

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

December 8, 2025

School Committee Members Present:

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

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

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

VOTED: Policy EFBA School Food and Nutrition for a first reading: Mr. Crane moved to approve Policy EFBA School Food and Nutrition for a first reading. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous

VOTED: Policy BDA-E School Committee: Norms and Beliefs for removal for a first reading: Mr. Crane moved to approve Policy BDA-E School Committee: Norms and Beliefs for removal for a first reading. Mr. Doherty seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Policy ECAB Access to Buildings and Grounds for a first reading: Mr. Doherty moved to approve Policy ECAB Access to Buildings and Grounds for a first reading. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous

VOTED: Minutes - Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the November 6, 2025 regular meeting. Mr. Kepnes 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 8:15 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

Community:

Mr. Paul Pawlak: Thanked Kristen Anderson for meeting with the HRIC. He also thanked those who attended the lighting of the Menorah. Reminded everyone of the Martin Luther King celebration being held on January 19, 2026 at the Danvers High School.

Ms. Julie Bolduc DiFilippo updated the Committee on what the PAC has been doing. They are collaborating with Peabody and Gloucester PACs to coordinate events.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Student Representatives Report: Olivia Marshall and Nathan Silva updated the Committee on the recent events that occurred across the district. The open house was a big success and there has been a lot of positive feedback from those that attended. Students hosted members from the senior community for a breakfast. They will be extended an invitation to attend a luncheon in the spring. Mr. Bauer would also like to thank all the schools throughout the district for support of the food drive.
- B. National Merit Recognition: Principal Strauss introduced this year's recipient, Claudia Drakos. Claudia is a senior who is involved in many programs as well as 9 AP courses. Congratulations..
- C. Project 351 Recognition: Principal Colantuoni introduced this year's student, Alaa Mallini who will be representing Danvers at Project 351. Students are given the opportunity to collaborate with students throughout the state and participate in many events. Alaa will be invited back at a later date to update on her experience.
- D. DHS Open House Recap: Principal Strauss provided a recap of the fall Open House. He gave a shout out to the faculty and staff for an outstanding representation of the school. Mr. Strauss received many positive comments. Mr. Crane commented on what a great presentation Mr. Strauss provided.
- E. DPS Technology Update: Technology Director, Jim Sullivan, presented to the Committee how the program began 10 years ago and where does it go from here? How can technology align with the current strategic plan. There will be a survey sent to the community, staff and there will be listening groups. Mr. Kepnes expressed his gratitude to continue to grow and asked if there was a need to continue with Chrome books or if there was another comparable product. Jim explained they are continuing to look.
was another
- F. Financial Report: Business Manager, Pam Crum, provided the Committee with an update to the FY26 budget. There are no surprises. Mr. Kepnes expressed his like for the new format. Pam did explain the deficit with the private schools not reporting their enrollment. Kristen Anderson has been applying for grants to help with the deficit.
- G. Equity Subcommittee Update: Assistant Superintendent, Kristen Anderson, presented an update on culturally responsive and where the district will be going.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. The Superintendent recommends amended policy AC - NON-DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT for a second reading: Mr. Doherty moved to approve Policy AC - Non-Discrimination and Harassment for a first reading. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.
- B. The Superintendent recommends amended policy AC-E - APPENDICES TO CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY for a second reading: Mr. Lopes moved to approve Policy AC-E Civil Rights for a first reading. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.
- C. The Superintendent recommends amended Bullying policy JIFCB for a second reading: Mr. Crane moved to approve Policy JICFB Bullying for a second reading. Mr. Doherty seconded. As voted.

- D. The Superintendent recommends amended Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan JICFB-R for a second reading: Mr. Kepnes moved to approve Policy JICFB-R Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan for a first reading. Mr. Crane seconded. As voted.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. FY 27 Budget Process: Superintendent Dan Bauer presented the process and what to expect over the next few months. Dan and Pam Crum have met with the administrative team and began putting together their requests.
- B. Policy EFBA School Food and Nutrition - Meal Modifications for a first reading: Mr. Crane motioned to approve Policy EFBA - School Food and Nutrition Meal Modifications for a first reading. Mr. Doherty seconded As voted.
- C. Policy BDA-E School Committee Norms and Beliefs for removal for a first reading: Mr. Crane motioned to approve Policy BDA-E School Committee Norms and Beliefs for a first reading. Mr. Doherty seconded As voted.
- D. Policy ECAB Access to Buildings and Grounds for a first reading: Mr. Doherty motioned to approve Policy ECAB Access to Buildings and Grounds for a first reading. Mr. Kepnes seconded As voted.

VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Minutes: Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the November 3, 2025 regular meeting Mr. Kepnes 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
DanversCARES – 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