

**DANVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, December 6, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
Danville School Library and Zoom Teleconference
[Video Recording Available](#)**

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

School Administrators Present: Superintendent Mark Tucker, Elementary Principal Sarah Welch, and Secondary Principal Larry Fliegelman

Building Advisory Group Members Present: Eric Hewitt, Rob Balivet, Kaity White (via Zoom)

Public Present:

Dave Schilling, Alison Despathy, via Zoom: Ginni Lavelly, Bruce Melendy, Simon Fisher, Megan (no last name), Lindsey Mitchell-Wheeler, akhill (no name), Karena (no last name), Richard Benoit

- 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:**
 - November 1st, 2022 Minutes
 - MOTION: Dave moved to approve the November 1, 2022 minutes seconded by Tim, all in favor.
 - November 15th, 2022 Minutes
 - MOTION: Tim moved to approve the November 15th, 2022 minutes, seconded by Dave, all in favor.
 - November 29th, 2022 Minutes
 - AMENDMENT: Clayton noted that Sarah Welch's last name wasn't included in the attendance list in the November 29, 2022 meeting minutes.

- MOTION: Tim moved to approve the November 29, 2022 meeting minutes with the amendment to add Sarah's last name, Melissa seconded, all in favor. (*Amendment: Changed a typo from November 15 to November 29, approved at January 3, 2023 meeting*)

4. Administrative Reports:

- [Superintendent:](#)

PCB Test Results: Mark reported that he informed the board and community of the low levels of PCBs found in three areas at the school - the electrical room, kitchen storage, and auditorium. They took immediate action to address the issue, which included isolating the areas and an air filtration upgrade in the auditorium. Source testing will be done to see where PCBs are leaching, and there will be more testing, likely after the December break. Based on the source testing, there will be more information on what needs to be done.

Vermont CTE Study: The state is conducting a long-term study to look at CTE (Career Technical Education) programming across the state. Mark has shared concerns with the state about the CTE costs that Danville incurs by having Lyndon Institute and St. Johnsbury Academy as designated CTE programs. The state doesn't contribute any funding to Danville for students to attend these CTE programs because they are not public CTE programs. For instance, it is more expensive for a Danville student to attend a half-day program at Lyndon Institute or St. Johnsbury Academy than it is for a Cabot student to attend full-time at Barre's CTE program. The cost for Danville students to participate in the CTE programs at Lyndon Institute or the Academy is around \$8,400 - \$10,500 (about 15 students participate each year). Danville is the only school in the state not attached to a public CTE. The state is looking into these issues and the possibility of having the state directly fund all CTE programs. Mark mentioned technical jobs in the state that are unfilled and the growing need for skilled workers for these positions. A report from the state will be released in February.

There was a brief discussion on the open position for a van driver for a student who needs transportation to and from school. Mark reported that it has been challenging to fill the position as there hasn't been any interest internally with staff members, primarily due to the hours. Mark clarified that no endorsements are needed.

- [Student Services:](#) There were no questions, and Clayton stated that questions could be sent to Anne Landry
- [Principals:](#) Sarah reported that the December Countdown started, and they are working on plans for Winter Wellness. Staff members have formed a planning

group for Winter Wellness activities; Dave Schilling is part of the planning group and added that the downhill skiing activity at Bretton Woods fell through due to cost (they no longer offer discounted rates). Burke was already full for the season, and Danville will be on the list for next year. They are looking at Craftsbury Outdoor Center and Fenton Chester. Larry reported that the concert is coming up next week, and basketball has started.

- [Student Representative](#): Thomas was unable to attend and submitted a report.

5. Board Business:

- Student Representative Search Update / Policy - Possible change (*Discussion / Possible Action*)

Clayton reported that the candidate who had expressed interest in the student representative position has a conflict and is unable to join at this time. There was a discussion on expanding the criteria to first- and second-year high school students to find more candidates. All agreed to change the policy to allow for the recruitment of candidates outside of the junior and senior classes and discussed the following amendments to the [Student Representative Policy](#). Suggestions include 1) under “Eligibility,” remove “of the junior or senior classes” 2) “Danville School” in place of “Danville High School”: 3) under Selection and Term, in the first sentence, remove everything in the sentence from “beginning as a junior..” and on.

MOTION: Tim moved, Melissa seconded, all in favor.

6. Clayton suggested moving the agenda item **Future Agenda Items / Next Meeting Date** up because Mike Concessi was scheduled to arrive at 6:30pm for the budget presentation.

