

**DANVERS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

August 21, 2017

Francis Mills Communication Center, E115, Danvers High School

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

VOTED: K-12 Student/Parent Handbooks – The Superintendent recommended the adoption of the K-12 Student/Parent Handbook. Mr. Thomson moved to approve. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: DTA Contract – Mr. Crane moved to approve the proposed Danvers Teacher Association Teacher’s Contract dated July 1, 2017-June 30, 2020. Mr. Thomson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: 2017-2018 Danvers Public Schools District Goals – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2017-2018 Danvers Public Schools District Goals for a 1st reading. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mr. Skarmear seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: 2017-2018 K-12 School Improvement Plans – The Superintendent recommended the approval of the proposed 2017-2018 K-12 School Improvement Plans for a 1st reading. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: 2017-2018 Homeschooling Proposals – The Superintendent recommended the Notice of Intent for Home Education for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Crane moved to approve. Mrs. Verry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Fundraising requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for the Great Oak, Highlands, Riverside and Smith PACs, HRMS magazine drive and DHS girls & boys soccer, DHS football & football cheerleading and DHS Volleyball. Mr. Skarmear moved to approve. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

VOTED: Minutes – Mrs. Verry moved to accept and release the minutes from the June 12, 2017 regular meeting as well as the minutes from the 2016-2017 Executive Session meetings. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Kay called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and DPS Mission statement were recited. Mr. Kay inquired whether the meeting was being recorded by audience members and announced that the meeting was being broadcast on DCAT and recorded by the Danvers Herald.

II. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO SUPERINTENDENT, SCHOOL COMMITTEE, COMMUNITY
Dr. Dana presented thank you notes that were written by scholarship recipients.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

1. School Opening – Dr. Dana gave a summary of the upcoming professional development days, new employee orientation and the opening day assembly.
2. New Administrator Introduction – Dr. Colombino introduced the new Assistant Principal of Danvers High School, Dr. Katrina Esparza.

3. Professional Development Update – Mrs. Mary Wermers gave an update on professional development sharing that 91 teachers participated in K-12 curriculum mapping. Math teachers participated in online courses during the summer. A book titled “New Routines for Reasoning” was introduced to assist in critical thinking skills. 20 teachers attended this presentation. Elementary teachers worked on phonics and word study while the middle school and high school studied authentic assessments. Curriculum work for specialist was also offered. The Committee as a whole agreed that these courses were all worthwhile and will be beneficial to the students.
4. Smith School Update – Mr. Taverna updated the Committee on the progress of the Smith School renovation. He stated the Town would be re-advertising for an Architect. All proposals should be in by early September, with a MSBA meeting in early October. When questioned by the board why the project was being re-advertised Mr. Taverna answered that due to the large quantity of projects available at this time, only 2 proposals were received.
5. Annual DPW Tour – Mr. Taverna spoke on the annual building tour that was to take place on August 29th. The purpose of the tour is to inspect the work done over the summer in readying the schools for the new year. Mr. Taverna gave accolades to the DPW on the hard work that they put in during the summer maintaining all the school buildings.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. DTA Contract – Discussion took place on the proposed teacher’s contract. Mr. Crane felt that the negotiations went well and the financial distribution over the 3 years of the contract was fair. Mr. Kay echoed Mr. Crane’s thoughts stating it was great to be a participant in the negotiations, while the rest of the Committee thanked the teachers and the rest of the negotiating team for their efforts. As voted
2. 2017-2018 Danvers Public Schools District Goals – Themes I-IV of the District Goals were summarized with Mrs. Wermers speaking on Theme I addressing 21st century learning and supporting the needs for the students with lesson plans and unit design. Making data visual is helpful to a lot of students. A sub-goal in formative assessments with technology as a tool for learning has been established. Dr. Dana stated that the data on MCAS & PSATs will be updated and reported on during the school year. Mrs. Wermers answered questions from the Committee while Mr. Crane stated he liked that the goals were established for ALL learners. Mr. Thomson asked why the research showed only 80% of students show growth. Mrs. Wermers answered that is because 16.8% of students have already met the expectation. Theme II is centered around Family and Community Engagement, working with Google, sending out more surveys for feedback from the community and asking community members to use the mobile app. Mrs. Verry encouraged everyone to download the app. Mr. Taverna said the focus of Theme III is Human Resources. Last year’s objective was on Skillful Leader. This year the objective is to create a Personnel website, the continuation of professional development and Off to a Great Start. The discussion on Theme IV was on data integrity, continued communication with community, the Learning Common/Maker Space at the HRMS and extending the distribution of Chromebooks. As voted
3. 2017-2018 K-12 School Improvement Plan – A summarization of Goals 1-3 was given with Mrs. Wermers describing writing workshops, working with rubrics, and including the data process into school improvement plans. Also, each school has personalized goals with Great Oak focusing on the use of Google, Highlands working on the school’s culture, Riverside their community helpers, Smith with schoolwide expectations, Thorpe’s Stem Initiative, HRMS working on self- reflection and Project Hawk and DHS working on the NEASC recommendations and 21st century learning. Dr. Dana gave an overview stating we are working together as one school district. Questions regarding individual school choices were asked of the principals and answered. As voted
4. 2017-2018 Homeschooling Proposals – The Superintendent recommended the Notice of Intent for Home Education for the 2017-2018 school year. As voted
5. Fundraising requests – The Superintendent recommended the approval of fundraising events for the Great Oak, Highlands, Riverside and Smith PACs, HRMS magazine drive and DHS girls & boys soccer,

DHS football & football cheerleading and DHS Volleyball. As voted

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. K-12 Student/Parent Handbooks – The Superintendent recommended the adoption of the K-12 Student/Parent Handbook. As voted

VI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. Communications – Dr. Dana shared the link to NEC
- B. Legislation – Mr. Crane stated that all was quiet but expects more movement come September.
- C. Subcommittee/Liaison Update

DEEP – Mrs. Verry commented that the annual DEEP wine tasting will be held on October 19th at the Danversport Yacht Club and reminded everyone that the proceeds go to support the DEEP teacher’s grants.

DanversCARES – Mr. Kay said they have received a small Tower grant this year went to funding the summer job initiative. They have also received grants from NS Community Health Network and a donation from Lahey Health.

SEPAC – The announcement was made that the Resource Fair will be held on September 7th at the Riverside School.

Policy – The Policy Subcommittee will be meeting in the fall.

VIII. MINUTES – As voted

IX. BUDGET

Mr. Taverna reported on the acceptance of donations.

VII. PERSONNEL

Announcement of Resignations, Leaves of Absence and Appointments – Mr. Taverna presented his memo dated August 2017.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, September 21, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Francis Mills Communication Center at Danvers High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Verry, Secretary
Danvers School Committee