

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

Board Directors Present: Clayton Cargill, David Towle, Tim Sanborn, Melissa Conly (initially Zoom, in person from 6:38pm on), and Molly Gleason

School Administrators and Staff Present: Mark Tucker (Superintendent), Sarah Welch (Elementary Principal), David Schilling (Interim Secondary Principal), Librarian Lydia Pitkin (via Zoom)

Student Representative Present: Thomas Edgar

Public Present: Kaity White, Eric Hewitt, Alison Despathy, Rob Balivet, Rachel O’Dell, Carol Kapoukranidis. Via Zoom: Lindsay Mitchell, Bruce Melendy

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:**
 - Amend April 18th, 2023 MOTION: Tim moved to amend the minutes to include Beth Kanell as the facilitator and correct the spelling of Eric Hewitt’s name, seconded by Dave Towle.
 - May 2nd, 2023 MOTION: Time moved to approve the May 2nd, 2023 minutes, Dave T. seconded, all in favor.
 - May 17, 2023 Building Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes: Clayton abstained. MOTION: Tim moved to approve the May 7th, 2023 minutes, Dave T. seconded, all in favor.
4. **Administrative Reports:**
 - [Superintendent:](#)

Mark shared his report and highlighted the following:

Family Income Data Collection: Family income data has been used in the past to determine free and reduced lunch eligibility. With universal free lunch due to the pandemic, there have been challenges with collecting income data from families. Underreporting can skew data; this has been an issue for Danville and Waterford, which reported lower-than-expected free and reduced lunch levels; both had levels under the threshold for Title I funding eligibility. Federal law states that schools with the highest percentage of poverty levels should get a higher percentage of funding. It's a fixed amount, and schools with the lowest percentages may not get an allocation because there isn't any remaining after the first allocations are made. Danville will get a small part of Title 1, and Title 4 and Title 2 funding will be redirected to fund positions funded by Title 1. The process needs to change to collect accurate poverty and income data.

This income data will also now be used to determine the poverty factor for schools under the new pupil weighting changes that take effect in FY'25. Preliminary estimates show 20 more equalized students for Danville (more funding), using the FY'24 budget and assuming all factors are the same.

- **Student Services:** Dave shared that there is a candidate for the Middle Special Educator position, and he is meeting with a candidate for the World Languages position tomorrow.
- **Principals:** Dave shared that with Jessica Settles leaving, there is an opening to lead the Student Council. He also shared that Zach Baker will be the Prom Advisor next year.
- **Student Representative:** Clayton thanked and congratulated Thomas for his work and accomplishments. He is graduating this year and earned the honor of valedictorian.
- **Curriculum:** Sarah reported that staff appreciates the curriculum newsletters, and there has been participation in the continuing education courses, whether in workshops or for credit.

5. Board Business:

- **P/T Culinary Teacher Position** (*Discussion/Approval*)

Clayton shared that this will be a new part-time position funded with ARPA grant funding for one year. Dave S. added that Suzanne Podhaizer has revitalized the cooking program, and students have been engaged and love her classes. He recommended Suzanne for the position. Clayton stated that this position is part of Danville Works, and next year, there will be a discussion about the entire Danville Works program.

MOTION: Tim moved to approve Suzanne Podhaizer for the P/T Culinary Teacher position next year, Dave T. seconded, all in favor.

Sarah shared that Anne Hatch was recently hired for 5-9th grade math interventionist.

- **Building Lighting Project:**

Mark reported that as of February 2024, fluorescent bulbs will be unavailable for purchase due to state law. He shared a [proposal](#) from Pierce Electric that included the costs of 1) direct replacement of LED retrofit kits in existing fixtures and 2) converting 2' by 2' light fixtures. He had received four bids for the work, and three backed out because they didn't have time to do the project over the summer.

Mark talked to Efficiency VT about the pros and cons of retrofitting vs. replacing fixtures. With retrofit, the same size LED bulbs are used, which makes them very bright; the alternative is to replace the fixture. It is less expensive to replace the fixtures in the long run, and there is a longer life expectancy with replacement, saving on electric costs. Mark will apply for a rebate with Efficiency Vermont. The cost is \$114,180. Mark added that there would be no code issues.

In terms of priorities for the building, Mark shared that the HVAC system would be next on the list. Dave S added that because the air handlers are old, electric costs are doubled. A list of priorities identified by Facilities Director Shawn McNamara can be found [here](#).

