

DANVILLE SCHOOL BOARD
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 2nd 2023, 6:00pm
Danville School Library & Zoom Teleconference
[Video Recording Available](#)

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

School Administrators Present: Mark Tucker (Superintendent), Sarah Welch (Elementary Principal), David Schilling (Interim Secondary Principal)

Student Representative Present: Thomas Edgar

Public Present: Natalie Conway (and her family), Ginny Lavelly, Kaity White via Zoom

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)

Clayton recommended adding a discussion on the May 17th Building Advisory Committee agenda.

MOTION: Dave T. moved to add a discussion on the May 17th Building Advisory Committee to the agenda, Melissa seconded, all in favor.

Sarah reported that the quotes for the executive session on school security have not come in yet.

MOTION: Melissa moved to table the Executive Session agenda item until the June meeting, Tim seconded, all in favor.

Dave S. added that there is a second student board representative to be considered for board approval.

MOTION: Dave T. moved to add the approval of a student board representative to the agenda, Melissa seconded, all in favor.

3. Approve Minutes:

- April 4th, 2023: MOTION: Melissa moved to approve the April 4th, 2023 minutes, Tim seconded, all in favor. Clayton abstained.
- April 18th, 2023 (Building Advisory Committee Meeting): Molly will correct name spellings. MOTION: Tim moved to approve the April 18th, 2023, meeting minutes, Dave T. seconded. Molly abstained.

4. Administrative Reports:

- **Superintendent:**

Mark reported on the following:

State School Facility Analysis: The state is continuing to visit schools; this doesn't impact Danville because the state has already visited the school. They will be going to the other schools in the CCSU over the summer.

PCB Testing: The VT House of Representatives wants to pause testing and fund remediation costs at 100%, and the Senate does not. There's no guarantee, but 100% remediation looks promising.

Statewide Testing: Dave S. and Sarah reported many issues with the state's new testing system. There are security and log-in issues; it is flawed and will not reflect students' abilities. Students are frustrated, and in some instances, it took them 40 minutes to log in. The last accurate, reliable testing results were pre-pandemic in 2018, but it was a different test and can't be compared to the new results. Sarah recognized Jen Lemery at CCSU for navigating the challenges with staff, the state, and the testing company.

Project AWARE: Mark shared that this is a five-year project with federal funding on MTSS (multi-tiered systems of support) and social-emotional learning. The grant would fund a coordination position at a designated agency, NEK Human Services, to coordinate with the school and work on social-emotional issues. It would also include a CCSU-level MTSS coordinator for the seven schools in the CCSU. Hiring would occur in the fall. This would not be in the CCSU budget as it is grant-funded.

- **Student Services:** Mark shared that they are reorganizing to fill the Assistant Director position, which has remained open due to a lack of candidates. They hired a full-time District Case Manager, and the Assistant Director position will not be filled.
- **Principals:** No questions.
- **Student Representative:** Thomas reported that spring sports have started, and prom is coming up. Community Night was last week, and seniors presented projects. Students will be participating in Green Up Day on Friday, May 5th. He is working on the student representative position structure and will be meeting with stakeholders to review his work. Mark shared that Thomas is graduating and will be attending the University of Maine Orono on a full scholarship. Congrats Thomas!

Sarah shared that letters went out to all Danville families of three - and four - year olds before April break. With an anticipated preschool enrollment of 45+ students next year, two additional classrooms will be needed. This is a regional issue, and there are only two schools in the CCSU that may have space next year. The state will pay up to 10 hours per student for enrollment at an accredited preschool outside of the school, and students on IEPs could receive drop-in services if they are unable to enroll. This increase in enrollment is expected to continue over the next few years.

- **Curriculum:** No comments or questions.

5. Board Business:

- **TAN Recommendation (Discussion/Approval)**

Mark shared that the budget passes in March, and it takes effect July 1st. Tax collections don't come in until the fall, and Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs) cover expenditures over the summer months. Finance Director, Mike Concessi, puts this out to bid each year to solicit the best interest rates from regional banks. He submits a cash flow projection to indicate needs for the upcoming year (funding the school needs to borrow), which is \$1,695,897 for this year. Mike executes the note, and the funding goes into an investment account. Banks offer different services, and Mike manages the account to earn more interest. The estimated interest profit from the amount potentially as much as \$35K, which would move into an unrestricted reserve fund unless the board directs it into another reserve. The auditor stated that all boards need to formally approve TANs, which this board (and no boards in the CCSU) did last year .

MOTION: Tim moved to approve a TAN with Passumpsic Savings Bank at Mike Concessi's recommendation, in the amount of \$1,695,879, Melissa seconded, all in favor.

- **Sevigny Fund Request - Spring Field Maintenance (Discussion/Possible Approval)**

Dave S. presented a [spring field maintenance budget](#) for a Sevigny Fund request totaling \$18,061.50. It includes field maintenance on the diamond turf, tennis court repairs and surfacing, playground fencing, and a portable generator to run scoreboards. He reported that the fund is doing well, and this would not come from the principal amount.

MOTION: Melissa moved to approve the Sevigny Fund Request in the amount of \$18,061.50, Molly seconded, all in favor. Ginny Lavelly mentioned that the basketball nets and courts need repair, and the trash can needs a lid. These items will be discussed at the next meeting for repair work in the fall.

