

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

May 11, 2026

School Committee Members Present:

Sean Doherty, Chair
Gabe Lopes, Secretary
Joshua Kepnes
Beth Kontos
Mike Shannon

- VOTED:** Washington DC Field Trip - Mr. Shannon moved to approve the Washington, D.C. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- VOTED:** Marching Band Fee: Mr. Lopes motioned to approve the proposed fee schedule. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous
- VOTED:** Policy JKAA First Reading: Mr. Lopes moved to approve Policy JKAA Time-Out, Seclusion, and Physical Restraint of Students for a first reading. Mr. Shannon seconded, Ms. Kontos abstained. The vote was 4 yes/1 abstain.
- VOTED:** Annual Review School Attorney: Mr. Shannon motioned to review the current legal council through the sub-committee. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- VOTED:** Minutes - Mr. Lopes moved to approve and release the minutes from the April 13, 2026 regular meeting, Mr. Shannon seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- VOTED:** Consent Agenda: Mr. Kepnes moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Shannon seconded. The vote was unanimous.
- VOTED:** Adjournment – Mr. Shannon moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Kepnes seconded. The vote was unanimous.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Doherty 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. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

Mr. Shannon motioned to appoint Mr. Doherty as Chair. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted. Mr. Kepnes motioned to appoint Mr. Lopes as secretary. Mr. Shannon seconded. As voted.

III. ITEMS OF INTEREST

Community:

Ms. Julie Bolduc DiFilippo: Julie addressed the Committee on the upcoming first reading for the policy JKAA. She is requesting the Committee look further into the logistics of the changes.

IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Student Representatives Report:** Olivia and Nate updated the Committee on events around the district. AP testing has begun at the High School, senior internships are in full swing with a wrap up fair to happen the end of May, National Honor Society had their ceremony and athletics are moving along with 3 teams already qualifying for state tournament seats.
- B. Thank You Student Representative:** The Committee presented Olivia with a token of their appreciation for her dedication and commitment to the Committee for the past 2 years. They wished her the best of luck as she heads to University of Rhode Island in the fall.
- C. SEPAC Recognition:** Julie DiFilippo presented the Impact Awards on behalf of the SEPAC. Mr. Strauss spoke on behalf of Lucy Osborn and Ava Patch and why they were deserving of the award.

The Keystone Award was presented to Josh Jordan for his hard work and dedication to the students of Danvers. Violetta Powers was asked to speak on behalf of Meghan White who received the Unified Impact award.

- D. Recognition - DHS: Principal Strauss spoke on the accolades of senior Kaylee Collins. He explained the criteria of the Heart of the Arts award. There were 1,173 nominees in Massachusetts alone. Mr. Grover spoke to the performing arts accomplishments Kaylee has made.
- E. DECA International Competition Recognition: Tabled until June meeting.
- F. Technology Update - One to One Program: Jim Sullivan, Technology Director, provided an update on the One to One Program. There had been surveys done with both families and faculty and recommendations were taken into consideration when thinking of next steps. Moving forward the elementary levels will have room carts for the students to use and that process will be moving to the Middle School. At the High School level the new MAC will be phased in beginning with the grade 9 students. It will be a lease to own program so when they leave the high school the device will be theirs. Ms. Kontos asked about the cost of repairs. Mr. Sullivan stated that each device comes with Apple Care.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. HRMS Camp Cody: Tabled until June meeting
- B. HRMS Washington DC Field Trip: Principal Colantuoni and Tim McGraw presented the trip to the Committee. This is a trip that has been going on for many years. Students visit many education sites and attend events throughout the trip. Mr. Shannon asked with 24% of the students not attending the trip doesn't it become a burden and how will they be managed. Mr. Colantuoni explained that for those students who are not attending there are events planned for them as well. Mr. Lopes asked what the safety plan was for those attending the trip. Mr. McGraw explained the procedures that are in place to maintain the safety of the students. Mr. Doherty asked if there was a meeting held for parents regarding the trip. Mr. Colantuoni advised the meeting was held in the fall for parents. Mr. Shannon motioned to approve the Washington D.C. trip. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.
- C. Marching Band Fee: Superintendent Bauer asked Mr. Grover to present the rationale for the performing arts fees. Mr. Grover addressed the Committee with the reason for the fee changes. Positions that were previously paid for through the PME needed to be paid in house. Mr. Lopes motioned to approve the proposed fee schedule. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted
- D. Policy JKAA Time-Out, Seclusion, and Physical Restraint of Students: Superintendent Bauer recommends the proposed amended policy for a first reading. Mr. Bauer asked Christina Ryan and Derrick Munyon to speak as the changes proposed. Mr. Munyon explained that the proposed changes have been reviewed by legal counsel prior to being presented. As previously stated, the changes to be in place by August 2026 per DESE. Ms. Kontos asked if students were to be in a room would it be one student with supervision. Mr. Munyon explained that yes, students would be supervised at all times. Mr. Bauer explained this is for a first reading and recommendations from SEPAC and the Policy Sub-committee would be taken into account before the final vote. Mr. Lopes moved to approve Policy JKAA Time-Out, Seclusion, and Physical Restraint of Students for a first reading. Mr. Shannon seconded, Ms. Kontos abstained.
- E. Superintendent Evaluation Update: Superintendent Bauer reported it is that time of year for his evaluation by the Committee. He will provide a full update at the June meeting. Mr. Kepnes suggested using the same evaluation format as the previous year.
- F. Annual Review of School Attorney: Mr. Bauer explained that this is a yearly procedure to review the School Attorney. Mr. Lopes inquired as to Mr. Bauer's thoughts. Mr. Bauer explained the history of utilizing the current attorney. It was asked how their fees compared to other groups. Mr. Bauer stated there has not been enough time to compare them to other groups. Mr. Bauer stated he could reach out to other superintendents to seek their input. Mr. Shannon motioned to review the current legal council through the sub-committee. Mr. Kepnes seconded. As voted.

VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Minutes: Mr. Lopes moved to approve and release the minutes from the April 13, 2026 regular meeting. Mr. Shannon seconded. As voted.
- B. Consent Agenda: Mr. Kepnes moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Shannon seconded the motion. As voted.
- B. Communications - none
- C. Legislation - Superintendent Bauer advised that Representative Kerans wanted to clarify that as of now current district policies regarding cell phones will be in place for next year.
- D. Subcommittee/Liaison Update -
 - Curriculum & Assessment
 - Policy - Next meeting 5/28/26
 - Safety -
 - DEEP -
 - DanversCARES - There will be a Pride celebration on 6/13. Light the Night Purple will be held on May 20th at 6:30 p.m.
 - SEPAC - Previously given
 - DHRIC -

The next meeting will be held on June 8, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Gabe Lopes, Secretary
Danvers School Committee