DANVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 7, 2025, 6:00 pm
In Person and via Zoom

School Directors Present: Clayton Cargill, Dave Towle, Tim Sanborn, Eric Hewitt, Kay Freedy.

School Administrators Present: Matt Foster (Superintendent), Mike Moriarty (Assistant Superintendent), Sarah Welch and Natalie Conway (Principals)

Community Members Present: In person only - zoom attendance not taken.
Hannah Litz, Kaity White, Molly Gleason, Mary Beattie, Krissie Mantius, Jill Cahoon, Tyler Cahoon, Eugene Davis, Laureen Pollard, Rose Modry, Cora Lopez, Peter Mantius, Chris Elliot, Rachael Koenigsbauer, Scott Beck, Evan Whitehead, Landen Fournier, Lauren Joncas, Lyndsey Lavely, Annie Lawler, Ginni Lavely, Trevor Bunnell, Tiffany Johnson, Hudson Costas, Henry Crone, Douglas Hallam, Danielle Turo, Megan Williams, Glen Ehrain, Carlo Sota Asalde, Stacy Andre, Jeff Andre, Lance Horne, Allison Horne, Cameron Horne, Jason Brigham, Sebastian Eldred, Johanna Jody Sedell, Jennifer Litz, Diana Moore, Annabelle Stevens, Stacy Edgar, Abigail Bartell, Beth Williams, Polly Joncas, Shannon Anderson, Simon Fisher, Stacy Welch, Melissa Wetherell, Lydia Pitkin, Luke Robbins, Jackson Fisher, Megan Bunnell, Melinda Johnson, Jon Webster, Libby Ratico, Matteo Hallam, Kenrdra Aber-Ferri, Barbara Fontaine, Gary Fontaine, Shelly Towle, Lynda Farrow, Gary Farrow, David Bigelow, Rebecca Bigelow, Andrew McGregor (cal rec), David Warren, Jordan Sullivan-Stevens, Ari Moragues, Christine Rapoza, Cathy Dellinger, Mark Tucker, Melanie Willis, Amanda Johnson, Anthony Calamaio, Ellis Turo, Connor Winn, Eric Hutchins, Reason Hutchins, Wendy Hutchins, Alijah Andrews, Liz Prohaska, Bruce Melendy, Lola Duffort - (Vermont Public), Randy Rathburn, Justin Newland, Brian Turo, Nadia Hale, Spencer Morse

1. **Call meeting to order:** Clayton called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Introductions were made around the room.

2. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:**
   None.

3. **Approve Minutes:**
   - September 2, 2025

   MOTION: Dave made a motion to reject the minutes of September 2, 2025. Motion was not seconded but the consensus was to reject them. The minutes presented need to be corrected before they can be approved. Clayton will correct the minutes and disburse them this week.
   - September 17, 2025

   MOTION: Tabled as part of the above rejection.

4. **Board Business:**
   - Peter **Mantius: Petition to the Danville School Board**
     Discussion of Board related to Petition – Detailing Steps and Forthcoming Warnings/Informational Meeting/Town Meeting

   The Petition states: Warn a Special Meeting for the legal voters of the town of Danville to vote on closing the existing high school by ceasing to operate grades 9-12 as of June 30, 2026 and thereafter provide for the education of students in those grades by paying tuition to a public or approved independent school.

There are 1,871 registered voters in Danville. There needed to be 94 signatures for this petition. The confirmed signature count is 124.

Clayton proposed the date of the Special Meeting to be December 6, 2025, at 3:00pm. This is within 60 days, and on a Saturday afternoon, which would not interfere with school operations and provide opportunity for voters to be present. This must be an in-person vote. Between now and then, there will be two informational meetings.
Meeting Schedule below in upcoming meetings

Public Comment Related to Petition:
Questions from the audience:
Will this be the only vote on this matter? Clayton said yes. (this was challenged and the question will be referred back to an attorney).
Is this vote binding? Again, clarification will be sought. Two people in the room insisted that a vote of the public would be advisory only and that the vote on whether to operate rested with the School Board itself.

How will this upcoming vote be shared out to the public? The Board will warn the meeting, have informational meetings, put a notice in the paper, have the school put out an email blast.
Can this petition's wording be amended? The board can't amend the wording of the petition and the petitioners have submitted the question they wanted asked. At a town meeting, the wording of articles can be amended, if there is agreement of the voters.

