

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

November 27, 2023

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: Consent Agenda- Mrs. Campbell motioned to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Kepnes moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:43 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 of Interest.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Special Education Update -

PreK Audit - Lyn O'Neil and Eric Oxford were present to advise the Committee the purpose of the PreK audit. They presented the strengths of the program and where there was room for improvement. The curriculum for the program will be aligned for the level of preparedness for kindergarten. The consultants will begin the beginning of December and the final report should be done by the end of January. Once the audit is completed they will be back to present the findings.

Budget Presentation - Superintendent Bauer presented to the Committee a summary of the Student Services budget proposal as it was presented to the Town. The presentation was based on student data from the beginning of October. Lyn O'Neil provided data on the 72 students who are currently out of district placed. The focus of the proposed additional staff is to help reduce the out of district placements. If we are able to bring some of the students back into the district it would not only have a positive impact on the budget but also on the children's sense of belonging.

Elementary Program Review - Eric Oxford began his presentation by stating that the focus of the shifting of classes across the district is to promote equity across all schools and increase the efficiency within the special education programs. As the current programs are now there are two schools in the district that do not have specialized special education programs. The changes for this year will provide for 4 out of 5 of the elementary schools to house specialized programs. Mrs. Campbell inquired as to how this will be communicated to families. Eric explained that he has been personally on the phone with the families that are affected.

B. Handbook Revisions - Superintendent Bauer explained that although the Student Handbooks were previously approved, the Middle and Elementary schools handbooks were still being reviewed by the attorneys. The high school's handbook had been revised with the attorney

recommendations for August. There are no substantial changes but some language has been updated. Mr. Bauer will place it on the December agenda for a first and second reading.

- C. NEASC 5 Year Report - Mr. Federico presented an overview of the NEASC report. Currently the high school is at the halfway point of the 10 year evaluation cycle. The District received 17 commendations supporting the accreditation. The decennial review is scheduled for 2028. Mrs. Campbell asked if the report areas that are in need of improvement, Mr. Federico stated that you would need to refer back to the original 10 year report for those.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Monthly Budget Report - Mrs. Crum presented the Committee with the October budget. She explained to the Committee that the numbers were based on the budget numbers from the spring. As you can see, athletic training and Special Education were significantly higher. The Circuit Breaker account and several grants will help with the numbers. The budget transfers outline where salaries need adjusting.

V. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Consent Agenda - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the homeschool requests, fundraising requests, field trip requests, donation and personnel memo as presented Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted
- B. Communications
No update
- C. Legislation - Mr. Crane gave an update from Representative Sally Kearns
- D. Subcommittee/Liaison Update -

Curriculum & Equity - No Update

Policy - Previously covered

DEEP – Mr. Bauer updated that the Teacher Grants are in the process of being reviewed for approval.

DanversCARES – The next meeting will be held on December 4, 2023

SEPAC - No update at this time.

DHRIC - Mr. Lopes reported on the upcoming events happening within the Town.

The next meeting will be held on December 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m
Multi-Purpose Room - Holten-Richmond Middle School

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