- Next Regular School Board Meeting is on January 3rd, 2023
- Next Meeting Agenda Items: Budget, Student Representative Search
- The Building Advisory Committee Meeting is on January 11, 2023

7. Board Business (continued):

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

Mike Concessi, Finance Director, presented the [FY24 budget](#), explaining that it does not reflect updated information from the state (the yield and Common Level of Appraisal/CLA). The yield rate was released the Friday before the meeting and will positively impact the tax rate (the change is not reflected in the budget presented), seeing that it is higher than estimated. He reported that the school’s budget expenditures are up by almost \$1M primarily due to the following: four full-time staff salaries and benefits, negotiation increases for teachers and support staff, healthcare cost increases, special education assessments increases, and plant

and principals' office expenditures are up. If the CLA remains constant at 100% and equalized pupils remain constant, the tax impact would be flat. If the CLA drops and/or the number of equalized students drops, there would be an increase. Mike reported there's \$500,000 in the surplus from the audit, which he had anticipated. Mark reported that the town had approved a rainy day fund for unexpected special education costs in 2019, and the board could decide to use this funding to bring down costs should they be higher with the CLA and equalized pupil updates. The summary below is from Mike's budget presentation:

Top Increases FY24 Vs FY 23	
Comp & Ben of 5 FTEs	\$277,000 \$277K - Four (4) Add'l FTEs - C&B
CBA-CCEA increas	\$178,000 \$165K - Increase in CBA_CCEA Teacher Grid & FICA
Healthcare Ins up 12.7%	\$80,000 \$80K - Increase in Healthcare Premiums (up 12.7%)
SpED Assessment up	\$230,000 \$230K SpED Assessment Increase from SU
New SU Assessment	\$30,000 LNA - Health Services
All Other	\$165,000 Plant Operations (50), Principals Office(55), BI(60), etc
	\$960,000
	<u>97%</u>
 FTE Increase Breakdown	
ELA Interventionist	1.0 Previously Granted Funded (ARP ESSER)
Math Interventionist	1.0 Previously Granted Funded (ARP ESSER)
Paraeducator - SES Elem	1.0 Previously Granted Funded (ARP ESSER)
Career Technical Exp Para Position	1.0 NEW POSITION IN FY24
TOTAL	4.0

There was further discussion on

1. Special Education: How much is reimbursed by the state, and how much is in the school budget for the town? Mike reported that about 50% of special education costs get reimbursed, and 50% is the town's responsibility. The amount reflected in the budget is the town's portion and does not include the funding provided by the state. Act 173 changed the state funding model from a reimbursement to block grants. Mike added there are ten fewer kids at Danville receiving special education services, which means there is less funding from the block grant. The new para-professional position in the budget for FY'24 is not included in the special education costs.
2. Revenues and Tuition to Danville: How many students are budgeted for next year? Mike reported he included a projection of 40 tuition students at \$18,750 for the FY'24 budget. The tuition costs are the same for middle and high school students coming in. As of September 2022, there were 31 total tuition students for high school and 45 the year before; Sarah added there have been fluctuations due to Covid and having to set student caps during that time. Mark shared that he and Dave S. are meeting with Kingdom East to discuss interested students for Danville Works.
3. Danville Works: Discussion around long-term sustainability, the new position proposed in the FY'24 budget, capacity at the school to support

the program, the director position that is funded through ESSER funding until FY'25, and recent conversations with the community about investing in the high school. Dave S. shared that the school could accommodate about 35-40 students per grade in the high school. As of September 2022, the high school had 127 students. They are recruiting for the program, and Dave S. added that program development is challenging with limited resources. There was a brief discussion around the program's sustainability, with the board at the time understanding the program would be self-sustaining.

4. Other Grant/ESSER-Funded Positions: The middle school interventionist positions were also grant-funded by ESSER, and Mark reported they are now rolling into the budget. Discussion around increased cost per student for FY'24 and the excess spending threshold. Mark shared that interventionist positions are needed and part of the plan to address recovery from the pandemic. He also reported that the moratorium on the excess spending threshold wouldn't expire until 2029.
5. Yield and CLA: Discussion on how these numbers will impact the tax rate. Mark reported that the yield rate increase with the state is essentially erasing the budget increase of \$1M.
6. Capital Reserve for Building Maintenance. Mark and Mike reported that the FY'24 budget reflects operational expenditures, and the surplus funding is used for building maintenance and repairs if needed. The board makes decisions about these expenditures. A summary of the surplus as of June 30, 2022 is below:

6/30/22 - Ending Balance

Unrestricted Fund Balance (SURPLUS) Local Fund FUND 1 \$ 513,953 Audited ending UNRESTRICTED SURPLUS @ 6/30/22

Capital Fund FUND 3 \$ 27,670 Audited ending unrestricted SURPLUS @ 6/30/22

Local Fund FUND 1 \$ 45,200 Audited ending Mission & Vision Reserve @ 6/30/22

Local Fund FUND 1 \$ 180,518 Audited ending Special Education Reserve @ 6/30/22

7. Priorities for FY'24: Discussion around investments in health services vs. other needs, such as summer school, which will no longer be funded by ESSER. Mark reported that the addition of the LNAs (approved by the CCSU Board for all seven school districts) and summer school are priorities. There may be grant funds available for summer school when the funds are expended.
8. Overall Growth Rate Statewide: Discussion on the letter released by the state, which included budget increases projected around 8% statewide. Mike reported Danville is at a 15% increase (see previous presentation information increases), and the tax rate is flat only because of the higher yield rate from the state this year. The tax rate estimate could change when

the CLA and equalized pupil information is released.

8. Public Input

Alison Despathy gave public input.

9. Adjourn

MOTION: Tim moved to adjourn at 7:29pm, Dave seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Molly Gleason, Clerk, December 7, 2022.