

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

September 26, 2023

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: Facilities Usage Policy - Mr. Lopes moved to approve the Facilities Usage Policy for a first reading Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Wellness Policy - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the Wellness policy for a first reading Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Civil Rights - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the Civil Rights Policy for a first reading Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: District Improvement Plan & K-12 School Improvement Plans: Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the Improvement Plans for a second reading Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: MASC/MASS Delegate - Mrs. Campbell motioned to nominate Dr. Doherty as MASC/MASS Delegate Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Consent Calendar- Mrs. Campbell 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 September 11, 2023 regular meeting Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Kepnes moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:50 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 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

No Items

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Community SPIRIT - Dr. Doherty welcomed Jasmine Ramone to the meeting. Jasmine introduced herself and explained her role with the Town of Danvers. Jasmine explained the event to be held on October 21, 2023 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. at DHS. The event is in partnership with schools. It is a day-long informational program with multiple sessions.

B. Subcommittee Policy Meeting Update -

Facilities Usage Policy - Mr. Bauer introduced Mr. Federico who presented to the Committee the Facility Usage Policy proposal. Within the policy it focuses that the students will have the priority when scheduling usage. Mr. Bauer recommends the approval of the Facility Usage Policy for a first reading. Mr. Lopes moved to approve the Facility Usage Policy for a first reading Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.

Discussion: Mr. Kepnes asked if there were rules for crowd control? Mr. Federico stated that the policy has no guidelines and clarification will be added. Mr. Lopes believes this to be a great opportunity to use the buildings and the usage of the funds will need to be discussed.

Wellness Policy - Mr. Bauer presented an overview of the policy. A big piece of the policy is to not have the fundraising conflict with school lunch. There is an "A" list of approved foods that the PAC may order from in order to meet specific guidelines. Mr. Bauer recommends the approval of the Wellness Policy for a first reading. Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the Wellness Policy for a first reading Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.

Discussion: Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Lopes were part of the discussions with the Policy Committee. They informed the School Committee that due to State and Federal regulations there is not much flexibility. The sub-committee believes they can work collaboratively with the PAC's to find solutions. Mr. Reilly has worked with his Thorpe PAC for some solutions that they are beginning to implement.

Civil Rights: Mr. Bauer presented an overview of the discussion with the attorney. The Attorney recommends to hold on policy AC & AC-E until Spring. Mr. Bauer recommends the removal of Policy AC for a first reading. Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the Civil Rights Policy for a first reading Mr. Lopes seconded. As voted.

- C. Safety Committee Update - Mr. Bauer reported that the annual Safety Committee meeting will be held on September 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School. The Community is welcome to attend and hear updates from the Police, Fire, and Safety Committee. One topic that has been and will continue to be discussed is the importance of faculty sign out/in for the purpose of accountability.

- D. MCAS - Mr. Bauer introduced Mrs. Wermers who provided information to the Committee on the MCAS results and how the data will be looked at in order to strategize for the future. As has been the case in future years, there are areas of concern and areas of strength. One new factor is the option to now opt out. Some discussion followed regarding this.

- E. Other - Mr. Bauer advised that the district continues to enroll students as part of the emergency assistance. To date there have been 58 students enrolled.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. District Improvement Plan & K-12 School Improvement Plans - Mr. Bauer recommends the approval of the District Improvement Plan & K-12 School Improvement plans for a second reading. Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the Improvement Plans Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. MASC/MASS Delegate - Mr. Bauers announced that he will be attending the MASC/MASS workshop in November. Mrs. Campbell nominated Dr. Doherty as a delegate Mr. Kepnes seconded. 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. Kepnes seconded. As voted
- B. Minutes - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve and release the minutes from the September 11, 2023 regular meeting. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted
- C. Communications
NEC - No update
- D. Legislation - No update
- E. Subcommittee/Liaison Update -

Curriculum & Equity - Previously covered

Policy - Previously covered

DEEP – Mr. Bauer & Mrs. Wermers attended the first meeting

DanversCARES – First meeting was held on September 18, 2023

SEPAC - No update at this time.

DHRIC - There has been an abundance of donations made to the families that the Committee has been distributing. They will be looking for donations for seasonal items. More information to follow.

The next meeting will be held on October 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m
Multi-Purpose Room - Holten-Richmond Middle School

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