5. **Public Input:**
   Danielle Turo made a public comment.
   Luke Robbins made a public comment.
   Simon Fisher made a public comment.
   Stacy Andre made a public comment.
   Mark Tucker made a public comment.
   Bella Stebbins and Ash Bedard made a public comment.
   Jordan Sullivan-Stevens made a public comment.
   Peter Mantius made a public comment.
   Eric Hutchins made a public comment.
   Johanna Jody Sedell made a public comment.
   David Warren made a public comment.
   Ari Moragues made a public comment.
   Lance Horne made a public comment.
   Barbara Fontaine made a public comment.
   Stacy Edgar made a public comment.
   Kaity White made a public comment.
   Connor Winn made a public comment.
   Jason Brigham made a public comment.
   Alison Despathy made a public comment.

   Kay Freedy shared that Friday, October 10th from 4:30-6:30pm, Oxbow High School will host a public forum of the redistricting committee.

6. **Administrative Reports:**
   Superintendent Report
   Matt shared he is in the final stages of hiring a new CFO. Eric asked if Tommy Bricco, Facilities Director would be able to share how the new heating controls are working at the next meeting.

   Student Service Report
   No additional comments or questions on this report.
   Principal Report
   Sarah and Natalie reviewed information included in their report.

7. **Board Business:**
   - CBA **Teacher Contract FY26-FY28 (Discussion/Proposed Ratification/Possible Approval)**

   Clayton reviewed the chain of events leading up to saying that currently the CBA is in ratification, and now is asking the board to approve the CBA for Danville School.. Matt shared the financial impact of the CBA updates agreed to by the negotiating council and the CCEA/ Cabot Union delegates. that showed base increases and salary scales. Clayton reviewed the three year proposal which will allow for streamlining in compensation and responsibilities across the districts.

   MOTION: To approve the CBA Teacher Contract FY26-FY28. Dave abstained. Eric moved to approve, seconded by Tim. All others in favor. Motion carries.

   - Early **Retirement Option Decision in accordance with 17.1 B of CBA (Discussion/Board action)**

   No one indicated an intention to pursue this option. No further discussion or action taken.

   - Policy C28 - Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students **(Recommended). An update to existing policy that ensures a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students, protecting them from discrimination based on gender identity or expression. It affirms students' rights to privacy, the use of their preferred name and pronouns, and access to facilities and activities consistent with their gender. Schools must maintain confidentiality of transgender status, comply with legal requirements for student records, and provide reasonable accommodations for privacy when requested (Discussion/Possible Action)**

   This is a recommended policy by the state, and needs to be approved at the local level. It was recommended for approval by the CCSU board at a recent meeting and referred locally. The update revises the terminology to ensure it aligns with current federal and state guidelines.
   MOTION: To approve Policy C28 for the Danville School District. Dave abstained. Tim made a motion to approve, seconded by Kay, all others in favor.

   - **Finalizing Position Letter for Redistricting Task Force (Discussion/Possible Action)**

   Clayton and Eric have been working on the draft version of the position letter. Eric read the letter aloud for the audience. The board and audience discussed what changes they would like to see in the letter, and created the Edited/Finalized Letter.
   MOTION: To approve the Finalized Position Letter be sent to the Redistricting Task Force. Tim motioned to approve, Kay seconded, all in favor. The letter will be signed by all board members and be sent tomorrow.

- **Community Outreach re: Redistricting (Discussion)**

Eric suggested another informational meeting could be held in October. A special meeting will be held October 22, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

8. **Future Agenda Items / Next Meeting Date**
   - Approve the revised meeting minutes of September 2, 2025. (for 10/22)
   - Community Survey on the High School.
   - Next Meeting Dates
   - October 22, 2025 - 6PM Informational Meeting and Special Board Meeting Immediately after
   - November 4, 2025 - 6PM Informational Meeting and Regular Board Meeting Immediately After
   - December 2, 2025 - 6PM Regular Board Meeting
   - December 3, 2025 - Informational Meeting
   - December 6, 2025 - Town Meeting

9. **Public Input**
   - **Alison** Despathy requested items that are shared via PowerSchool are also available via paper copies.

10. **Adjourn**

MOTION: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm. Tim made a motion, seconded by Dave, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Ellie Keefe