

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

December 11, 2023

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: Elementary & Middle School Handbooks- Mr. Crane moved to approve the Elementary and HRMS updated Student Handbooks for a second reading Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mrs. Campbell moved to approve and release the minutes from the November 13 and 27, 2023 regular meetings and to approve but not release the minutes from the November 13, 2023 Executive Session Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mrs. Campbell moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:20 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

Lilly updated the Committee on the events that have occurred or will be occurring at the High School. The play Little Women, the boys cross country team winning the Division 2 state title, the band & chorus trip to Hawaii and the swim team winning over Beverly to name a few.

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Riverside School Pride: Sarah Fitzgerald along with several students was present to give a presentation on Riverside Pride. The student spoke on behalf of their grade level and what they have been doing in order to promote a sense of belonging. There has been a food pantry drive, participation in Baby Sharks and participation in ST math. Sarah advised that the ST team visited Riverside recently. She also thanked the PAC for their support with their cultural events.
- B. Boys Cross Country Team: Athletic Director, Drew Betts proudly introduced Jeff Bartlett, the boys cross country coach and teacher at Holten-Richmond Middle School. Jeff laughed that the team has been on a victory tour the past week. At that point he introduced the team and asked them to come up with him. The highlight for the team was the police escort through the town the day of their win.

- C. VOCAL Data Presentation: Assistant Superintendent Wermers presented to the Committee the data results that were collected from the survey in the spring. The data that is collected is used to create the frameworks for a sense of belonging. Staff is also looking to see if patterns continue from one cohort to the next. After reviewing the information from all the data it is safe to say that the older students have a better understanding of what a sense of belonging is. Dr. Doherty asked if the survey was taken after the MCAS testing. Mary advised that it is. Dan added that as part of his entry plan, he is trying to get a survey out to faculty, parents & students and work with the feedback from those results.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Elementary & HRMS Updated Student Handbooks - Mr. Bauer recommends the approval of the updated Elementary and HRMS Student Handbooks for a second reading. Mr. Crane moved to approve the updated Student Handbooks for a second reading Mrs. Campbell seconded. As voted.

VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Minutes - Mrs. Campbell 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. Crane seconded. As voted

B. Communications

NEC - Superintendent Bauer shared the NEC Annual Report with the Committee. He advised there will be an important board vote soon to replace the existing HVAC system. Ultimately this could lead to a potential tuition increase for each community.

- C. Legislation - Mr. Crane gave an update from Representative Kearnes

E. Subcommittee/Liaison Update -

Curriculum & Assessment - No update

Policy - No update

DEEP – No update

DanversCARES – Will be sending out survey to identify best times to meet

SEPAC - Mr. Kepnes advised they are continuing to formalize their presentation.

DHRIC - Next meeting will be held on December 20, 2023.

The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2023 at 6:30 p.m

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