

DANVILLE SCHOOL BOARD
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022, 6:00pm
Danville School Library & Zoom Teleconference
[Video Recording Available](#)

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

School Administrators & Staff Present: Superintendent Mark Tucker (Zoom), Elementary Principal Sarah Welch (Zoom), Secondary Principal David Schilling, Michael Concessi, CCSU Director of Finance and Operations, and Incoming Secondary Principal Larry Fliegelman (Zoom)

Student Representative: Ava Marshia

Public Present: Katie Fiegenbaum/Caledonian Record (Zoom), Lance Horne, Lisa French, Melissa Newland, Rob Balivet, Allison Despathy, Lindsey Wheeler (Zoom)

1. **Call to Order:** Clayton called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Introductions were made around the room.
2. **Additions/Changes to Agenda**
Mark requested Mike Concessi be added to the agenda to discuss the school's financial status and report on awarding the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). No action is required. Clayton moved it to "Board Business."
3. **Approve Minutes**
April 5th, 2022: Melissa moved to approve the minutes as written, Dave T. seconded, all in favor.
4. **Administrative Reports:**
 - [Superintendent's Report](#) - Mark Tucker
Mark announced that Larry Fliegelman, the incoming secondary principal, joined the meeting via Zoom. Mark reported Covid is now considered endemic rather than a pandemic concern, and no testing is happening at the school. Test kits are available if needed.

Act 173: The legislation is related to the pupil weighting study. It passed both chambers, and it has moved to the governor to sign. The legislature might delay the implementation of a few rule changes.

S.182: Legislation passed and moved to the governor. The legislature removed language in the draft that allowed teachers to break contracts. The requirement for school boards to be involved in non-renewal decisions is the most significant change. The law would go into effect next year. It does not apply to probationary teachers, and it applies to any teacher who has job protection under Section 1752.

Changes to Sections 706: This section implemented the Act 46 study process, and new rules will allow unified districts to withdraw; this doesn't impact Danville.

- [Principals' Report](#) - Dave Schilling
Dave S. responded to a question about funding for Nature's Classroom. It is in the budget, and additional fundraising contributes to the total cost. He also highlighted seniors are presenting projects at Community Night on Friday this week.
- Student Services Report
Email questions about the new hire to Mark. Dave S. mentioned that the SLP at Danville is not leaving.
- [Student Representative Report](#) - Ava Marshia
The school has a new National Art Society Chapter bringing art into the community. Ultimate frisbee has started, and there is a scrimmage against LI on May 11th. The artist in residence is Chi-Chi (Chinon Maria), and the kids have enjoyed it and have learned new techniques. NHS induction is coming up in June; two students are going to the All-State music festival; softball and baseball started; finals are coming up; and Community Night is this Friday with food and music.

5. Board Business:

- [Building Plan \(Discussion\)](#)
Clayton opened the discussion with questions from community members who were present. The questions are listed below, followed by responses from administrators and board members:
 - 1) What's unsafe at the school? Is it lead pipes?

It's not lead pipes but the solder used on the pipes that are the concern. Before 1986, it was legal to solder pipes with lead. Lead testing is done regularly at the school, and fixtures have been replaced and will need replacing again.

- 2) What is the \$32M estimate based on?

The [\\$32M make-good estimate](#) came from the architecture firm, TruexCullins. It doesn't address the issue of space which is why TruexCullins didn't present it as a quote/option. The architects were brought in due to a lack of space. Some teachers are working in closets; interventionists are sitting on the floor; the middle school guidance counselor is in a space the size of two chairs; students receive occupational therapy in the small space next to the elevator with a shower curtain as a divider, which also serves as office space for a staff member. The \$32M estimate only brings the building up to the current code, and there would still be contractor costs in an estimate for an addition. If any additions are constructed, the entire building has to come up to code (heat, electric, plumbing, sprinklers, etc.).

- 3) Was a cost analysis done, and can it be done in phases over time?

A 200-page [Facility Evaluation Report](#) was drafted by a team consisting of a mechanical engineer, architects, a civil engineer, and a landscaper. The make-good cost of \$32M came from that report.

Last year, the cost to add a basic heating function to the air handling system was \$800,000. This system had been previously shut down for over ten years, because it brought cold air directly into the building. During the pandemic, it became evident that there was no functional air circulation in the building, necessitating this repair. The air handling units are still at the end of their useful life, and another \$700,000 is estimated to restore this system fully.

There are differences in the amounts taxpayers would pay for the building project based on whether they are residents or non-residents; rates are different for constituents. It's too soon to know estimates, but it will be helpful information for the community when the time comes. The first step is discussing the proposals and understanding what the community wants to do.

- 4) Were there other bids for the architecture firm, and will it be open to other bids for the design work?

