

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

October 16, 2023

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: Policy ACAB Removal - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the removal of Policy ACAB for a second reading Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: DHS Library Naming - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the naming of the DHS library for Colleen Ritzer for a first reading Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Essex Tech Representative: Mrs. Campbell moved to approve Michael Landers continue as the Danvers representative to the Essex Tech Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mrs. Campbell moved to approve and release the minutes from the September 26, 2023 regular meeting Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mrs. Campbell moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:32 p.m. Mr. Kepnes 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

School Committee: Mr. Crane complimented Mr. Bauer on the recent Town Budget Presentation. Mr. Kepnes acknowledged Principal Federico on the recent broadcast regarding the High School being recognized for its Advanced Placement program success.

Community: Guy Onorio addressed the School Committee with questions he had in regards to the MCAS District Profile. Dr. Doherty advised that Mary Wermers would be addressing these concerns during her presentation. As well, he was advised that the Policy Subcommittee would be meeting on October 30, 2023 if he wished to attend (via Zoom) and they would be addressing the MCAS results at that time.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Doherty welcomed the students to the meeting. Lilly advised that the upcoming week was Kindness Week. Assemblies were held for each class. Julia spoke on the upcoming SPIRIT week. Each day there was a theme and there was lots of participation from both faculty and students.

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Highlands School Pride: John Obromski was present to give a presentation on the sense of belonging work the school has been conducting. They have programs in place such as Highlands High Five to help promote student involvement.
- B. Massachusetts Certificate of Academic Excellence: Adam Federico introduced student Isha Patel to the School Committee. Isha is an accomplished student who was present to receive the Massachusetts Certificate of Academic Excellence award. In addition to Isha's multiple AP classes she takes she also performs an internship with Metronics.
- C. October 1 Enrollment: Superintendent Bauer had news that the enrollment is up at the High School level. Mr. Federico has done a good job working with the Middle School to keep the retention rate from dropping. There was a slight decrease in the Middle School and that will be looked into.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Policy ACAB - Mr. Bauer recommends the approval of removing the policy ACAB for a second reading. Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the removal of policy ACAB Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.
- B. Building Rental Policy - Mr. Federico and the committee have been continuing their work on the policy. The Attorneys have made a few adjustments to the language. It is recommended that the policy be put on the October 30th agenda for the final reading.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. DHS Library - Mr. Bauer recommends the request to name the DHS Library for Colleen Ritzer for a first reading. Julie Glynn, math teacher at DHS, presented a proposal to the School Committee to name the High School Library in memory of Colleen Ritzer. Julie explained that she had also spoken with the Ritzer family to receive their blessing. Mr. Crane moved to approve the naming of the High School Library for Colleen Ritzer for a first reading. Mrs. Campbell seconded. As voted.
- B. Essex Tech Representative: Dr. Doherty advised that Mike Landers could not be present at tonight's meeting. Mrs. Campbell moved to approve Michael Landers continue as the Danvers representative to the Essex Tech. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.
- C. Professional Practice Goals: Mr. Bauer presented the School Committee with his goals. He has been visiting schools, meeting with students and staff and getting a sense of their community. Dan will continue to meet with individual Principals to work on setting their goals. Dan has continued to meet with his coach, who happened to be present in the audience, as part of his three year Superintendent Induction Program.
- D. MCAS - Elementary Presentation - Julie Posternack and the elementary Principals were present to provide the School Committee with an update on the recently released data. The presentation included the findings as well as the actions the administration plans to take in order to increase the scores and satisfy the needs of the students.

VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Minutes - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve and release the minutes from the September 26, 2023 regular meeting. Mr. Crane seconded. As voted
- B. Communications
NEC - Next meeting will be held on October 25, 2023
- C. Legislation - No update

E. Subcommittee/Liaison Update -

Curriculum & Assessment - Next meeting October 30, 2023

Policy - Previously covered

DEEP – Next meeting to be held on October 18, 2023

DanversCARES – Meeting initiatives discussed at first meeting

SEPAC - Meeting to be held October 25, 2023.

DHRIC - The recent family dinner held on October 14th at the High School was a huge success.

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

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