- **Superintendent Recommendation to Hire Secondary Principal Natalie Conway (Discussion/Action)**

Mark introduced Natalie Conway, and he recommended the board approve to hire her for the Secondary Principal position. The Interview Committee interviewed three people, and Natalie was a top candidate. Natalie shared her background and interest in working at Danville School.

MOTION: Dave T. moved to approve the hire of Natalie Conway at the superintendent's recommendation, seconded by Melissa, all in favor.

- **Teacher Hiring Recommendations (Discussion/Possible Approval)**

Dave S. shared that Nathaniel Bacon is being recommended as the Middle School ELA Teacher, replacing Jessica Settles, who is moving on. This position is on the critical hire list.

MOTION: Molly moved to approve the hire of Nathaniel Bacon as the Middle School ELA Teacher at the superintendent's recommendation for the 2023-24 school year, Tim seconded, all in favor.

Sarah recommended Lily Dunbar for the Elementary Art Teacher opening (3 full days).

MOTION: Melissa moved to hire Lily Dunbar as the Elementary Art Teacher for the 2023-24 school year, Dave T. seconded, all in favor.

- **Superintendent Interim Hiring Authority (Discussion/Possible Approval)**

Clayton shared that the CCSU Board meets bimonthly and recently approved of giving the superintendent hiring authority in-between meetings during the hiring season (spring) for CCSU level positions, designating approval by the board chair (Clayton) rather than the full board. Clayton asked board members if they would like to do the same. Tim and Sarah added that the field is competitive for hiring teachers, and candidates might go elsewhere during the time between meetings. Discussion on designating authority to the superintendent, after a consultation with the chair through the summer. Mark shared that the board will still be informed on hiring recommendations.

MOTION: Dave T. moved to approve designating interim hiring authority to the superintendent with Board Chair approval through 9/5/23, Melissa seconded, all in favor.

- **Superintendent Evaluation Committee - (Discussion/Appointment of Danville Rep)**

The CCSU Board voted to use the VSBA evaluation process to guide the board through the process of evaluating the superintendent. Discussion on nominating a board member representative to serve on the Superintendent Evaluation Committee.

MOTION: Molly moved to approve Clayton as the Danville School Board representative on the Superintendent Evaluation Committee, Melissa seconded, all in favor. Mark shared that Mark Clough will serve from Peacham.

- **C29-District Equity Policy (Discussion/Possible Adoption)**

Clayton stated that this is a “recommended policy,” and the CCSU Board reviews and recommends adoption by local boards. It was last reviewed in 2020 Mark, and Mark added that it is the VSBA model policy.

MOTION: Tim moved to adopt the District Equity Policy C29, Melissa seconded, all in favor.

- **Update on Softball Field Dedication (Discussion)**

Clayton shared that he and Randy Rathburn, Athletic Director, attended a Selectboard meeting to seek approval for the athletic department to hold a ceremony and name the softball field after Paul Remick. The celebration will be held on May 6th at 11am.

- **Building Advisory Committee:**

Clayton reported that the committee's facilitator, Beth Kanell, has taken another job and is unable to attend the next committee meeting on Wednesday, May 17. Clayton is also unable to attend due to an all-day conference he is attending as board chair. Board members proposed to keep the meeting date due to difficulties scheduling and in the interest of committee members who wanted to meet sooner than May 17th.

There was discussion on the urgent issues at the school, ventilation and lighting specifically, which have also been discussed at the Building Advisory Committee meetings. Board members decided to discuss and possibly take action on these items at the June board meeting. Mark shared that the Energy Recovery Units (ERUs) will probably be around \$700-800,000 and recommended financing to spread it out over 5-10 years. The lighting has to be replaced, and fluorescent bulbs will no longer be available after February due to a new law. There might be a rebate available with Efficiency Vermont. Mark will look into loans, bids, and cost information for the ventilation and lighting for the June board meeting. Mark stated that the state is looking at all school buildings in Vermont to restart state aid for school construction, but it likely will take a while to get it up and running.

Discussion on the agenda and facilitation for the May 17th committee meeting. In Clayton's absence, Dave T. could sit in as chair. Melissa and Molly offered to come up with an agenda and design a small group breakout activity to: 1) discuss and narrow down the [building options](#) shared in committee meetings that address the issue with space, 2) identify where more information is needed and how to get this information, and 4) prioritize and identify options that need further discussion.

- **Second Representative to the Board:** Dave S. recommended that the board consider appointing Kaylee Goodsell as the second student representative to the board.

MOTION: Dave moved to appoint Kaylee Goodsell as a student representative to the board, Melissa seconded, all in favor.

- **Executive Session: School Security** (in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 313 (10) security or emergency response measures, the disclosure of which could jeopardize public safety.

This agenda item was moved to the next meeting due to not having quotes.

6. Public Input

Dave S. shared that Emily Wiggett invited school board members and the public to attend the Spring Concert at the Congregational Church on Wednesday.

7. Future Agenda Items / Next Meeting Date

- Ventilation and Lighting Project Estimates
- Executive Session on School Security
- Sevigny Fund Request: Basketball and Tennis Courts
- New Teacher Hires

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Melissa moved to adjourn at 7:27pm, Molly seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Molly Gleason, Clerk, May 4th, 2023