

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

January 8, 2024

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: Minutes – Mrs. Campbell moved to approve and release the minutes from the December 11, 2023 regular meeting and to approve but not release the minutes from the December 11, 2023 Executive Session Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Kepnes moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:36 p.m. Mr. Lopes 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

Mr. Pawlak addressed the Committee on the upcoming Martin Luther King celebration that will be held on Monday, January 15, 2024 at Danvers High School. Mr. Pawlak encouraged everyone in attendance to attend.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Lilly updated the Committee on the upcoming exams as well as five students named All-Scholastic student athletes for the fall season, DHS had 11 students participate in the Northeast District Senior Music Festival and Tim Bowler received the prestigious 2024 Excellence in Music Scholarship.

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. DPW Electric Division Calendar: Principal Colantuoni and Erica DeDonato were present to recognize the winners of the Electric Division calendar contest. Submissions for the calendar were submitted by sixth grade students at HRMS. Congratulations to all.
- B. Commendation - Volunteer Outreach: Mary Wermers called staff members from Highlands school to come up and be recognized for their efforts in making sure that all EA families including parents and siblings were taken care of for the holiday season. Mary then asked faculty members Meg White, John White, Amy Grobiero to come and be recognized for their organizing efforts to make sure the students had a place to go each day during the winter break. Thank you to the Demakis family for donating 250 meals to families and Amy Grobiero for coordinating the donation of gift cards to go along with the meals.
- C. EA Update: The state has begun consolidating sites in the EA program. Danvers will be enrolling 34 new students between December and January, in addition to the 21 students who have moved into the district. Some levels of classes have begun to be full. Dr. Doherty asked

what happens when a class level becomes full - a new class will need to open. Mr. Crane asked if class sizes were being looked at while building the budget. The question was asked what services were being offered to our EA students. Mary advised we have hired more ESL teachers and ESL aides across the district. The state is currently paying the district \$104/day for each student. An initial \$50,000 was paid to the district which has gone toward the after school program. Dr. Doherty asked if there were any other incentives for the district. Mary advised that the state has waived the fee for teachers who need to take the SEI class and they are offering translation services, however, the district's service provider has been more reliable. Mr. Bauer thanked Mary and her team for their efforts.

- D. DPS Budget Process FY25: Superintendent Bauer presented the Committee with slides outlining the budget timeline and process. The budget workshop will allow all stakeholders to make their presentations for feedback. Dr. Doherty likes the idea of the schools presenting their own needs.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. NEC Update: Superintendent Bauer updated the Committee that the NEC Board has voted to proceed with the upgrade to the HVAC system. Each district will be assessed a portion of the repair. In addition, the tuition for each district will also be increased. The final numbers have not been determined at this time.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Town of Danvers Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Goals and Objectives, Draft: Superintendent Bauer distributed the Town's budget goals and objectives for FY25. This is just for informational purposes only - does not require any vote.

VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Minutes - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve and release the minutes from the December 11, 2023 regular meeting and approve but not release the minutes from the December 11, 2023 Executive Session. Mr. Crane seconded. As voted

- B. Communications
NEC - Previously discussed.

- C. Legislation - Mr. Crane gave an update regarding cuts to the budget that need to occur.

- E. Subcommittee/Liaison Update -

Curriculum & Assessment - Next meeting is January 22, 2024

Policy - Next meeting February 26, 2024

DEEP – Wine tasting has been scheduled for March, DEEP grants have been awarded

Safety - Next meeting January 29, 2024. Superintendent Bauer advised that the committee is looking into an app that would allow faculty to be notified of an emergency as it is occurring. The District will be formulating a protocol.

DanversCARES – no update

SEPAC - Mr. Kepnes advised there has been a new IEP form developed with an

implementation date of September 2024..

DHRIC - Mr. Pawlak previously gave MLK presentation.

The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2024 at 6:30 p.m Virtual

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