

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

November 13, 2023

School Committee Members Present:

Robin Doherty, Chair
Eric Crane
Joshua Kepnes
Gabe Lopes

VOTED: Great Rock Church - Mr. Cranel moved to approve the Great Rock Church for a second reading Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the October 16 and 30, 2023 regular meetings and to approve but not release the minutes from the October 16, 2023 Executive Session Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Lopes moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:40 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 6:32 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

There were no items of interest

III. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The students were not present

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Thorpe School Pride: Brian Reilly was present to give a presentation on Thorpe Pride. He provided an overview of what the Tiger Five assemblies were about. The school's music teacher has written a song which incorporates the core values. Mr. Reilly advised the Committee about the changes to the arrival process in the morning which have made for a smoother transition.
- B. Special Education Update: Lyn O'Neil, Director of Student Services presented to the Committee an update on the current models currently in place for the district and then presented the improvement strategy. Lyn then went on to present the changes that have been implemented at each level. The changes will continue to be adopted for a better outcome. She went on to explain that the co-teaching has been restructured at the middle school level and changes are scheduled to happen at the high school level. Dr. Doherty voiced her concerns and would like to see the changes happen sooner rather than later.
- C. Absenteeism Update: Superintendent Bauer introduced Gail Avery, Student Support and Attendance coordinator. Gail addressed the state wide problem with absenteeism. Part of this is due to the pandemic and getting students back to school. The data for this school year has improved but there is still much concern. Dr. Doherty was concerned about the absentee

numbers for last year's grade 2 students, now grade 3 - what is getting in the way of the student attending school? Gail advised that they are keeping an eye on this. Mr. Crane expressed the importance of engaging parents and getting their students to school. Mr. Kepnes asked if there seems to be a common theme. Gail believes one of the issues is students and phones.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Great Rock Church - Mr. Bauer recommends the approval of the Great Rock Church for a second reading. Mr. Crane moved to approve the Great Rock Church proposal Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. DTA Negotiations Update - Mr. Bauer advised that there is not much at this time to update - waiting to hear from the Union.
- B. Emergency Assistance Families - Mrs. Wermers updated the Committee that parent/guardian conferences were held and provisions were made so all families could participate. The after school program has begun as well and there are currently 25 families participating.

VII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Minutes - Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the October 16 and October 30, 2023 regular meetings and approve but not release the minutes from the October 16th Executive Session. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted

- B. Communications
NEC - No update

- C. Legislation - No update

- E. Subcommittee/Liaison Update -

Curriculum & Assessment - No update

Policy - No update

DEEP – No update

DanversCARES – Presentation by HAWK at previous meeting

SEPAC - No update.

DHRIC - Next meeting will be held on November 16, 2023.

The next meeting will be held on November 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m
Virtual

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