

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

January 12, 2026

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| School Committee Members Present: | Michael Shannon, Chair<br>Eric Crane, Secretary<br>Sean Doherty<br>Joshua Kepnes<br>Gabe Lopes |
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- VOTED:** Policy EFBA School Food and Nutrition for a second reading: Mr. Crane moved to approve Policy EFBA School Food and Nutrition for a second reading. Mr. Doherty seconded. The vote was unanimous
- VOTED:** Policy BDA-E School Committee: Norms and Beliefs for removal for a second reading: Mr. Crane moved to approve Policy BDA-E School Committee: Norms and Beliefs for removal for a second reading. Mr. Lopes seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- VOTED:** Policy ECAB Access to Buildings and Grounds for a second reading: Mr. Crane moved to approve Policy ECAB Access to Buildings and Grounds for a second reading. Doherty seconded. The vote was unanimous
- VOTED:** Policy IMB Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers for a first reading: Mr. Crane moved to approve Policy IMB Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers for a first reading. Mr. Lopes seconded. The vote was unanimous
- VOTED:** Policy IHAM-R Student Exemption from Instruction on Religious Grounds for a first reading: Mr. Doherty moved to approve Policy IMB Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers for a first reading. Mr. Crane seconded. The vote was unanimous
- VOTED:** Policy IJR Challenged Instructional Materials for a first reading: Mr. Crane moved to approve Policy IJR Challenged Instructional Materials for a first reading. Mr. Doherty seconded. The vote was unanimous
- VOTED:** Policy IJL Library Materials Selection, Adoption, and Reconsideration for a first reading: Mr. Lopes moved to approve Policy IJL Library Materials Selection, adoption, and Reconsideration for a first reading. Mr. Doherty seconded. The vote was unanimous
- VOTED:** Minutes - Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the December 8, 2025 regular meeting. Mr. Lopes seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- VOTED:** Consent Agenda: Mr. Doherty moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- VOTED:** Adjournment – Mr. Doherty moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Crane 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: Reminded everyone of the Martin Luther King celebration being held on January 19, 2026 at the Danvers High School.

Ms. Julie Bolduc DiFilippo spoke on the item of Smith lockdown system and the needs of students with disabilities.

Mr. Doherty spoke of the passing of retired teacher Andrea Daley. Mr. Crane thanked Mr. Bauer and staff for the invitation to meet Department of Education Commissioner, Pedro Martinez. It was an enlightening experience.

### **III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

- A. Student Representatives Report: Nathan Silva updated the Committee on the recent events that occurred across the district. Four wrestling students have placed in the top 10, midterm exams for the high school will begin shortly and the Jazz Band concert will be held on January 17th. Principal Strauss added that Danvers High School has received a silver key for school improvement in AP Programs.
- B. Smith Lockdown System Update: Superintendent Bauer and Principal Powers provided an update to the Committee and community as to the unfortunate situation. Administrators from both the Town and School have met to ensure this does not happen again. Principal Powers did an outstanding job in keeping the situation under control. A decision was made to decommission the existing system and use Informacast in its place. This system is better controlled and has already been tested district wide. Principal Powers thanked the staff and students as well as families for the support.
- C. Health & Safety Updates: Superintendent Bauer introduced lead nurse, Janelle Moroney, who provided an update to the Committee. Several nurses have been certified as CPR instructors and are able to train staff. They have also been trained in the use of narcan in an emergency. Janelle also advised that all 13 AED's have been replaced with new devices. Mr. Doherty asked if there would be any placed at athletic fields. Janelle advised they cannot be left out in the weather.
- D. Student Services Update: Christina Ryan, Director of Student Services, provided an update as to where student services currently is in regard to the programs in place and where they would like to be. Mr. Lopes expressed he does not feel we have 3 years to implement the programs, we need to get the programs now.
- E. Policy Subcommittee Update: Superintendent Bauer acknowledged there have been a lot of policy updates but they are out of necessity. Policies are scheduled for an audit in 2027.
- F. Essex Tech Update: Mike Landers, Danvers's representative to the Tech, gave the Committee an update on the proposed admission process. The admissions will be based on a lottery system and several communities have proposed putting a cap on district numbers. The four largest communities are asking for a percentage cap to be set for their districts. The Committee expressed their concern with the possible admissions process.

### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Policy EFBA School Food and Nutrition - Meal Modifications for a second reading: Mr. Crane motioned to approve Policy EFBA - School Food and Nutrition Meal Modifications for a second reading. Mr. Doherty seconded As voted.
- B. Policy BDA-E School Committee Norms and Beliefs for removal for a second reading: Mr. Crane motioned to approve Policy BDA-E School Committee Norms and Beliefs for a second reading. Mr. Doherty seconded As voted.
- C. Policy ECAB Access to Buildings and Grounds for a second reading: Mr. Doherty motioned to approve Policy ECAB Access to Buildings and Grounds for a second reading. Mr. Kepnes seconded As voted.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. DPS Field Trip Approval Protocol Update: Superintendent Bauer and administrators have been looking at the Out of State and Overnight field trip approval process. The trips need to be more clear on how the trip relates to the curriculum. The trip needs to be fair and equitable for all - provisions need to be in place for those who wish to go but cannot afford to. Mr. Bauer also stressed the importance for the coordinator to present to the Committee so questions can be

asked.

- B. Policy IMB-Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers for s first reading:  
Superintendent Bauer recommends the Policy for a first reading. Mr. Crane moved to approve Policy IMB Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers for a first reading. Mr. Lopes seconded. As voted.
- C. Policy IHAM-R Student Exemption From Instruction on Religious Grounds for a first reading:  
Superintendent Bauer recommends the Policy for a first reading. Mr. Doherty moved to approve Policy IHAM-R Student Exemption From Instruction on Religious Grounds for a first reading. Mr. Crane seconded. As voted.
- D. Policy IJR Challenged Instructional Material for a first reading: Superintendent Bauer recommends the Policy for a first reading. Mr. Crane moved to approve Policy IJR Challenged Instructional Material for a first reading. Mr. Doherty seconded. As voted.
- E. Policy IJL Library Materials Selection, Adoption, and Reconsideration for a first reading:  
Superintendent Bauer recommends the Policy for a first reading. Mr. Lopes moved to approve Policy IJL Library Materials Selection, Adoption, and Reconsideration for a first reading. Mr. Doherty seconded. As voted.

## VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Minutes: Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the December 8, 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 - Previously Given
  - Safety - Next meeting is February 2, 2026
  - DEEP –
  - DanversCARES –
  - SEPAC - Previously given
  - DHRIC - Previously given

The next meeting will be held on January 12, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

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