

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

May 8, 2017

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

School Committee Members Present:        David Thomson, Chair  
   Jeffrey Kay, Secretary  
   Arthur Skarmeas  
   Eric Crane  
   Mary Beth Verry

Dr. Dana, acting as temporary Chairman of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and Danvers Public Schools Mission statement was recited. Dr. Dana announced that the meeting was being broadcast on Danvers Community Access Television and asked the members of the audience if anyone was recording the proceedings and was told the Danvers Herald and a parent of a student were recording.

**VOTED:** Election of Chairperson – Mr. Thomson nominated Jeff Kay as Chairman of the committee. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Election of Secretary – Mrs. Skarmeas nominated Marybeth Verry as Secretary. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Appointment of School Attorney – Mr. Crane moved to retain the legal services of **Michael Long, Esq. of Long & DiPietro**. Mr. Skarmeas seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Substance Use Policy – The Superintendent recommended the adoption for the Substance Use Policy in School Policy, JICH. Mr. Skarmeas moved, Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** NEC- Establishment of Capital Funds -The Superintendent recommended the approval of the NEC - Establishment of Capital Funds. Mr. Skarmeas moved to approve, Mr. Thomson seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fund raising events from DHS students for the Belize field trip, DHS Girl's Lacrosse and DHS Golf Team. Mr. Thomson moved to approve, Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Minutes – Mr. Kay moved to accept and release the minutes from the April 10, 2017 regular meeting. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**VOTED:** Adjournment – Mr. Thomson moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION**

Upon being elected Chairman, Mr. Kay asked the Superintendent to check on the district's liability insurance. He confirmed that the regular meetings would continue to be held on the second Monday of the month. Mr. Kay appointed Mr. Skarmeas as the primary signatory of all bill sheets and Mrs. Verry as secondary signatory. Mr. Crane was appointed as the legislation liaison.

## **II. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SUPERINTENDENT, SCHOOL COMMITTEE, COMMUNITY**

Dr. Dana announced the winner of the Sonia Shreiber Weitz Upstander Award as Angela Deangelis, an 8th grader at Holten Richmond Middle School. Honorable mentions went to Milena Aggelikas, Fares Bourote and Melanie Zimmerman, also all middle school students.

Dr. Dana spoke on the GEAP - Traces to Remember program which was part of a presentation given at the Middle School on April 28, 2017. The presentation revolved around the Holocaust which aligns with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum.

Mrs. Ambrozavitch reported on NEASC's results for DHS. She shared her pride in the results, the school and the staff.

## **III. INFORMATION FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Daisy Powers presented news and events from the seven schools.

## **IV. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

- A. Danvers Pride Presentation** – Great Oak School Principal Sharon Burrill shared that Great Oak has spent the year going over and understanding the components for the DPS Mission Statement. Great Oak teachers Mrs. Kapnis, Mrs. Day and Mrs. Notargiacomo assisted students in a presentation where each student showed how what they had learned from the mission statement. Presenting students were first graders Olivia Hunt and Alyssa Joe, third graders Kaelin Hampe and Dailin Martinez (who wrote a song about creativity) and fifth grader Mila Shirikyan. Mrs. Verry asked if this was a school wide endeavor and Mrs. Burrill answered yes. The school committee members all agreed that the students did a great job. Dr. Dana told the students she was proud of them.
- B. DHS DECA** –Mrs. Beaulieu, DHS DECA coordinator said that she has 200 students in the DECA program of which 141 moved to State finals and 41 moved on to the International finals. She stated there were 2,000 students globally. Massachusetts students place with a total of 7 wins. Danvers took home 3 “pieces of glass” as the trophies were called. Students Athena Velonis and Sarah Roach did a Buying and Merchandising operations research on CareAline. Katie Crum, Alyssa Kellard, and Julie Webster (who was unable to attend the meeting) completed an Entrepreneurship Independent Business Plan for Fashion Sense. Liam Callahan, Rafaella Tringale, and Carolyn Curtin did a Learn and Earn Project on the Fly High Foundation in support of

Griffin's Gift. Mr. Thomson told the students that he is a huge fan and complimented Mrs. Beaulieu on doing an amazing job naming her the "Bill Belichick of DECA". Mr. Crane loves the program and noted that the projects seemed to have a personal meaning to the students. The other members agreed and congratulated the students. Dr. Dana said the students show a true reflection of the meaning of community and school.

