

**DANVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, July 5th, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.
Danville School Library and Zoom Teleconference
[Video Recording Available](#)**

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

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

Student Representative: Thomas Edgar

Public Present: Andrew McGregor, Lindsey Mitchell-Wheeler, Doug Pastula

1. **Call meeting to order:** Clayton called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, and introductions were made around the room.
2. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda** (*Proposed additions or deletions/Possible agreement*): None
3. **Approve Minutes:**
 - Dave moved to approve the June 7, 2022 minutes, Tim seconded, all in favor.
 - Tim moved to approve the June 20th, 2022 minutes, Dave seconded, all in favor.

4. Administrative Reports:

Superintendent: Mark reported Brandon Lawrence, the facilities director in Cabot and Twinfield, left the position on July 1st. There have been some staffing changes that improve efficiency and provide cost savings for Danville School. Shawn McNamara has assumed responsibility as facilities director for Danville, Twinfield, and Cabot. Denise Briggs is responsible for bussing and has taken on an additional role as transportation coordinator for all three schools. The three schools will share the costs of the facility director (Shawn) and transportation coordinator (Denise); Danville and Twinfield will each contribute 40% of the costs and Cabot 20%, percentages based on enrollment and staffing. Shawn will no longer be at Danville daily, and a second custodian is needed. With this change, Danville is saving \$7,500. Shawn will be responsible for asbestos monitoring for all seven buildings. All three schools will benefit, creating efficiency and coordination with the other pre-k to 12 schools.

Principals: Sarah shared that the preschool is full (primarily four-year-olds), and there is a waitlist with ten children. They might be able to add a few from the waitlist, but she doesn't anticipate there will be any openings. Danville doesn't have space to support three preschools. Out of the ten waitlisted children, four three-year-olds will go to Peacham. Mark shared that Danville is not the only school where this is happening. Parents can send their children to any public preschool or qualified preschool program, and Danville will pay up to 10 hours/week.

There was a discussion on the gym bleachers: Sarah stated they don't have space to store the old lumber from the bleachers for the tech/trades program. Painting starts tomorrow and should be done early next week.

5. Board Business:

- Facility Committee
 - A. Amend Board Member Composition: Clayton shared he would like to step down and nominate Molly and Melissa to the Facility Committee.
 - B. Community Composition: Clayton shared a list of people who have expressed interest in serving on the committee, which can be found [here](#). Thomas Edgar, a student and also the student representative on the board, expressed interest. Mark recommended the facilities director, Shawn McNamara, to be on the Facility Committee. Doug Pastula, present at the meeting, indicated an interest in serving on the Committee. Randy Rathburn, the athletic director, is on the list to be added, as well as a special educator and teacher; the administration will discuss with staff and see who is willing and able to offer time, including para-educators and those representing the arts. Mark stated it needs to be clear to staff that this is a volunteer position.

Clayton shared two ground rules for the Facility Committee: 1) the Committee can add members; 2) the Committee cannot take action; decision-making will remain with the Board of Directors.

Motion: Dave moved to add Sarah Welch, Larry Fliegelman, and Dave Schilling to the Facility Committee, Melissa seconded, all in favor.

Motion: Tim moved to add Melissa Conly and Molly Gleason to the Facility Committee, Dave seconded, all in favor.

Motion: Melissa moved to add Shawn McNamara, Thomas Edgar, and Randy Rathburn to the Facility Committee, Tim seconded, all in favor.

Motion: Dave moved to add Doug Pastula to the Facility Committee, Melissa seconded, all in favor.

Discussion on the tax impact of the building renovation options and the cost of pricing many designs: Mark stated there are four options: 1) do nothing, 2) renovate with no additions, 3) renovate with additions, 4) build a new school. The school can't afford to pay an architect to design all options. The role of the Facility Committee is to continue to take input from the community and make a recommendation to the board. The board had requested information on the tax impact at a previous meeting. Mark expects to hear from Nicole Mace (Finance Director of the Winooski School District) soon, who has some direct experience with a similar bond structure in the Winooski school district. He hopes to use that connection to help in ascertaining the requested data.

Mark advised holding the bond vote separate from the school budget at Town Meeting.

Dave suggested using a Doodle Poll to set a meeting date for the Facility Committee.

- C. Initial Meeting Date (*possible action*): Mark will distribute a Doodle Poll to everyone on the Facility Committee list.

Discussion on a new ground rule for the Facility Committee: the Facility Committee can meet if there is a quorum, which is 50% of the committee plus one.

