

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

April 8, 2024

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: Director of Student Services: Mr Crane motioned to approve Christina Ryan as Director of Student Services contingent on negotiations and grant Dan Bauer the authority to negotiate the contract. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Pre K Fee Proposal 24-25- Mr Crane motioned to table the fee proposal until the April 29th meeting at which time a vote would be taken. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Student Services Reorganization FY25: Mr. Crane motioned to approve the Student Services Reorganization as presented. Mr. Lopes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve and release the minutes from the March 4, March 11 and March 25, 2024 regular meetings and approve but not release the minutes from the March 25, 2024 Executive Session. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Kepnes moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:38 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 6:00 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

Public: Shannon Chan spoke to the Committee on behalf of the AFSCME Aides unit in regards to the ongoing negotiations. Dave Hester, President of AFSCME 1098 spoke in support of the Teacher aides. Kerri Demers, district literacy coach, also addressed the Committee on behalf of the aides.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The students were not present.

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Smith Pride - Superintendent Bauer introduced Principal, Violetta Powers, who was accompanied by students from each grade level. The students project was to research a famous person. Each grade level had the opportunity to present their person to the Committee.
- B. Introduction of Amanda Murphy : Superintendent Bauer introduced Amanda Murphy, incoming

Principal for Great Oak School. Amanda spoke of her excitement in joining the district. The Committee excitedly welcomed Amanda to the district.

- C. Legislator Update: Senator Lovely and Representative Kearns were present to provide the Committee an update on the budget and EA funding. Mrs. Campbell asked why EA students being housed in Danvers could not be sent to area towns who currently do not have students.

Representative Kearns advised they cannot be placed in area towns due to the federal McKinney Vento law. Mr. Crane questioned Senator Lovely on the “rainy day fund” she had spoken about. Doesn’t the State feel it is time to use the funds? The Committee thanked them both for their updates.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Director of Student Services Interview: Superintendent Bauer reviewed the interview process with the Committee and how they arrived at their recommendation. Dr. Doherty and the Committee introduced themselves and asked Ms. Ryan to introduce herself before they would be asking a series of questions. After much discussion and questions, Mr Crane motioned to approve Christina Ryan as Director of Student Services contingent on negotiations and grant Dan Bauer the authority to negotiate the contract. Mrs. Campbell seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- B. Pre K Fee Proposal 24-25: Superintendent Bauer presented the proposed fee schedule for the preschool. The current fees have been in place for the last 15 years without an increase. Comparisons were done with area towns. Mrs. Campbell commented that the proposed increase would put us near the top payment. Mr Kepnes asked how this compared with private preschools in the area. Superintendent Bauer said it would not be a fair comparison as our teachers are certified and we have OT and PT services. Mr. Lopes asked if there was a way to base the tuition on the family's income. Mrs. Campbell suggested perhaps a tiered system. Mr Crane motioned to table the fee proposal until the April 29th meeting at which time a vote would be taken. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- C. Student Services Reorganization FY25: Superintendent Bauer presented to the Committee the reorganization plan. Mr. Crane questioned having only 2 coordinators and not 3 as to help the psychologists. Superintendent Bauer explained that they are only to put 2 of the positions into the budget. The psychologists will play a bigger role in running meetings. Mrs. Campbell expressed the same concern as Mr. Crane. After discussion, Mr. Crane motioned to approve the Student Services Reorganization as presented. Mr. Lopes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Minutes - Mrs. Campbell moved to approve and release the minutes from the March 4, March 11 and March 25, 2024 regular meetings and approve but not release the minutes from the March 25, 2024 Executive Session. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted
- B. Consent Agenda: Mr. Kepnes moved to approve the fundraising requests, out of state field trip request, ski club & track stipends and personnel memo. Mrs. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- C. Legislation - Previously Updated
- D. Subcommittee/Liaison Update -
- Curriculum & Assessment - No update
 - Policy - Next meeting end of April
 - Safety - Next meeting end of April
 - DEEP – Wine Tasting was held in March and Mrs. Verry thanked everyone for the success of the event
 - DanversCARES – Date for Lite the Nite Purple set.
 - SEPAC - Jen Corsino thanked the Committee for allowing her to provide an update. The Treasure Hunt hosted over 60 students and was a huge success. The next meeting will be held the beginning of May and the SEPAC looks forward to working with the

new Student Services Director.

DHRIC - No update.

The next meeting will be held on April 29, 2024 at 5:30 p.m
Virtual Meeting

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