

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

August 11, 2025

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: Strategic Plan - Mr. Crane moved to approve the Strategic Plan as presented. Mr. Doherty seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Policy ILD second reading - Mr. Crane moved to approve Policy ILD for a second reading. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: HRMS Student Handbook - Mr. Lopes moved to approve the HRMS Student Handbook.. Mr. Crane seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: DHS Student Handbook - Mr. Lopes moved to approve the DHS Student Handbook.. Mr. Crane seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Elementary Handbook - Mr. Lopes moved to approve the Elementary Student Handbook.. Mr. Crane seconded. The vote was unanimous..

VOTED: Performing Arts Fees - Mr. Kepnes moved to approve the Performing Arts Fees as presented. Mr. Doherty seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Account Balances - Mr. Crane moved to approve account balances as presented. Mr. Lopes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Salter Bus Contract - Mr. Kepnes moved to approve the Salter Bus Contract as presented. Mr. Lopes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

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

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Kepnes moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:55 p.m. Mr. Lopes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Shannon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Danvers Public Schools Mission statement were recited. Mr. Shannon 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. Shannon expressed his gratitude to have received early literacy tutoring through DESE.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Personnel Update - Superintendent Bauer updated the Committee that there have been approximately 35 new hires to date. There are a few positions that still need to be filled but we are in a good place.

- B. Student Services Update: Superintendent Bauer introduced Christina Ryan and Bethany Stangas who provided an updated on the extended year services program. There were 270 students recommended for the program and 75% of the students participated. It was a 5 week program to enhance learning skills. Christina will be looking into those who chose not to participate in the program. Ms. Julie Bolduc DeFilippo spoke on behalf of SEPAC. The goal for summer was to connect with families and community. They feel they did a good job at that and advised they will be updating their website to better inform families of resources available to them.
- C. Assistant Superintendent - Entry Findings: Superintendent Bauer introduced Assistant Superintendent, Kristen Anderson, who presented her top 10 findings. Kristen believes there is a lot of positives to building upon. Mr. Shannon asked about Panorama. Kristen advised this is a program recommended by DESE. Mr. Kepnes asked if parents and the school community will have access. Not at this time. Mr. Crane asked to speak on the social emotional piece. Kristen stated there are two ways - self reporting and students ability to solve problems. Julie Posternack spoke on the literary tutoring grant. The Goal is 41 seats for first grade after the fall screening. This will not replace the literacy intervention but is in addition to.
- D. Business Manager Presentation - Format for '25-'26: Superintendent Bauer and Pam Crum were looking for ways to provide information to the Committee to make it more beneficial. Pam spoke on recommendations that came from MASBO. Reporting monthly there are not many changes but quarterly reporting would be more beneficial. Mr. Kepnes would like to see charts and graphs as part of the presentation. Mr. Bauer advised reports can be adjusted as the Committee sees fit.
- E. 8/7 School Committee Retreat Update: Mr. Bauer and the Committee agree the retreat was a good use of time. Policies need to be cleaned up and perhaps eliminated as necessary. The Committee agreed the collaboration was great.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. School Committee 2025-2026 Dates: The Committee agreed on the dates as advertised. Sub-Committee meetings will be held virtually.
- B. Strategic Plan recommendation to approve: Mr. Bauer shared the strategic plan. The mission was kept simple. The strategic priorities are tied to the 4 pillars. Mr. Crane moved to approve the Strategic Plan as presented. Mr. Doherty seconded. As voted.
- C. Superintendent recommends Policy ILD, Student Submission to Educational Survey and Research for a second reading: Superintendent recommends Policy ILD for a second reading. Mr. Crane moves to approve Policy ILD, Student Submission to Educational Survey and Research for a second reading. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Superintendent recommends to approve the HRMS Student Handbook: Mr. Lopes moves to approve the HRMS Student Handbook. Mr. Crane seconded. As voted.
- B. Superintendent recommends to approve the DHS Student Handbook: Mr. Lopes moves to approve the HRMS Student Handbook. Mr. Crane seconded. As voted.
- C. Superintendent recommends to approve the Elementary Student Handbook: Mr. Lopes moves to approve the HRMS Student Handbook. Mr. Crane seconded. As voted.
- D. Secondary Performing Arts Student Participation Fee: Superintendent Bauer asked Mr. Alex Grove to give an overview of the Performing Arts fees. Mr. Kepnes asked if there would be a family maximum. Mr. Grover said yes. Mr. Kepnes moved to approve the Performing Arts Fees as presented. Mr. Doherty seconded. As voted.
- E. Superintendent recommends the approval of the 2025-2026 list of accounts and maximum balances: Mr. Crane moved to approve the 2025-2026 list of accounts and maximum balances. Mr. Lopes seconded. As voted.
- F. Salter Bus Contract Recommendation: Superintendent Bauer explained that the district was able to district was able to purchase another bus. This would mean contracting for 9 busses from Salter instead of the current 10. Mr. Crane asked if there was a provision that we could go back to the 10

busses if the need arises. Mr. Bauer advised that was a possibility. Mr. Kepnes motioned to approve the Salter Bus Contract. Mr. Lopes seconded. As voted.

VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Consent Agenda: Mr. Crane moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. As voted.
- B. Communications - none
- C. Legislation - No update
- D. Subcommittee/Liaison Update -
 - Curriculum & Assessment - No update
 - Policy - No update
 - Safety - No update
 - DEEP – No update
 - DanversCARES – No update
 - SEPAC - Previously given
 - DHRIC - No update

The next meeting will be held on September 8, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

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