

## DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### REGULAR MEETING

September 11, 2023

School Committee Members Present:

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

**VOTED:** Executive Session Minutess - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve and release the Executive Session minutes from the 2022-22023 meetings Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** School Committee Meeting Dates Revision - Mr. Crane moved to approve the revised meeting schedule as presented. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Educatus - Mr. Crane motioned to support the spending of \$3,000 to begin the I17 application process. Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** District Improvement Plan - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the District Improvement Plan for a first reading Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Elementary Improvement Plan - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the Elementary Improvement Plans for a first reading Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Secondary Improvement Plans - Mr. Crane moved to approve the Secondary Improvement Plans for a first reading Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Consent Calendar- Mr. Crane motioned to approve the Consent Calendar items as presented. Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Minutes – Mrs. Campbell moved to approve and release the minutes from the August 21, 2023 regular meeting Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Adjournment – Mr. Kepnes moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:09 p.m. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## I. CALL TO ORDER

### Regular Meeting Call to Order

Dr. Doherty called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and the Danvers Public Schools Mission statement were recited. Dr. Doherty inquired whether the meeting was being recorded by audience members and announced that the meeting was being broadcast on DCAT.

## II. ITEMS OF INTEREST

Dr. Doherty read a statement reminding the public of the rules of how the public comment session of the School Committee meeting is run.

Community: Ms. Weeks addressed the Committee regarding Title I. She asked several questions - Dr. Doherty reminded her that this type forum was not a question and answer session and she could put her questions in writing to the Committee.

School Committee: Mr. Crane commented on the positive feedback he has received regarding the letter sent to families about our new members of the community.

## III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Announcement of Student Representatives - Adam Federico announced that Lillie Abbel will be returning this year and Julia Boyd, grade 11, will be joining the meetings. The Committee welcomed Julia.
- B. Annual DPS Safety Meeting - Mr. Bauer announced that the annual meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28th at 7 p.m. at the middle school. At that time procedures and protocols will be discussed.
- C. Opening of Schools - Mr. Bauer reported a very successful start to the school year. The first few days were just staff participating in professional development. Dan was able to visit all schools either during arrival or at dismissal time for the first week. Dan presented his dates for Superintendent's Coffee to be held monthly at the schools. There will be evening and afternoon dates as well in the future.
- D. Community SPIRIT - Jasmine Ramone was unable to attend. She will be present at the next meeting.
- E. Other - Mr. Bauer advised that the enrollment is up from last year. A solid update will be given once the October 1 numbers are certified. He also advised that Constitution day is September 18th and booklets will be distributed to the middle and high schools. Ms. Campbell asked about the temperatures in the classrooms over the extreme heat. Dan had met with the union and DPW to come up with ways in which to make adjustments for both staff and students to be comfortable.

## IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Ms. Campbell made a motion to approve and release the Executive Session minutes for the 2022 2023 school year. Mr. Crane seconded. As voted

## V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. School Committee Meeting Schedule Revision - Dr. Doherty presented a revised meeting date schedule. The hope is to have in-person presentations during the first meeting and other business during the virtual meeting. Mr. Crane moved to approve the revised meeting schedule as presented. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted
- B. Educatus - Superintendent Bauer explained to the Committee that Eductus is a foreign exchange program for students. This is a program that would not begin until next school year as there are approval steps that need to occur. Dan has experience through his former job with this program so he is familiar with the procedure. All students applications would be processed through the program before being presented to the District. The program charges a fee which would help to recoup the initial cost of the I17 application fee. Mr. Crane motioned to support the spending of \$3,000 to begin the I17 application process. Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion.
- C. School & District Improvement Plans - Superintendent Bauer began with the District Improvement goals. Some of the goals from last school year have not been completed so

this year will be to complete those and bring them to the next level. The plan of the goals is to fall in line with the School goals. Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the District Improvement Plan for a first reading Mr. Crane seconded. As voted.

Discussion: Mr. Lopes expressed his like of the detailed map of the goals. It made the presentation easy to follow. Mrs. Wermers presented on how the district plans to collect the data and use it as benchmark assessments over the next several years.

Julie Posternack and her team presented their individual school goals. Each school is aligning with the District goals and putting their individual school community goals into action. Each Principal presented what their individualized goal was. Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the Elementary Improvement Plans for a first reading Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. As voted.

Adam Federico and Adam Colantuoni presented their goals for the upcoming year. As with the District and Elementary, they will be continuing with last year's and taking them to the next level. Mr. Crane moved to approve the Secondary Improvement Plans for a first reading Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. As voted.

## **VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

A. Consent Agenda - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve fundraising requests, homeschool requests and field trip requests as presented Mr. Crane seconded. As voted

B. Minutes - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve and release the minutes from the August 23, 2023 regular meeting. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted

C. Communications

NEC - Mr. Bauer advised that the first meeting will be on the 13th and he will report at the next meeting.

D. Legislation - Mr. Crane no update.

E. Subcommittee/Liaison Update -

Curriculum & Equity - will be presentation on September 26, 2023

Policy - Safety Committee will hold its annual meeting on September 28th at the Holten-Richmond Middle School.

DEEP – First meeting will be on September 20, 2023

DanversCARES – First meeting will be held on September 18, 2023

SEPAC - No update at this time.

DHRIC - First meeting will be held on September 14, 2023

The next meeting will be held on September 26, 2023 at 6:30 p.m  
Virtual Meeting

Respectfully submitted,  
Mrs. Alice Campbell, Secretary  
Danvers School Committee