

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
April 10, 2023

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: School Choice Open Meeting - Dr. Doherty made a motion to open the public hearing in regards to school choice in Danvers. Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: School Choice - Mr. Crane asked for a motion to close the public hearing in regards to school choice. Mr. Kepnes motioned to close the public hearing on school choice. Mr. Crane asked for a motion to have Danvers Public Schools not accept school choice. Dr. Doherty made the motion to not accept school choice for the 23/24 school year. Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Project Citizen - Dr. Doherty made a motion all of the actions proposed by Project Citizen class and to continue the legacy. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Second Reading of the 23/24 School Year Calendar - Dr. Doherty recommended the approval of the 23/24 School Calendar/ Early Release Days. Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Home Schooling, Fundraiser, Field Trip - Mrs. Campbell recommended the approval of the Consent Agenda. Dr. Doherty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Dr. Doherty moved to approve and release the minutes from the March 13, 2023 regular meeting and approve and not release the minutes from the March 13, 2023 Executive Session. Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Crane recommended the approval to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kepnes moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:40 p.m. Dr. Doherty 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 7:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance recited

2. ITEMS OF INTEREST

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

B. Mrs. Campbell would like to address at a future school committee meeting regarding additional enrichment activities at the elementary school level that went away during COVID. Mrs. Campbell would like to get a look at what the return of programs would look like. Mrs. Wemers said that it was being worked on and would be shared at a later date.

Dr. Doherty talked about a bullying policy in the elementary schools due to behavior that has been happening at that level. Mrs. Wemers explained that there is a policy in place and they investigate all allegations. Mrs. Wemers stated that each school has a behavior team to handle these situations.

Mr. Crane talked about the loss of Jack Kelly a person who has done a lot for Danvers schools, especially special education students. Mr. Crane also talked about the restructuring of the school committee members at the next meeting. A new chair will be elected to the school board, until that time Mrs. Wermers will act as the school committee chair until the vote has been taken.

3. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Lilly Abell talked about the future falcons career fair. All students had a chance to visit over 20 career fields in the Vye gym. Senior week, each day was a special day for seniors. The Danvers High band was invited to play the national anthem at the Boston Red Sox game. Grade 9 & 10 just had the froshman dance in the atrium at DHS.

4. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Introduction of the new Athletic Director Andrew "Drew" Betts - Mr. Federico introduced the new Athletic Director, Drew Betts. Drew has been the Athletic Director for the Salem Academy Charter School since 2011, Co-Executive director for the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization since July 2012, his whole career has been with school based athletics, taught physical education as well as coached both soccer and baseball, graduated from Endicott College with both his bachelors and masters degree, with a focus on athletic administration, and he is also a certified Master Athletic Administrator through the National Interscholastic Athletic administration Association.

B. Presentation from DHS student on Project Citizen - Mr. John White (English Teacher) along with 5 DHS students presented Project Citizen. The final project for these students in the English class is project based. Students have to identify an issue in their community. They have to come to a consensus on one challenge that they have to work on as a class to try to solve. They work to become a collective agent of change in the community. Their project is Capturing Kindness. They capture short editing videos through social media on people doing specific acts of kindness in our community. Their goal was to show the kindness that our community of Danvers has. Project Citizen would like the help of the school committee to put out the information through DCAT, allow HMS and DHS students to view these films as well as putting them on the schools website.

C. Introduction of the new HRMS Principal Adam Colantuoni - Mr. Bauer introduced the new principal of the Holten Richmond Middle School, Adam Colantuoni. Adam is the Interim Principal at the Salem Collins Middle School, a year before becoming the interim principal in Salem, he was the Executive Director of Student Services and Family Support for Salem Schools, 6 years a principal of the Galvin Middle School in Wakefield Ma, Principal at the Hanover Middle School and he also served 3 years as the assistant principal at the Galvin Middle School in Wakefield Ma.

D. Budget - The governor has proposed a supplemental budget helping with expenses for next year. One of those is the school lunch program. They would like continuing with the universal free school lunch program for the 23/24, as well as having it be sustained through the 24/25 school year. Second proposal would be relief under the 14% OSD increase with the private school tuition. They are proposing \$75 million to help districts with it. There is one caveat with this is, they are not sure if there will be a threshold that a school district would have to reach in order to take advantage of the reimbursement money.

E. Website - After the survey was taken and presented we have made some small improvements. We have gotten rid of dead links, got rid of duplicate old home pages, cleaned up menus on the home page and got more pictures added of kids to see what they are doing in their schools.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing on School Choice for the Danvers Public School -

Ms. Wermers recommended not to accept school choice students for the 2023/2024 school year. This is in regards to students in other districts being allowed to pay a fee to transfer into the Danvers Public School for their education. Mr. Crane believes that we should not allow school choice for the 23/24 school year, however the committee feels that they should send it to a policy committee for review.

B. School Committee Retreat - Mr. Bauer met with Dorothy Pressor regarding a retreat with Mr. Bauer and the school committee members. The retreat would be for setting up expectations, communication, and our rolls for the upcoming year. This is done when a new superintendent comes into a district, but Mr. Bauer would like to see it happen on a regular basis.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 23/24 School Calendar and Early Release Days - The Interim Superintendents recommended the 23/24 school calendar/early release days for a 2nd reading. As voted

7. BUDGET

Budget Report - Mrs. Crum shared the March Budget review. Working of the end of the year budget funds. Looking at grants and making any changes in those funds that need to be done.

8. 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 March 13, 2023 regular meeting and approve but not release the minutes from the executive session meeting on March 13, 2023 As voted

9. COMMUNICATIONS

A. NEC - Ms. Wermers announced that NEC approved their budget, but was not release in final form.

B. Legislation - Mr. Crane will be reaching out to Mrs. Kerans and Mrs. Lovely regarding the threshold money for schools.

- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update - The curriculum and Equity meeting is being held on April 12th. There will be more information on special education programming and also elementary schedules.
- D. Curriculum & Instruction/Equity Subcommittee - There was no update on the Curriculum & Instruction/Equity Subcommittee for this meeting.
- E. Policy - Good meeting about better rental usage of the school buildings.
- F. DEEP - Twisted Fate Brewing hosted a comedy night with the proceeds being donated to DEEP. The spring fundraiser will be held Saturday May 6 from 5-8 at the Polish Club. They will have live viewing of the Kentucky Derby, food and drinks. Tickets can be purchased on-line. Step up for Colleen 5 K Walk/Run being held on May 7th.
- G. DanversCARES - DanversCARES have come up with a teen health & safety guide being put out in the Herald Citizen. May 17th is Light the Night Purple starting at the Peabody Institute Library.
- H. SEPAC - March 23, 2023 they held a resource fair for parents.
- 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 May 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Doherty, Secretary
Danvers School Committee