

**DANVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, January 3, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
Danville School Library and Zoom Teleconference
[Video Recording Available](#)**

School Directors Present: Clayton Cargill, David Towle, Tim Sanborn, Molly Gleason, Melissa Conly

School Administrators Present: Superintendent Mark Tucker, Elementary Principal Sarah Welch, Secondary Principal Larry Fliegelman, Finance Director Mike Concessi, Danville Works Director Dave Schilling

Public Present: Eric Hewitt, Ginni Lavelly, Peter Knight, Miriam Moser, Andrew McGregor (Caledonian Record)

Student Representative Candidate: Kayley Goodsell

1. **Call meeting to order:** Clayton called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Introductions were made around the room.
2. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda** (*Proposed additions or deletions/Possible agreement*): None
3. **Approve Minutes:**

AMENDMENT: Molly noted a typo in the December 6, 2022 meeting minutes. November 15 should have been November 29 under the approval of the November 29 minutes.

MOTION: Tim moved to approve the December 6, 2022 meeting minutes with the amendment, Dave T seconded, all in favor.

4. Administrative Reports:

- [Superintendent:](#)

School Facility Analysis by the State (Act 72): Mark reported that consultants from the state will be visiting the school this week as part of the statewide school facility inventory.

US Dept of Energy “Renew American Schools” Grant: Mark shared that this would be a significant amount of funding for schools throughout the supervisory union. He is working on a concept letter to submit for all seven schools in the five districts of the supervisory union.

PCB Test Results: The few areas with reported PCB levels have been mitigated, and Mark is still waiting to hear from the state about the work plan for source testing to determine the source.

Teacher Contract Negotiations: The teacher contract settlement is close to being ratified, and Mark will bring it to district boards once ratified.

- Student Services: There were no questions, and Clayton stated that questions could be sent to Anne Landry.
- Principals: Sarah highlighted the work of the interventionists, sharing that the detailed narrative in the report came from the interventionists. She added that they have been an invaluable resource to supporting students, helping with recovery from the pandemic and reinforcing what is being taught in the classrooms.

Larry commented on the student concert in December, noting how well the students played.

Star Data for Reading and Math Grades 3-9 in Fall of 2022. There was discussion on the Star data presented in the principals’ report. Larry reported the challenges with comparing this data to years prior to the pandemic, and year-to-year, due to the many variables. It’s useful to see the progression of each student throughout the year. The state conducts a separate annual standardized test, and they didn’t test in 2020 due to the pandemic; 2021 was a hybrid year with some students in remote schooling, and teachers and students missing school due to quarantine which impacted results. Sara shared that the state’s test will be changing in the spring. Tim added that the Star test is helpful, because it can be taken many times throughout the year. Larry reported the academic need was significant this past fall, and he doesn’t expect dramatic changes in the midyear Star report as progress takes time. Sara added that they will have updated Star data at the next board meeting to show any changes to date. She clarified that prior to receiving ESSER funding for the additional interventionists, there was only one literacy interventionist covering seven grades and one for math covering seven to nine grades in a day. Mark shared that the new interventionists haven’t been there long enough to evaluate their impact.

- Student Representative: Thomas was unable to attend and submitted a report. Clayton stated that included in Thomas' report is a survey for board members and others (community members, teachers, students etc) to complete.

5. Board Business:

- FY24 Budget (*Presentation/Discussion/Possible Approval*)

Mike C. presented an updated budget and shared that the only factors that changed since the last budget presentation in December are the equalized pupil rate, which didn't change much, and the CLA which decreased by 6%. The lower CLA is what has impacted the tax rate, causing it to increase. There was a lengthy discussion on:

