2023

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: Holten Richmond Program of Studies - The Interim Superintendent recommended the HRMS Program of Studies for a 2nd reading. Dr. Doherty motioned to approve the Program of Studies. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Danvers High School Program of Studies - The Interim Superintendent recommended the DHS Program of Studies for a 2nd reading. Dr. Doherty motioned to approve the Program of Studies. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Home Schooling, Fundraiser, Field Trip - Mr. Crane recommended the approval of all consent Agenda. Mr. Kepes motioned to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – (The Secretary) moved to approve and release the minutes from the February 13, 2023 regular meeting. Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Danvers High School Program of Studies - The Interim Superintendent recommended the DHS Program of Studies for a 2nd reading. Dr. Doherty motioned to approve the Program of Studies. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Crane recommended the approval to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Doherty moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:30 p.m. Mrs. Campbell 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 7:05 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance recited and Mr. Crane stated that they were going to dispense from the reading of the Danvers Public Schools Mission statement. Mr. Crane inquired whether the meeting was being recorded by audience members and announced that the meeting was being broadcast on DCAT. Mr. Crane welcomed the new impending Superintendent, Dan Bauer who was there for the budget reading.

2. ITEMS OF INTEREST

A. Interim Superintendent Mary Wermer stated that she had nothing for this meeting.

B. Mr. Lopes inquired about building usage; Mr. Federico stated that they had a meeting with DPW and the Danves Recreation Director, Dave Mountain. They discussed what increasing public usage would look like. They looked at the current usage and then discussed the pros and cons of making certain spaces available. They noted that they would have to put a lot of policies in place like fee structures, staffing and what it would cost to add more usage. They will continue to talk

during their monthly meeting about field and school usage. At some point the committee will need to come up with a policy of who gets to use it, who gets preference points in the usage. There is a current field usage rental that we might be able to build off of.

3. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Lilly Abell reported Drama Feast was in full swing and it was going very well. The preview performance is March 2nd. These are grade 5 stories that are being told through the high schoolers. Lil also reported about the DHS wrestling team in their D3 North Sectionals. Joe Baker was the champion and also was voted the outstanding wrestler of the tournament. Adam Guzofski and Zack Zols came in third place. Logan Jacques, Matt Dowling and Mark Haskings come in fourth place. Reese MacDonald reported on the Acapella group Skyway performing at the ICHA in New York as well as the Jazz and Acapella Night that was held at DHS. This night has performances from both DHS and HRMS jazz bands and acapella groups. Reese also talked about students taking their first Mid-terms since 2020. The teachers really work with students to help them prepare for the upcoming test.

4. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Deep Grant Presentations - Mary Beth Verry and Mari Matt presented more than \$18,000.00 to support Danvers Teacher. This year they awarded 22 teachers from DHS, HRMS and Elementary. DEEP is also supporting the DECA program financial with the state competition which will be held in March

B. SHINE Program - Mr. Noron's HRMS students presented their SHINE Block program. SHINE block stands for Student Helping Individuals in Natural Environments. It is for all students in all grades. Students support learning center students in different activities like games, puzzles and working the weekly coffee cart. This program and a way of bringing all types of students together.

C. Strategic Plan for Special Education - Mrs. Lyn O'Neil, Director of Special Education speaks about the different programs that DPS has in its schools. Special education is a federally mandated program that is regulated through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which is the federal law, and the Massachusetts regulation 603 CMR 28.0. Eligible students, ages 3-22, receive specialized educational services that meet the legal standards of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). Danvers has multiple programs for our students which include Little Falcons (ages 3-5), Language Based Classroom, Learning Centers (elementary and secondary level), Therapeutic Learning Centers (elementary and secondary level), Supportive Classrooms, Transitional Classrooms (secondary levels), and Academic Support. Challenges that we are experiencing are with our out of district students. We currently have 69 IEP students who are placed in out of district programs. Ms. Wermers talks about the money needed to help with off setting the out of district cost. In the summer of 2021 we had 7 students with IEPs who required specialized school, move into our district. This has resulted in an additional \$960,000.00 in tuition in that special education line item that was unexpected.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing for the Danvers Public Schools 2023-2024 Budget -

Ms. Wermers gave a presentation of the draft FY24 DPS budget sharing details for both salaried and non-salary accounts. Mrs. O'Neil presented the special education challenges for the FY24 budget and Mr. Federico spoke about program increases within DHS. The Administrative Team answered questions asked by the Committee and the audience. The FY24 proposed budget is \$48,858,819.00 which is a \$2,235,341.00 increase presenting a 4.79% increase over FY23

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Holten Richmond Program of Studies - The Interim Superintendents recommended the HRMS Program of Studies for a 2nd reading. As voted
- B. Danvers High School Program of Studies - The Interim Superintendents recommended the the DHS Program of Studies for a 2nd reading. As voted

8. BUDGET

January Budget Report - Mrs. Crum shared the FY23 budget is good in many ways. Challenges with special education and transportation with out of district funding is still a concern. She is working with our homeless liaison regarding the cost of transportation.

9. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Consent Agenda - motion to approve fundraising and field trip requests as presented. As voted
- B. Minutes - (The Secretary) moved to approve and release the minutes from the February 13, 2023 regular meeting . As voted

10. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. NEC - Mrs. Wermers announced that they have settled their collective bargaining agreement with their teachers and teacher aide. They also share updates on their HVAC project and finance.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane reported that Constitutional Officers were sworn in and he is waiting for information regarding what Chapter 70 will be.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update - There was no update on the Subcommittee/Liaison for this meeting.
- D. Curriculum & Instruction/Equity Subcommittee - There was no update on the Curriculum & Instruction/Equity Subcommittee for this meeting.
- E. Policy - There was no Policy update this meeting.
- F. DEEP – Grants were presented earlier in the night.
- G. DanversCARES – DanversCARES that they are looking into educational campaigns regarding vaping with DHS and HRMS students.
- H. SEPAC - SEPAC had a meeting with the department of education.
- I. DHRIC - There is no DHRIC updates this meeting
- J. PERSONNEL - Notification of Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Retirements and Appointments - Ms. Wermers

The next regular meeting will be held on March 13, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Doherty, Secretary
Danvers School Committee