

DANVILLE SCHOOL BOARD: SPECIAL MEETING UNAPPROVED MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2023

DANVILLE SCHOOL BOARD
Special Meeting: Annual Reorganization
Wednesday, March 8th, 2023, 6:00 pm
[Video Available over Zoom Teleconference](#)

School Directors Present: Clayton Cargill, David Towle (via Zoom), Tim Sanborn, Melissa Conly, and Molly Gleason

School Administrators Present: Mark Tucker (Superintendent)

Planned Absences: Principals Sarah Welch and Dave Schilling and Student Representative Thomas Edgar.

Community Members Present: None

- 1. Call to Order:** Superintendent Mark Tucker called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, sitting in as chair until a chair was nominated and approved. Introductions were made around the room and over Zoom.
- 2. Reorganization of the Board:**

- **Elect Chair:** The first order of business was for the board to elect a chair. Mark opened the floor to nominations.

MOTION: Tim nominated Clayton as Board Chair, seconded by Melissa. The motion carried with four in favor (Clayton abstained from voting). Clayton chaired the remainder of the meeting as Board Chair.

Clayton asked for a motion to add approval of the March 6th, 2023, Informational Meeting Minutes to the agenda.

MOTION: Melissa moved to add the approval of the March 6th, 2023 Informational Meeting Minutes to the agenda, Tim seconded, all in favor.

- **Elect Vice-Chair**

MOTION: Melissa moved to elect Dave T. as Vice-Chair, seconded by Tim. The motion carried with four in favor (Dave abstained from voting).

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- Elect Clerk

MOTION: Melissa moved to nominate Molly for Clerk, seconded by Tim. Motion carried with four in favor (Molly abstained from voting).

- Elect 2 CCSU Board Representatives and 1 Alternate

MOTION: Tim moved to nominate Clayton and Melissa as CCSU Board Representatives and Molly as an alternate, Melissa seconded, all in favor.

- Committee Assignments: Negotiations Council

MOTION: Tim moved to nominate Clayton to the Negotiations Council, seconded by Melissa, all in favor.

- Set Regular Board Meeting Schedule: Consensus to set the regular board meeting schedule for the first Tuesday of the month, at 6:00 pm, and schedule special meetings as necessary.
- Schedule Annual Board Retreat: Consensus to set as a future agenda item.
- Designate Official Newspapers and Posting Stations: Consensus to designate the Caledonian Record as the official newspaper and Danville School, Marty's, Hastings, Danville Post Office, and the school website as posting stations.
- Discuss and Adopt Code of Ethics: Clayton shared that Katie Callan sent the Code of Ethics document via email to all directors to sign.
- Communication Practices and Handling Complaints: Mark stated that board directors might hear from parents and community members, and it's important to understand the different roles and respect the chain of command. The school's operations are the administration's responsibility, and complaints should start with the building principals and then go to Mark if necessary. Appeals could come to the board, and directors shouldn't have prior knowledge and remain unbiased. Directors should first encourage parents to talk to teachers and principals to resolve any operational issues.

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- Appointment of the Voting Delegate for Statewide Health Insurance

MOTION: Tim moved to nominate Clayton as the delegate for statewide health insurance, Melissa seconded, all in favor.

- Signers of Warrants

MOTION: Tim nominated Clayton as the signer of warrants and Molly as the alternate, seconded by Melissa, all in favor.

3. Approval of Minutes:

- February 7th, 2023 (Regular), with an amendment by Clayton
- February 8th, 2023 (Building Committee)
- February 9th, 2023 (Emergency)
- February 21st, 2023 (Informational)
- March 6th, 2023 (Informational)

MOTION: Tim moved to approve all of the minutes and the change to the February 7th, 2023 minutes made by Clayton, seconded by Melissa, all in favor.

4. Administrative Reports:

Superintendent: Mark submitted a written report, and highlighted the following:

- State of Vermont School Facility Analysis: Mark hasn't been notified of the visit schedule by the Agency of Education consultant for any schools in the CCSU. He will notify the board when he has more information.
- US Department of Energy "Renew American Schools" Grant: The concept letter for the grant was "discouraged," which means it is unlikely to be funded in the grant application process. Mark will look into resubmitting again in FY'24 with some changes. There were over 1,000 applications with 70 times more money requested than they have available to grant (\$80M total). Mark is looking into replacing the fluorescent lighting through Efficiency Vermont. After February of next year, fluorescent bulbs will not be available for purchase. He has talked to Shawn McNamara about purchasing fluorescent bulbs in bulk before February if the lighting can't be replaced by February.
- PCB Testing: Mark testified to the House and Senate Education committees on the remediation funding formula. The proposed structure is for the state to cover 80% of the

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costs and schools will have to cover 20%. Mark is advocating for the state to cover 100% of the cost. Additionally, the source testing needs to be completed by a certified tester (there are only three in the state). Rather than waiting for a tester, and paying more for it, Facilities Director, Shawn McNamara, is going to complete the certification process (around \$200) so he can do the testing.

Principals' Report: Principals Dave Schilling and Sarah Welch submitted a written report. No discussion.

5. Board Discussion:

- **Monsanto PCB Lawsuit (*Recommendation / Possible Action*):** Mark stated that there is a contingency lawsuit against Monsanto, and lawyers are collecting appellants harmed by PCBs in schools. There are over 30 districts involved, with no cost to schools, only time spent on documentation. The firms will sue Monsanto on behalf of school districts, and if they win, they will receive payment from the settlement and the rest will be distributed to schools. Mark clarified that it is not a class action suit because there are specific appellants and awards could vary. This money would be helpful for schools because the state hasn't put aside enough funding for PCB remediation in schools. Monsanto created PCBs and is the single manufacturer of them. This was first recommended to the CCSU Board and brought back to local boards as not all schools in the CCSU are affected by PCBs.

MOTION: Molly moved to join the lawsuit and for the superintendent to go forward with the process, Tim seconded, all in favor.

- **Moderator Expense for Danville Building Committee (*Discussion / Possible Agreement*):** Clayton shared that he, Rob Balivet, and Kaity White met with Beth Kanell about facilitating the Building Committee meetings. She has experience facilitating building projects and has worked with St. Johnsbury Academy and the Athenaeum. The first session would be two hours. The total cost including preparation for each two-hour session is \$300/per session.

MOTION: Melissa moved to approve funding for Beth Kanell's facilitation services from the Capital Reserve Fund, not to exceed \$1,800 and not to exceed six sessions, Tim seconded, all in favor.

- **Meeting Expectations:** Clayton shared how reports and materials for board meetings have been submitted to date, and requested that the board set due dates and deadlines so directors have time to review them prior to meetings. There was consensus on the due

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date for packets being noon on Friday prior to a Tuesday meeting, and any missing reports or materials will be noted in the email. Late reports and materials (submitted after Friday) will be sent to Clayton and he will distribute them to the board. There was also consensus that there will be no reading of late reports out loud at the meetings with the exception of the student representatives.

6. Public Input: None

7. Meeting Adjournment: Melissa moved to adjourn, seconded by Tim, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Molly Gleason, Clerk, March 9, 2023