1. Reserves: Various reserves are available to the school that were approved at prior town meetings and further discussion on whether reserves can and should be used to bring down the tax rate. Mike modeled the tax impact with and without using \$300k from reserves which was \$1.42 and \$1.49 respectively. Funding for unanticipated building repairs could come out of the Unrestricted and/or Capital reserves.
2. Increase in Costs: The increase in total expenditures is due to uncontrollable costs such as special education and health care, ESSER grant-funded positions that are still needed for pandemic recovery and will roll into the budget next year, increases from teacher contract negotiations, and a position previously approved for Danville Works that has been unfilled.
3. Revenue & Sustainability: Recruiting tuition students to bring in revenue and how Danville Works could bring in more tuition students; student needs at Danville (and throughout the region) being met by Danville Works; the number of students Danville Works can serve and take in from other towns; the estimated increase in equalized pupil costs compared to the state's average tuition rate for sending towns (some costs are not allowed to be billed back to sending towns, such as transportation); the impact of a future building project on sustainability; potential savings around an upcoming staff retirement which could shift funding sources for one of the previously ESSER-funded positions.
4. Town Meeting Day Budget Vote: Voter perception and how residents might vote based on specific information in the budget such as the total increase or cost per pupil; the building project and how that could impact how community members vote this year.
5. Interventionists: The ESSER-funded interventionist positions and the plan for these positions going forward; how the investment in interventionists can help to lower special education costs by identifying and supporting needs earlier; whether students stay/come to Danville because of these services.

6. Clarification on Positions Categorized as New in the Budget: Two are interventionists previously funded by ESSER, one is a support services position previously funded by ESSER, one is an unfilled position for Danville Works that would have been funded by ESSER if someone had been hired.
 7. Danville School "Look Book": Larry distributed these to the board. The Look Book is shared with other schools to show what Danville has to offer.
 8. Moving Forward: Mike will make adjustments to the budget and there will likely be a special meeting to discuss again.
- Regional High School Choice School Year 2023-24 (*Discussion/Recommended Approval*)

Mark reported this is a statewide program that allows students to go to another public school in the state through a lottery, and they stay until they graduate. Danville has set a threshold at five students incoming and five outgoing, a little under the maximum, and typically has students coming in and not going out.

MOTION: Tim moved to participate in the Regional High School Choice program for school year 2023-24 and to allow Mark to sign on behalf of the board, Dave T. seconded, all in favor.

- New Building Committee Agenda (*Discussion*)

Clayton asked for feedback from the board on the composition and structure of the Building Committee, a possible moderator/facilitator for meetings and to guide the process, and agenda items for the upcoming Building Committee meeting on January 11th.

He also mentioned the condition of the HVAC and energy recovery units and how any fixes have to include the roof. This will be on the agenda for the January 11th meeting.

There was discussion on the Building Advisory Group and the new committee structure and whether community members who are part of the committee can vote; clarification on the legal restrictions of the structure as a subcommittee of the board which mandates a quorum of board members at all subcommittee meetings. Further discussion on whether advisory members will return, the role of advisory group members having previously been able to vote to determine consensus on a recommendation to the board, the importance of having advisory group members continue in a role to offer feedback to the board, and the

knowledge and expertise they bring to the table. Clayton stated he will send out an agenda for the meeting in the next few days.

- Three Current Building Construction Proposals (*Discussion / Possible Action*)

Discussion on the importance of moving forward from the three building options over \$60M to discuss more viable options. The \$32M make-good proposal is not included in these three options.

MOTION: Dave moved to offer a public statement that we are not restricting our options as the three that were presented and are open to other options.

Discussion on language of the motion, and Dave retracted his motion.

MOTION: Molly moved to set aside the building options previously considered by the Building Advisory Group that are over \$60M, options 1, 2 and 3, until there are financial resources available to discuss them and to continue conversations about more viable options to address our needs. Tim seconded, all in favor.

- Student Representative Search (*Discussion*)

Kayley Goodsell, a 10th-grader at the school, attended the meeting and introduced herself.

- New Hire Approval - Zachary Baker - Tech Ed Teacher (*Superintendent's recommendation/Board Approval*)

Mark and Dave S provided an overview of Zackary Baker's experience, and there was discussion on welding and plumbing and whether these will be part of Danville Works. Dave S. clarified that the purpose of the program is to prepare students for placement in tech programs and build skills and habits of learning through experiential learning for students who may want to work in trades. Due to space constraints, limited resources and restrictions from the state, Danville cannot offer a full trades program, and this is a way to meet their learning needs and prepare them for success in a trades program and a career in trades.

Motion: Melissa moved to hire Zackary Baker for the Tech Ed Teacher position, seconded by Dave T., all in favor.

8. Public Input

Ginni Lavelly gave public input.

9. Adjourn

MOTION: Tim moved to adjourn at 8:21pm, Dave seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Molly Gleason, Clerk, January 5, 2023.