

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

November 3, 2025

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED Reconsideration of Instructional Resources - Mr. Lopes moved to approve the curriculum as is in regard to All American Boys. Mr. Crane seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Policy AC - Non-Discrimination and Harassment first reading: Mr. Doherty moved to approve the policy for a first reading. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Policy AC-E - Appendices to Civil Rights Policy for a first reading: Mr. Lopes moved to approve Policy AC-E Civil Rights for a first reading. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Policy JIFCB - Bullying Policy for a first reading: Mr. Crane moved to approve Policy JIFCB Bullying Policy for a first reading. Mr. Lopes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Policy JICFB-R Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan for a first reading: Mr. Kepnes moved to approve Policy JICFB-R Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan for a first reading. Mr. Crane seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Policy IKFE - Competency Determination for a first reading: Mr. Lopes moved to approve Policy IKFE - Competency Determination for a first reading. Mr. Doherty seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Policy JEB - Entrance Age for a first reading: Mr. Crane moved to approve Policy JEB - Entrance Age for a first reading. Mr. Doherty seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes - Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the October 6, 2025 regular meeting. Mr. Lopes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

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

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Kepnes moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Doherty 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. Doherty congratulated all the fall sports teams on their successful seasons. Mr. Bauer added congratulations to the band for their success in their latest competition.

Community:

Ms. Julie Bolduc DiFilippo thanked the Committee for the updates to the policies to be presented this evening. The SEPAC has reviewed the changes and would like to make a few recommendations. Julie thanked the Committee for their support.

Mr. Guy Onorio addressed the Committee in regards to the process for the reconsideration of the book. Although the meeting was a good meeting Mr. Onorio feels there was an error in who was on the Committee. He is requesting the item to be tabled until a new committee could meet.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Student Representatives Report: Olivia Marshall and Nathan Silva updated the Committee on the sports state tournament play, the band will be participating in the Boston Veterans Day Parade and the DHS Open House to be held November 19th. Seniors are finishing up with their college essays and applications.
- B. National Merit Recognition: The recipient has a tournament soccer game and will be present at the December meeting.
- C. Student Services Update: Christina Ryan and Julie Posternack provided the Committee with an update as to how they are collaborating with the schools in screening students for additional services. Staff has had professional development in dyslexia and more training is to follow. Mr. Crane likes the assessments being used and asked how they fall in line with compliances over the next several years. Julie explained that they fall in line and there are plans in place for grades 6&7.
- D. Curriculum & Assessment Update - MCAS: Superintendent Bauer introduced Kristen Anderson to provide an update. Kristen highlighted the dibels data from 24-25. The data indicates nation wide a deficit in those students affected by the COVID year. The MCAS scores were down this year in part due to not having to pass to graduate. At the middle school they are going to pilot a new math program next year - get students off computers. Mr. Crane asked for MCAS scores statewide did students take the testing seriously? Ms. Anderson does not believe so. Mr. Kepnes commented the scores for students in the "COVID" year are eye opening. The Committee inquired how the data was gathered that is in the warehouse for teacher use. For elementary level pre and post dibels testing is used at secondary level based on grades. Mr. Doherty asked what math programs were being piloted. Ms. Anderson answered Fish Tank and Eurika.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Reconsideration of Instructional Resources: Assistant Superintendent Anderson reported that a committee was formed to make a decision on the reconsideration of instructional resources. Discussion: Mr. Lopes would like to have clarification of the curriculum going forward. Mr. Kepnes asked about the comment from the community of the committee composition. Mr. Lopes asked if it was done properly. Ms. Anderson stated the policy does not specify the number of representatives per category. She suggests an update to the policy in the future. Mr. Crane asked for a clarification between retaining the book and how the curriculum is taught. Ms. Anderson clarified. Mr. Kepnes stated that difficult subjects should be taught and discussed. Mr. Doherty believes books used in the past have had the same language and dialect from real life. St. John's Prep has been using this book for some time. Mr. Crane recognizes that parenting is tough but confident that parents can work with their children. Mr. Lopes asked short of censoring books, how can we make sure something like this does not come up again. Mr. Bauer assured the Committee there is a collaborative effort by all on how materials are presented. Mr. Lopes motion to retain the curriculum as is for All American Boys. Mr. Crane seconded. As voted.
- B. Portrait of a Graduate: Assistant Superintendent Anderson presented to the Committee the overview for Portrait of a Learner. Competency determinations have been established. Work is being done with staff on experiences and touchstone experiences. Mr. Bauer emphasized the

importance to tie into all levels.

- C. Annual Evaluation of Superintendent Timeline: Superintendent Bauer presented his timeline for this year's evaluation cycle. Dan's goals align with the new strategic plan and district goals.
- D. The Superintendent recommends amended policy AC - NON-DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT for a first reading: Mr. Doherty moved to approve Policy AC - Non-Discrimination and Harassment for a first reading. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.
- E. The Superintendent recommends amended policy AC-E - APPENDICES TO CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY for a first reading: Mr. Lopes moved to approve Policy AC-E Civil Rights for a first reading. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.
- F. The Superintendent recommends amended Bullying policy JICFB for a first reading: Mr. Kepnes moved to approve Policy JICFB-R Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan for a first reading. Mr. Crane seconded. As voted.
- G. The Superintendent recommends amended Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan JICFB-R for a first reading: Mr. Kepnes moved to approve Policy JICFB-R Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan for a first reading. Mr. Crane seconded. As voted.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Policy IKFE - Competency Determination for a second reading: Mr. Lopes moved to approve Policy IKFE - Competency Determination for a second reading. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.
- B. Policy JEB - Entrance Age for a second reading: Mr. Crane motioned to approve Policy JEB - Entrance Age for a second reading. Mr. Doherty seconded. As voted.

VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Minutes: Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the October 6, 2025 regular meeting. Mr. Lopes seconded. As voted.
- B. Consent Agenda: Mr. Crane moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Kepnes seconded the motion. As voted.
- B. Communications - none
- C. Legislation - Mr. Crane received an update from Representative Kearnes. The Literacy bill has passed. Danvers is ahead of the 2026 required standards.
- D. Subcommittee/Liaison Update -
 - Curriculum & Assessment - No update
 - Policy -
 - Safety -
 - DEEP - No update
 - Danvers CARES - Mike Shannon advised there were 20+ participants at the last meeting. Mr. Bauer advised there will be a district wide food drive after Thanksgiving.
 - SEPAC - Previously given
 - DHRIC - No Update

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

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