

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

March 9, 2026

School Committee Members Present:

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

VOTED: School Choice - Mr. Doherty moved to approve School Choice for the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Transportation User Fee: Mr. Crane moved to approve the transportation user fees as presented. Mr. Doherty seconded. The vote was unanimous

VOTED: Athletic User Fee: Mr. Doherty moved to approve the athletic user fees as presented. Mr. Lopes seconded. The vote was unanimous

VOTED: Early Retirement Incentive Program Participation: Mr. Lopes moved to approve moving forward with the early retirement incentive program participation. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous

VOTED: Holten Richmond Program of Studies: Mr. Kepnes moved to approve the Holten Richmond Program of Studies as presented. Mr. Doherty seconded. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes - Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the January 29, 2026 Budget workshop, February 9, 2026 regular meeting, February 18, 2026 Special Meeting and February 25, 2026 Budget Hearing. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

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

VOTED: Adjournment – Mr. Kepnes moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:35 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

Community:

Mr. Mark Zuberick: Mr. Zuberick spoke on the total cost of education to the Town of Danvers. He inquired about the students living in Danvers who attend Essex Tech, who is responsible for their expenses.

Ms. Julie Bolduc DiFilippo: Thanked the Committee for proceeding forward with the Budget that was presented at the workshop. Many parents have expressed their appreciation for the programs being initiated for special education. She also touched on a presentation that was held with over 100 people participating.

Andrew Haight: Spoke to the transportation fee increase. Would there be a tiered system or a system for monthly payments. He also expressed his appreciation for the special education program.

Faculty:

Mr. Strauss, Principal of Danvers High, presented the Committee with a banner for the AP

accolades received for the AP program. The banner will be hung in the atrium of the high school.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Student Representatives Report: Olivia Miller and Nathan updated the Committee on the latest events. Olivia was a tour guide for the NEASC visitors. Winter sports have wrapped up their seasons. The girls basketball team finished with a record of 19-1, girls hockey won the NEC and the boys hockey team made it to the first round of playoffs. Falconize traveled to CT to compete, winter guard placed 2nd in their recent competition and the Jazz band played at The Cabot. Mr. Bauer highlighted Nathan's participation in winter guard and Olivia's participation in gymnastics.
- B. NEASC Visitation Update: Peter DiMauro, Secondary Curriculum Director, updated the Committee on the updated NEASC process. The new play begins with self evaluation, collaborative conference, develop growth plan, reflective summary and accreditation visit. Six members visited the high school and performed many interviews with many stakeholders. Mr. Crane commented this is a task that takes a lot of work. Mr. Shannon extended his appreciation as having served on a committee in the past.
- C. DanversCARES Update: Superintendent Bauer asked Amanda Weber, High School social worker, to update the Committee on events thus far. Staff has been offered professional development, there have been many assemblies held for students as well as awareness evenings for families.
- D. Budget Update: Superintendent Bauer reported that the budget has passed the Select Board. The next step is approval from the Finance Committee on April 15th. Dan thanked the subcommittee for their feedback and have taken their comments into consideration. As discussed with other Superintendents, each district is facing tough budget issues.
- E. Central Office Update: Dan briefed the Committee on the reduction of one administrator in Central office and a restructuring of the team. He will bring forward a plan at a future meeting.

IV. SCHOOL CHOICE HEARING: Superintendent Bauer provided an update on the success of the School Choice for this academic year. We are doing the hearing earlier this year to open the process earlier to attract more students. Mr. Shannon opened the hearing up. Mr. Lopes stated that with other districts participating in school choice he feels confident in continuing. Mr. Bauer explained that the tuition that is brought in goes directly to the school and not to the Town general fund. Mr. Lopes stated that he had some reservations last year but seeing the success of the year he would like to continue. Mr. Shannon opened the floor to the public. Julie Bolduc DiFilippo appreciates the addition of diverse students to the district. Mr. Crane motioned to close the public hearing. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted. Mr. Doherty motioned to approve School Choice for the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Transportation User Fee Recommendation: Mr. Crane moved to approve the Transportation User Fees as presented. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.
- B. Athletic User Fee Recommendation: Mr. Doherty moved to approve the Athletic User Fees as presented.. Mr. Loeps seconded. As voted.
- C. Early Retirement Incentive Program Participation: Superintendent Bauer explained that although the Committee has already seen the program the Committee needs to vote to proceed. Mr. Lopes moved to approve moving forward with the Early Retirement Incentive Program. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Holten-Richmond Program of Studies: Mr. DiMauro presented the changes to the Program of Studies. One change is going from trimesters to quarters. Course descriptions have been updated to reflect new curriculum program adoptions. STEM course names have been updated to promote vertical alignment.

- B. DPS Strategic Plan Mid-year Report: The strategic plan is moving along according to the outline. Policies and procedures have been updated, district platforms are in place along with many other programs.
- C. Superintendent Goals: Dan's goals for the year are aligned with the strategic plan. Each goal was broken down and the progress was shown for the Committee to review. Most goals have shown significant progress or are in progress. Dan will give another update at a later date.

VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Minutes: Mr. Crane moved to approve and release the minutes from the January 29, 2026 Budget Workshop, February 9, 2026 regular meeting, February 18, 2026 Special Meeting and February 25, 2026 Budget Hearing. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.
- B. Consent Agenda: Mr. Kepnes moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Lopes seconded the motion. As voted.
- B. Communications - none
- C. Legislation - Previously given.
- D. Subcommittee/Liaison Update -
 - Curriculum & Assessment - No update- Next meeting 3/23/26
 - Policy - Previously Given
 - Safety -
 - DEEP -
 - DanversCARES - Previously given
 - SEPAC - Previously given
 - DHRIC - Previously given

The next meeting will be held on April 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

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