

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

March 25, 2024

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: Wellness Center: Msr. Campbell motioned to allow fundraising to begin subject to individual events for the purpose of renovating the wellness center. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: 2024-2025 School Calendar- Mrs. Campbell motioned to approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar for a second reading. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was 4-1.

VOTED: Student Opportunity Act- Mr. Crane motioned to approve the Student Opportunity Act as presented. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Crane moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:38 p.m. to enter into executive session not to return to the regular meeting. 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 6:30 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. Accessibility Committee Update - Superintendent Bauer introduced Chris Farrer. Chris introduced herself to the Committee and explained what the Accessibility Committee is about. Everyone on the committee either has a disability or is connected to someone with one. They have been attending public meetings to make people aware of what they represent and how they can help. Mr. Crane and Dr. Doherty thanked Chris for her attending the meeting.
- B. Essex Tech: Superintendent Bauer introduced Mike Landers who provided the committee an update on the current applicants and accepted Daavers students at the Tech. The Danvers enrollment is consistent with previous years. Dr. Doherty thanked Mike for his update. Mr. Crane inquired as to any expansions as to buildings or programs. Mike advised they are looking to add a few programs. Mr. Kepnes asked the number of students applying from the middle school. Mike believes the number to be approximately 138 of which $\frac{1}{3}$ will attend. Mrs. Campbell would like to make sure parents know of their students' options.
- C. Athletic Director Drew Betts: Superintendent Bauer introduced Athletic Director Drew Betts who introduced the senior students who participated in the Northeastern MIAA Captains workshop. The students worked together through the Project Citizen program and came up with Falcon Fan Pass. the pass would allow students to pay a one time fee that would allow

them into home athletic games. This would help alleviate students to pay at the door, would increase student attendance which in turn increases school unity. Mrs. Campbell thought it is a great idea and they may want to expand to middle school students eventually.

Wellness Center Improvements - Mr. Betts presented a proposal to begin fundraising efforts to update the current wellness center. The updates would benefit physical education classes as well as athletic teams. There is also the possibility to open the facility up to the community and recreation programs as well. Mrs. Campbell motioned to allow fundraising to begin subject to individual events for the purpose of renovating the wellness center. Mr. Crane seconded.

The vote was unanimous

- D. PreK Audit Executive Report: Superintendent Bauer introduced Bethany Stangas, PreK coordinator who provided the Committee with an overview of the current Preschool program and an update on the findings from the audit recently performed for the district. Consultants from Seaside Educational provided the district with an objective report. The audit consisted of interviews, observations, review of pertinent documents and a walkthrough of Riverside. At the conclusion recommendations were made, some of which were in the process of being done.
- E. Special Education Update: Administration is reviewing the leadership and will provide an update at another meeting.
- F. Mid-Year District Accomplishments: Superintendent Bauer provided an overall district update. Julie Posternack spoke on behalf of the elementary schools, Adam Colantuoni spoke for HRMS and Adam Federico for the High School. Dr. Doherty thanked everyone for their hard work.
- G. General Curriculum Update: Julie Posternack provided the Committee with the elementary progress as far as where the schools started and where they are now at. Ellyn Feerick spoke on the HRMS ELA piloting programs, math professional development, student shadowing and exploratory cycle design. Drew Betts spoke on Health & Wellness frameworks.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. The Superintendent recommends the approval of the 2024-2025 School Calendar for a second reading: Mrs. Campbell motioned to approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar for a second reading. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was 4-1.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Monthly Budget Report: Mrs. Crum presented the Committee with the February budget. The struggles continue to be similar with prior months. Dr. Doherty thanked Pam for her work.
- B. Pre K Fee Proposal 24-25: Moved to the 4/8/24 meeting.
- C. The Superintendent recommends the approval of the Student Opportunity Act as presented: Mary Wermers explained the Student Opportunity Act and its key components to the Committee. The Superintendent recommends the approval of the Student Opportunity Act as presented. Mr. Crane motioned to approve the Student Opportunity Act as presented. Msr. Campbell seconded. The vote was unanimous

The next meeting will be held on April 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m
Multi-Purpose Room - Holten-Richmond Middle School

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