

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

January 22, 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 January 8, 2024 regular meeting and approve but not release the January 8, 2024 Executive Session minutes. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: DHS Program of Studies: Mr. Kepnes motioned to approve the High School Program of Studies for a first reading. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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 8:15 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. Crane thanked all who were involved in the planning and execution of the MLK celebration. Dr. Doherty commented that everything was family friendly and a fun event.

Principal Powers addressed the solar project that is happening at Smith School. The students were very inquisitive as to what was happening. She suggested they come up with a list of questions they have and she would see if someone would speak with the students regarding the project. The project manager came in and spoke with the children about the project. It was very educational.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Project 351: Superintendent Bauer introduced Principal Colantuoni who provided the Committee with a summary of the program. This is a statewide program that unites 8th grade ambassadors from 351 cities and towns across Massachusetts. On January 13th, student Kyle Hampe represented HRMS at the JFK Presidential Library. Kyle was unable to attend the meeting but would like to in the future. Dr. Doherty thought that would be a wonderful idea. Mrs. Campbell & Mr. Kepnes both agree Kyle was a wonderful ambassador choice.

- B. Curriculum & Equity Subcommittee Update: Mary Wermers provided the Committee with an update on the district's CRPLA (Culturally Responsive Practices Leadership Academy) She then introduced elementary curriculum director, Julie Posternack, who provided an update on the equity work in the elementary schools. Julie explained the ELA pilot that has been implemented across the district in grades K-5.
- C. DPS Website Update: Superintendent Bauer introduced Technology Director, Jim Sullivan, who gave a presentation on the soon to be released website. The new design was developed from the results of the survey sent to families. The Committee agreed that it is much more user friendly and easier to navigate. The release date is to be determined but the hope is to have it up by the end of February. Mr. Crane inquired as to who would be responsible for keeping the information current. Jim explained it would be updated at the building level.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The Superintendent recommends the approval of the High School Program of Studies for a first reading. Peter DiMauro, High School Curriculum Director, presented to the Committee the new offerings and the change in the honor roll policy. Dr. Doherty was pleased to see new offerings for SEL and ESL. She then asked if there would be a cap at which low enrollment courses would not run. Mr. DiMauro explained that yes, there would be. Mr. Federico explained that the staff was flexible and willing to help accommodate students with schedules.
- B. Monthly Budget Report: Pam Crum presented the monthly budget to the Committee. The usual areas of difficulty continue to be transportation and special education. There were no questions.

V. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Minutes - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve and release the minutes from the January 8, 2024 regular meeting and approve but not release the minutes from the January 8, 2024 Executive Session. Mr. Crane seconded. As voted
- B. Consent Agenda - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve the fundraising requests, field trip requests, donation and personnel memo as presented Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted
- C. Communications
NEC - Superintendent Bauer advised that the HVAC project would be going forward and the individual community assessments would be forthcoming.
- D. Legislation - Mr. Crane gave an update that the cuts to the budget will not affect educational funding.
- E. Subcommittee/Liaison Update -

Curriculum & Assessment - Previously covered

Policy - Next meeting March 4, 2024

DEEP – Wine tasting has been scheduled for March,

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 - No Update.

DHRIC- Superintendent Bauer reflected on the MLK Celebration's success.

The next meeting will be held on February 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m

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