Motion: Tim moved to approve the ground rule for the Facility Committee to meet if there is a quorum, Melissa seconded, all in favor.

Roles such as chair and clerk will be determined at the first meeting, and meetings will be videotaped.

- D. Mission Statement (*Discussion/ possible action*): The Facility Committee will create a mission statement. Some discussion here centered on the committee having an initial function (to help the board determine the best choice of the potential plans) and then a pivot to help promote whichever plan the board votes on presenting to the town.

- Financial Impact (Modeled) of Closing High School (*Presentation/Discussion*): Mark stated that Mike Concessi prepared financial information on closing the high school at the request of the Board and made clear the administration is not advocating for closing the school. The modeling involves a certain amount of speculation and is based

on the FY 2023 budget, which went into effect July 1. Without a high school, there is lost tuition from students who attend from sending towns (\$730,000), and the town will have to pay tuition for Danville students. They used \$20,000/student for tuition, which is the cost at Lyndon Institute and St Johnsbury Academy. The model assumes most students would go to one of these schools as there has never been a student request to exit Danville to attend a different public school. For students with an IEP, schools charge back excess costs to the sending towns. LI uses a direct chargeback based on hours, and the Academy charges a flat rate of 50% of tuition in addition to the \$20,000/student tuition cost; it would cost the town \$30,000 to send each special education student to the Academy. He noted that the model underestimates high school costs due to speculation. Sarah worked on the staff costs with Mike C. (i.e., 70% of building, bussing, fuel, etc., the costs the school still has to pay for pre-k through grade 8, which is an educated guess). Costs of administrators are factored in.

Mark shared the [Tax Impact](#) information on closing the high school: Closing the high school adds 23 cents to the base tax rate. With pupil weighting in flux, excess spending penalties have been suspended, so these calculations were estimated with and without a penalty.

He also noted that Danville is the only public high school in the region, and some students do not want to attend LI or the Academy. LI and the Academy do not have to accept students, and families will likely be responsible for transportation. Concord and Chelsea saw residents move for school choice, and the students are counted for the town, which increased tuition costs. If families move into existing properties, there is no new revenue to support the increased costs. Danville's tax rate is low compared to surrounding towns. There would also be no more sports teams for Danville. Danville has a no-cut policy, and other schools have a cut policy; Danville students might not have an opportunity to play sports in high school. Lastly, he stated that closing the high school doesn't eliminate the need to do something about the existing conditions at Danville School's campus.

Clarification on special education costs: Mark shared that public schools can set a lower tuition cost per student but not higher. LI and the Academy operate tech programs and can set tuition at any amount. LI's tuition has gone up 5-6 % each year. Public school options in the area are limited to Oxbow, Blue Mountain, Cabot, and Twinfield. He also clarified that the purpose of the Facility Committee isn't to discuss closing the school as an option.

- Meeting Norms (*Discussion/Possible Action*)

Clayton asked board members if the CCSD meeting norms should be added to the agendas. Tim shared that the purpose of meeting norms is to brainstorm together and set expectations for conduct at meetings. Clayton asked board members to send him thoughts on the meeting norms or request to add them to the agenda to be discussed. No action

taken.

- **Public Comment Policy (Discussion/*Possible Action*)**

Clayton shared the policy, and Tim suggested “guardians” in place of “parents.” Discussion on “caregiver” and whether the policy should be verbally stated at every meeting or written on the agenda. All in favor of having it as a written statement on the agenda.

Motion: Tim moved to approve the Public Comment Policy with “guardian” in place of “parents,” Melissa seconded, all in favor.

- **D22 Selection of Library Materials (Recommended Policy Update)** To ensure that the District provides access to a diverse library collection that supports students in the curriculum, their personal research, and recreational reading and recreational reading, and that sustains students’ First Amendment Right to access information and to read freely. (*Discussion/Possible adoption*)

Clayton introduced the policy, and Mark shared that the librarian curates material, and the policy brings the school and library into the 21st Century.

Motion: Tim moved to adopt the library policy, Dave seconded, all in favor.

- **Building Plan -Video Walkthrough Update (*Discussion*)**

Mark stated that KATV plans to do a video of the school in 8-10 locations to show the deficiencies to those who could not attend the tours.

6. Other Business

None

7. Public Input:

Andrew McGregor gave public comment.

8. Future Agenda Items / Next Meeting Date

- Facility Committee Additions / Updates from Facility Committee Meetings
- Building Video Update
- Next meeting is on September 6th, 2022

9. Adjourn

- Motion: Melissa moved to adjourn 7:44, Tim seconded, all in favor.