- C. New Administration Introductions – Dr. Dana introduced new DHS principal Jason Colombino and new Highlands principal Paula Jones. Both principals shared their excitement and feel privileged to be part of the DPS Team. Mr. Colombino shared his first new hire was that of Katrina Esparza as the new DHS Assistant Principal for grades 9 & 10. The school committee members welcomed Jason and Paula and said they are looking forward to working with them.
- D. Student Services Update – Dr. Mary Tatem, Karri Isidoro and Ellen Held from Northshore Educational Consortium spoke on the programs offered through NEC. Dr. Tatem explained that NEC is used for students that need more services than the public schools can offer but they also provide professional development for teachers such as "Facilitating for IEPs" and mental health conferences. Ms. Held gave a presentation on the different programs and locations that NEC provides allowing assistance for all ages and disabilities. She also noted that come July 1<sup>st</sup> the Consortium in Topsfield will be an additional space for vocational learning. After the presentation Mr. Crane said he was impressed with the variety of programs and that each student's individual needs can and are identified. He asked if NEC tracks the success of the students after "aging out" of the programs. Ms. Held shared that they are making strides in tracking the student's progress. Mr. Kay asked how the student was assessed to insure the appropriate placement. It was explained that the assessment process is lengthy process consisting of testing, team meeting and other processes similar to that of creating an IEP.
- E. Last Day of School for the 16-17 school year – Dr. Dana officially announced that the last day of school for the Danvers Public Schools 16-17 school year will be Tuesday, June 27, 2017.
- F. Facilities Update – Mr. Taverna updated the committee on the Smith School project stating the project owner has been selected and they are awaiting approval from MSBA. A formal announcement will take place in early June. He also gave an update on lead and copper testing in the district. Initially 4 buildings were shown to have elevated results on the first draw but all locations showed acceptable levels on the second draw. Flushing the lines will continue. Mr. Crane asked if there is a permanent fix. Mr. Taverna answered Smith and Thorpe would have to have piping replaced and DHS would need to undergo an electricity re-grounding in the science wing which has copper piping.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Substance Use Policy – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the Substance Use Policy in School Policy, JICH for a second reading. As Voted

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. NEC- Establishment of Capital Funds – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed NEC establishment of Capital Funds. Dr. Dana shared and explained this will allow the excess funds from this fiscal year to be held over for Capital projects and proposed expenditures for NEC in the coming fiscal year (front lobby, skylight and new bus). After reviewing the material Mr. Thomson had questions regarding the excess funds and how the funding was configured. Dr. Dana explained that the vote would be on the use of excess funds and that it is based on tuition and the number of students and that any remaining funds would go back to the Towns. Mr. Kay asked when the excess money is returned to the Town. Mr. Taverna stated that this vote allows them to keep an additional 3% (over the state mandated 1%) and NEC has had a surplus in the past. Dr. Dana shared a refund was given to the Town this past year but not the prior year. Mr. Crane asked if NEC has the ability to borrow funds and does the committee need to approve that. Dr. Dana answered she would double check and get back to him. Mr. Skarmas moved to approve, Mr. Thomson seconded. As voted
- B. Out of State/Late Night Field Trips - None
- C. Fundraising Requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fund raising events from DHS students for the Belize field trip, DHS Girl's Lacrosse and DHS Golf Team. Mr. Thomson moved to approve, Mr. Crane seconded. As voted

## VIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications – Dr. Dana shared the NEC website link.
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane spoke about this being a fiscally uncertain time. The Ways and Means Committee suggests a Ch. 70 increase but Medicaid reimbursements may be cut in the next fiscal year.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update  
DEEP – Mrs. Verry reported that DEEP will attend the June school committee meeting to present the DEEP teacher grants awards.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay shared DanversCARES focus for this month is on Parents - All around access to mental health care. The Light the Night Purple event will be held on May 17th. He also wanted to thank Mark Strout for 44 years of service to the school department and all his support of DanversCARES.

SEPAC – Mr. Savage invited the community to Dessert Night on June 7th in the DHS artium. Mr. Savage also said the annual resource fair will have a date change to sometime in the fall hoping to coordinate with the school's open house date. He thanked the district's PACs for past support and was proud to say this year SEPAC will be able to "give back".

**IX. MINUTES** – As voted

**X. BUDGET**

Mr. Taverna presented the April 2017 budget report stating we are on budget. He also recognized the donations for the 2017 Teen Health & Safety Guide.

**XI. PERSONNEL**

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mrs. Ambrozavitch presented her memo dated May 2017.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, June 12, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Verry, Secretary  
Danvers School Committee