

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

January 13, 2025

School Committee Members Present:

Gabe Lopes, Chair
Eric Crane, Secretary
Joshua Kepnes
Sean Doherty
Michael Shannon

VOTED: DHS Program of Studies: Mr. Crane moved to approve the High School 2025-2026 Program of Studies. Mr. Shannon seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Assistant Superintendent Search Process: Mr. Lopes moved to approve the process for search for an Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Crane seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Consent Agenda: Mr. Shannon moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Doherty seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes - Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the December 9th regular meeting. Mr. Doherty seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Kepnes moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Shannon seconded. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lopes called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Danvers Public Schools Mission statement were recited. Mr. Lopes inquired whether the meeting was being recorded by audience members and announced that the meeting was being broadcast on DCAT.

II. ITEMS OF INTEREST

Community: Mr. Paul Pawlak representing the Human Rights & Inclusion Committee spoke on behalf of the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. day celebration. He wanted to make sure the word got out and that everyone was welcome to attend. Mr. Lopes expressed what a wonderful event this was last year.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Student Representatives Report - Superintendent Bauer introduced Julia and Olivia (Ollie) who updated the Committee on the events throughout schools. Due to the winter break there was not much to report on. The high school held a blood drive and there was a presentation for grades 10 - 12 with 2 guest speakers that was very interesting.
- B. Recognition - Highlands Elementary: Before bringing representatives from Highlands up, Superintendent Bauer would like to commend the elementary schools with their community service efforts. Principal Obremski, Kellee Boudreault, and Edju Gasinowski were present to receive recognition for their efforts over the past holiday season. As Kellee and Edju explained the teachers are a large part of the process. The students were very excited to bring in items for others and to be a part of the donations. Mr. Shannon thanked everyone for their work and it exemplifies their level of care and compassion for the community. Mr. Crane expressed his thankfulness in planting the seeds in students to give back to the community.
- C. Project 351 Representative HRMS: Principal Colantuoni explained to the Committee the process

for which this year's recipient was chosen. Principal Colantuoni introduced John Veasley who was this year's choice to participate in the project. John is a wonderful scholar, optimistic student who brings a positive attitude to the classroom on a daily basis. Mr. Lopes asked John if he was excited for the project. John expressed he was very excited for the opportunity and thanked his mother and father. Mr. Kepenes expressed he know the student who was chosen last year and knows John will do well. The Committee expressed their congratulations.

- D. Introduction David Pulsifer, Transportation & Operations Coordinator: Superintendent Bauer introduced Mr. Pulsifer, Transportation & Operations Coordinator. David provided the Committee an update of what has been accomplished since his joining the district in October. He will be working on some procedural processes that need to be put into place as well as looking on ways to consolidate rates with other districts for out of district transportation. The Committee welcomed him and look forward to progress updates.
- E. Budget Timeline Update: Superintendent Bauer updated the Committee that he has been working with the administrative team on the slides for the budget workshop.
- F. Communication Update: Superintendent Bauer has reached out to the attorney for guidance on communications. The Committee received the response back - there is a line of balance between federal, state and local laws when it comes to student privacy. Mr. Bauer reviewed the recommendations for public communication. Mr. Crane appreciates trying to find a way to disseminate information, be transparent as possible while being limited to the information that can be shared. Mr. Lopes thanked Mr. Bauer for addressing this in a timely fashion. This shows clarity and steps to protect students.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Monthly Budget: Pam Crum presented the December budget report to the Committee. There has been a change in special education costs, both in tuition and transportation. The district is still waiting for the reimbursement payments for the EA transportation. It was expected in December but has not arrived. Mr. Crane asked if many EA students are still being transported. Pam advised they are - they are also being transported from different communities to here.
- B. DHS 2025-2026 Program of Studies: Superintendent Bauer recommends the approval of the High School 2025-2026 Program of Studies. Mr. Crane motion to approve the High School 2025-2026 Program of Studies. Mr. Shannon seconded. As voted.
- C. Special Education Update: Ms. Ryan was present to update the Committee on the progress of the recommendations from the recent special education audit. The Committee thanked Ms. Ryan for addressing the recommendations on a timely basis. Mr. Lopes asked if Student Services had a projection on expected out of district costs for the foreseeable future. Ms. Ryan believes they have a projected number of students.
- D. Competency Determination Update: Mr. Bauer presented an overview of the proposed Competency Determination plan with MCAS being eliminated. Each district needs to implement their own policy. A formal policy proposal will be presented at the February 10th meeting.
- E. Assistant Superintendent Search Process: Mr. Bauer presented the timeline of the search process to the Committee. The groundwork has begun but he wanted the School Committee's approval prior to moving forward. Mr. Lopes motioned to approve the process for the Assistant Superintendent search. Mr. Crane seconded. As voted.

V. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Minutes - Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the December 9th regular meeting. Mr. Doherty seconded. As voted
- B. Consent Agenda: Mr. Shannon moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Doherty seconded. As voted.
- C. Legislation - Mr. Crane read an update given to him by Representative Kearns.
- D. Subcommittee/Liaison Update - Curriculum & Assessment - No update

Policy - Update previously given

Safety - The committee recently met and reviewed the items to be updated. The communication system in case of an emergency was discussed.

DEEP – Teacher grants have been awarded

DanversCARES – Reorganization of the program has happened. Mr. Bauer is meeting with members on a monthly basis. The Youth Risk survey has gone out.

SEPAC - No Update

DHRIC - Mr. Pawlak was present and gave a brief update on the DHRIC. Both he and Charles Desmond previously met with Dan to discuss upcoming events. He looks forward to the January 20th Martin Luther Kingf celebration.

The next meeting will be held on February 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Budget Workshop

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Eric Crane, Secretary
Danvers School Committee