

DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

January 29, 2026

School Committee Members Present:

Mike Shannon, Chair

Eric Crane, Secretary

Joshua Kepnes

Sean Doherty

Gabe Lopes

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 6:00 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

None

III. NEW BUSINESS

Budget Workshop: Superintendent Bauer explained to the Committee that the administrative team will be presenting their department's portion of the budget. The process being used this year will be the same as last year. The formal budget hearing will be on February 23, 2026.

Elementary: The elementary Principal's and Julie Posternack presented their budget. The ask for this year is for a reading teacher, 5 assistant principals (1 at each of the elementary schools) along with lunch monitors and math specialists. Mr. Lopes asked who covers lunches now. The answer was IA's. Mr. Lopes then asked when an IA leaves the classroom to cover the lunch duty who supports the classroom. Mr. Bauer explained that some of the cost of the lunch monitors may be able to be absorbed by the food services. The Principals explained that the ask for the assistant principals would help free up the Principal to do more of the administrative work and it would be an asset to have someone to collaborate with. Mr. Doherty inquired if the math specialist would be a specialist or help the teachers with curriculum. Julie explained it would resemble the reading specialist model.

HRMS: Mr. Colantouni and Mr. DiMauro presented the middle school portion of the budget. Mr. DiMauro explained that the majority of their budget is for materials and programming. They are asking for a building sub which may be able to be done through reallocation of a staff member.

DHS: The High School team presented the high school budget requests. The high school is looking to continue with its pathways. They are restructuring the curriculum to add more challenging courses and maintaining what is offered. They are able to do this through utilizing the staff that is currently in place. The non-salaried increase is due to cost increases in materials.

Student Services: Christina Ryan highlighted the programs and the success they have had to date. She explained that some of the positions being asked for are currently being paid for

through contractual services now but would like to hire staff. In order for the programs to move forward their positions need to happen. Mr. Lopes asked what would be the most impacted position that is needed. Christina believes that to be the team chairs.

Technology: Mr. Sullivan presented his department's budget. Most of the budget is funding for licenses and subscriptions for the district. The capital expenditures will be put on a warrant in conjunction with the Town. The Chromebook contract will also be looked at for next year.

Transportation: Mr. Pulsifer presented his budget to the Committee. David worked with districts to condense out of district transportation and will continue to look at ways to supplement the budget. The bus contract is up this year and there is a possibility of being able to reduce the number of buses by one. The district is looking to add a spare van driver to help alleviate the cost of having to bid routes.

Mr. Bauer wrapped up the meeting and asked if there were any further questions. Mr. Bauer said the collaboration of the administrative team has been huge. Considering the bulk of the budget is the salary increases due to contract negotiations.

The next meeting will be held on February 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

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