

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

February 25, 2026

School Committee Members Present:

Mike Shannon, Chair
Eric Crane, Secretary
Sean Doherty
Gabe Lopes

VOTED: Public Hearing - Mr. Lopes motioned to close the hearing to public comment. Mr. Doherty seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Budget - Mr. Crane motioned to approve the proposed FY27 budget of \$56,151,603 as presented. Mr. Lopes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Doherty moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:41 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

Julie Bolduc DiFilippo addressed the Committee that she has several letters from present and former parents of students who have been or who are receiving services from student services. All are positive comments on the way the program is moving and the hope is to have the program grow from what it is.

Mark Zuberick expressed his surprise at the timing of the budget hearing. He anticipated the meeting to be held at a later date.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Budget Hearing: Superintendent Bauer presented the budget to the Committee. With the diligent work of staff and from the feedback from the workshop the budget has been adjusted from what was initially presented at the workshop. The Town goal remains the same and the specialized programming is essential to sustain progress. Some of the asks are being done through the reallocation of staff. Students remaining in district has increased but the fact remains that tuition has also increased and will continue to increase. As previously stated, there are items that are non-negotiable both salary and non-salary. Some possible offsets were discussed. The total budget increase for 2027-2028 is 4.05%. Salaries are the largest portion of the budget.

Mr. Shannon opened the meeting up to questions/comments.

School Committee: Mr. Crane thanked the team for all their hard work to get the budget to 4.05%. He is pleased to see the Special Education programs being moved forward. Most districts are having a difficult budget time as well. Mr. Lopes thanked the staff for their work and for listening to what was being suggested during the sub-committee meetings. Improvement for all students has been presented and the impact of increasing programs helps to reduce costs

while still progressing. Mr. Doherty expressed his gratitude that even with bringing the numbers to where they are we are able to still provide the level of services to all students across the field. Mr. Shannon expressed that working in education you hear of the deficits and lack of resources is abundant. This budget will allow staff to meet the needs of all students from the high achievers to the most vulnerable to those in between.

Community: Mark Zuberick inquired as to whether anyone has seen what the state aide dollars are going to be this year. He stated the town subsidizes the school department while state aide decreases. Mark then asked how does the 4.05% increase benefit the general population of students. Mr. Crane spoke to the state aide (circuit breaker) and how that money is from the state and not from the town. Mr. Shannon addressed the increase in programs and how they will benefit ALL students.

Julie Bolduc DiFilippo spoke that budgets are not finite but neither are childhoods. Services that are provided to help students thrive are very important. She commends the committee on the work that has been done and will continue to be done.

Mr. Lopes motioned to close the hearing to public comment. Mr. Doherty seconded. As voted.

Mr. Crane motioned to approve the proposed FY27 budget of \$56,151,603 as presented. Mr. Lopes seconded. As voted.

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

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