The Board initiated this project to look at the conditions of the building. TruexCullins was selected through an RFP process. There was a pause with the project due to Covid and air ventilation issues. TruexCullins [presented different options](#) to resolve the concerns about the buildings. There are three options, and the fourth option is to do nothing at all, which is risky because systems such as electrical and plumbing will eventually fail over time. These are estimates, and there will be more details once the community discusses options. Questions from the community are encouraged, and the community will decide what will be done. Planning can't be done if the school moves from one emergency to the next with unexpected costs to the community.

The Board received three cost estimates, and TruexCullins came highly recommended. It is expensive to obtain these estimates (around \$60,000 each). TruexCullins will reach out to engineering firms regarding the process going forward, and there will be a selection process for the design work. TruexCullins brings the project to the bond vote, and then it goes out to bid again.

- 5) Is there also funding to improve test scores? How can test scores be improved?

Improving test scores and building construction is not an either-or situation. Administrators could hire more staff, such as interventionists, if they had the space. Hiring isn't the issue, but they have nowhere to put additional staff. It's important to give the elementary curriculum the attention it needs and address space issues. Test scores don't always measure positive outcomes for students, and there are discussions to be had on curriculum outside of this process.

CCSU is involved in a framework called the Multi-Tiered System of Support to improve instructional practices where they need to be improved. It is understanding the strengths, challenges, and resources at schools and offering teacher training. Mark will report to boards in the CCSU about this framework and the recommendations specific to Danville. There are concerns about student outcomes coming out of the pandemic, and there will be more detailed reports coming soon around student outcomes and curriculum.

- Public Comment Procedure (*Discussion*)

Clayton drafted language on the public comment procedure using similar language from CCSD and the VSBA webinar to guide public comment. The document also includes expectations for board members. Stakeholders are defined as students, parents, teachers,

and residents of Danville, and non-stakeholders can submit comments via email. Mark added that it is legal for boards to have limits and standards regarding public comment.

Tim recommended that the Board develop meeting norms together; Clayton will add it to the next agenda.

- Gym Equipment - (*Discussion / Possible Action*)

Dave S. confirmed with Mike Concessi that unrestricted funds could support the gym equipment purchase. The following [three proposals](#) were presented and discussed at the last meeting:

Winches & Basketball Backstops = \$30,504 (price went up after covid)

Batting Cage = \$18,832

Curtain = \$18,169

Total = \$67,505 total

Motion: Molly moved to approve the three proposals at \$67,505, Melissa seconded.

Clayton opened for public comment: no comments. All in favor.

- Seigny Fund Request - Field Maintenance (*Discussion/Possible Action*)

Dave S. stated that this request is for annual field maintenance costs and staining the dugouts. Dave T. provided an overview of the Seigny Fund. Paul and Marian Seigny were pillars of the community. When Marian passed away, she donated \$475,000, and only the interest earned could be spent on enhancements and improvements to the athletic fields and facilities. Dave S. added that over \$600k is in the fund, and requests come in every year.

Motion: Dave T. moved to approve expenditures not to exceed \$22,945.50 for spring/summer field maintenance, preparation/staining of dugouts, and summer/fall field maintenance, Melissa seconded the motion, all in favor.

- Board Education - Policy and the Family Handbook (*Discussion*)

Clayton discussed the Policy and the Student Family Handbook. It is an operational document, and board members can direct parents and community members to the handbook or teachers and administrators to answer questions.

- Mike Concessi - Financial Report & Tax Anticipation Note
Mark shared Mike's [financial report](#) on the screen. Mike stated the school is on track with expenses, and at this point in the year, he doesn't anticipate Danville will be over budget. CCSU is well under budget, likely due to open positions that didn't get filled. He will have better numbers in July. Dave S. added that purchase orders are open, and encumbrances will drop once they close out.

Mike has seen some inflation and supply chain issues (paper, etc.), but not enough to drive the budget into a deficit position; food service should be fine with subsidies and reimbursements. Those end this year, and it will be back to a pre-pandemic model next year.

Mark shared the [TAN Bid Comparison](#) document, and Mike stated that the Board already has permission from the town to obtain the TAN. All bidders provided two options except one, and there is a fixed-line vs. a traditional TAN with an investment option. It came down to Passumpsic and Union, both competitive offers. Mike shared that customer service with Passumpsic Bank makes it worth staying with them. Mark and Mike added that Passumpsic has helped on many occasions, and they see themselves as partners to the community. Mike recommends staying with Passumpsic.

Clayton stated no motion was needed, and the purpose of the presentation was to update the Board.

6. Other Business: No other business discussed.

7. Public Input:

Alison Despathy gave a public comment.

8. Future Agenda Items

- Meeting Norms (discussion / possible action)
- Public Comment Policy (discussion / possible action)
- Building Plan
- New Hire Approvals (discussion / possible action)

9. Meeting Adjournment:

Motion: Moved by Dave T. to adjourn, seconded by Melissa. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

Respectfully submitted by Molly Gleason, Clerk, May 4, 2022