MOTION: Tim moved to approve \$114,180 for the building lighting replacement project from the Capital Reserve, Melissa seconded. Amendment: MOTION: Tim

moved to amend the source of funding to the Unrestricted Fund, Molly seconded, all in favor.

- **HVAC Repairs** (*Discussion/Possible Action*)

Mark shared that 2020 emergency repairs to the HVAC system were \$780,000 for emergency recovery unit (ERU) work, and Efficiency Vermont covered the cost. Shawn McNamara is working on getting proposals for a 1:1 replacement of the air handlers and a control system. Due to the high cost, Mark recommends obtaining a loan to present to the community for approval.

The state likely won't have school aid for construction available for at least two years, and with the high electric costs and inefficiency and ineffectiveness of the units, it is too long to wait.

This will be added to the next meeting agenda when the administration has proposal information.

- **Library Renovation Proposal** (*Discussion/Possible Action*)

Dave S shared a [library request](#) for \$21,660 from the high school teachers for shelving, adding flexible classroom space, and adapting the space to accommodate different ages and classes. He added that the book shelving is collapsing, books are outdated and stacked on the floor, and classes are distracted by the multi-use of the library by different ages. The proposal includes moveable walls to create a classroom, a reduction in old books, flexible shelving, and seating. He added that the building trades class can help with some work. The seating and shelves are expensive because they are library grade, designed for libraries, and built to last. VSAC has secured a grant to use the office space for a small career center, and it will also be used as a clean maker space (for the Cricut machines, etc).

Lydia Pitkin added that the maker space would allow more access and get students involved at an earlier age and that with the flexible walls, the school gains an additional high school classroom at little expense.

Dave T. asked about the Brainerd Endowment and whether funds can be used to support the proposal. Sarah pulled up the list of endowments and shared that there is \$79,902.48 in the fund to maintain the school.

MOTION: Dave T. moved to approve the library proposal of \$21,660 from the Brainerd Endowment, Melissa seconded, all in favor.

Mark will send the board the amounts left in reserve funds and endowments.

- **Sevigny Fund Request** (*Discussion/Possible Action*)

Dave S shared a [request for funding](#) for \$14,081 from the Sevigny fund to support summer/fall field maintenance and pressure washing and repair to the softball dugouts at the Town Field.

MOTION: Dave moved to approve the Sevigny Fund request for 14,081, second by Tim, all in favor.

- **Clarification on Playground Repair Inquiry** (*Discussion/Capital Fund Request / Possible Approval*)

Clayton stated that at the last board meeting, a member of the public asked the board to look into basketball court repairs. Dave S. shared that Marvin Pritchard said the basketball court is considered part of the playground, and funding from the Sevigny Fund shouldn't be used for repairs. The board discussed seeking a legal opinion and getting bids for the work. Mark will seek legal advice, and Dave S. and Sarah will look into bids. Dave T. will look into the specific language in the Sevigny Fund.

- **Building Committee - Pause to Consider State Action** (*Discussion*)

Clayton stated that work is being done at the state level to support school buildings, specifically preschools, and he recommends the School Building Committee pause until more information is available from the state. Committee members present shared that there has been momentum in recent meetings, and they'd like to reconvene in the fall to continue discussions on plans to address space issues at the school, a master building plan, and a long-term (3-5 years) vision/strategic plan.

- **Student Representative Presentation - Job Description / Role Definition**
(Discussion)

Thomas shared an in-depth presentation on his senior project on the Student Representative position on the board. He needed more guidance when he started the position, and his goal for the project was to define the role and provide more structure and organization. He discussed his challenges and the documents he created, including a job description, evaluation rubric, sample application and a student report template. The board thanked Thomas for his work on the project and for serving on the board.

6. **Public Comment:** Rachel O'Dell gave public comment.

7. **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.

MOTION: Melissa moved to go into Executive Session at 7:45pm, seconded by Tim, all in favor.

MOTION: Dave T. moved to come out of Executive Session at 8:03pm, Tim seconded, all in favor.

MOTION: Tim moved to allocate \$10,315.00 for school security out of the unrestricted fund, Dave T. seconded, all in favor.

8. **Future Agenda Items / Next Meeting Date**

- HVAC Proposal
- Seigny Fund Update about Outdoor Basketball Court
- Hiring Update
- Funding Update
- Executive Session: School Security
- Next Meeting: June 27, 2023 at 6pm

9. **Adjourn**

MOTION: Melissa moved to adjourn at 8:13pm, Tim seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Molly Gleason, Clerk, June 8th, 2023