DANVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 2, 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), Patti Sprague (Curriculum Director), Sarah Welch and Natalie Conway (Principals)

Student Representative Present: Kearah MacDougall

Community Members Present: Vermont Senator Scott Beck, Peter Mantius, Richard Benoit(zoom), Brett McNeil (zoom), Stacy Edgar, Simon Fisher, Spencer Morse, Guy Pearce, Luke Robbins, Kaity White (zoom), Danielle Scott (zoom) Lindsey Mitchell (zoom), John Corliss (zoom), Emily Greaves (zoom)

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:** Addition-Report from Kearah MacDougall. Change in the order of Sevigny Fund discussions. Patti is providing an updated graph on the Continuous Improvement Plan that was not in the packet.

3. **Approve Minutes:**
   - August 13, 2025

   MOTION: Tim moved to approve the minutes, Eric seconded, all in favor.

4. **Administrative Reports:**
   - **Superintendent Report**

   Included in the packet. Matt gave an update on the Business Office since the departure of the Director of Finance. Eileen Demers has been hired as Interim Business Manager to oversee the day-to-day operations, as well as begin the budget cycle. Eileen has business experience in the public education sector as well as other industries. Applications are still being taken for the permanent position of Director of Finance.

   - **Student Services Report**

   Included in the packet. No questions on the Student Services report.

   - **Principals Report**

   Included in the packet. Natalie said the start of the school year has gone smoothly. The new student cell phone procedure has shown positive and increased student engagement in the classrooms and throughout the school. Sarah congratulated the Staff of the Year: Emily Wiggett, Shannon Anderson and Richie Benoit. Congratulations and thanks from around the room. The Middle School Special Ed position is still open.

- **Student Representative Report:**

Kearah will be resigning from this position, this will be her last meeting. The board and administration thank her for taking on this role. She said the cell phone procedure, though it is a big difference, is a good thing. She notices more in-person conversations and students are more present in class. The school will seek a new Student Representative.

5. **Board Business:**

- **Continuous Improvement Plan**

Patti Sprague, Curriculum Director, presented. The purpose is to review student academic and behavior data and set goals for the upcoming year that will be submitted to the state Agency of Education. These goals will also align with CCSU's Strategic Plan.
In summary of 2024-2025, 58% of K-8 students made at least one year of growth in reading, and 45% of K-8 students made at least one year of growth in math. GOAL: By June 2026, 100% of all students in grades K-8 will show at least one year's growth in reading and math.
In summary of 2024-2025, there were roughly 75 major behavior referrals in grades K-8. GOAL: By June 2026, major behavior referrals in grades K-8 will decrease by 5% compared to 2024-2025.
These goals will need to be approved by the school board in order to be submitted to the state by 9/30/25. A special meeting will be scheduled to meet this deadline.

- **Sevigny Fund Request**

This request is for $22,000 to begin building a 16'by 30' shed on the town's athletic fields to store Danville School's athletic supplies and equipment used on these fields. An estimate has been provided by Fenoff & Hale Construction. The $22,000 does not include installation of siding, plywood ceiling, garage door and entry door. To include installation of these items, the estimate is $29,400.00.
MOTION: Dave moved to approve $29,400.00 from the Sevigny Fund to fund the full cost of the project. Tim seconded, all in favor.

- **Cost Analysis of the High School**

Eric presented. The purpose was to review which is more cost effective; continue operating the high school, or provide high school choice. The previous analysis was using forecasted tuitioned students from other districts and forecasted tuition revenues. With actual FY26 numbers now provided for tuitioned students and tuition revenues, the current Act 127 tax rate is showing it is more cost effective to close the high school/provide high school choice. Eric notes this is the first year showing this result. Eric explained the Foundation Formula of Act 73, the recently approved legislation. The legislation will not change this result.
Clarification: It was mentioned that 40% of the class of 2027's students left the school at the beginning of grade 9. This number is actually 37%.
Discussion opened to the public.
A **clarification** was made regarding the supposed 18 families who remain in Danville but choose to pay privately for education. Those 18 students, when initially factored into the LTWADM formula currently, would significantly increase the tax rate in Danville for any year this occurs. Once this was pointed out, this additional spending was factored into the calculations. This would mean that any initial change to the HS structure would still be more expensive (including that additional $450K) than keeping the HS open fiscal year. (this discussion and the specifics are best viewed in video form)
Peter Mantius made a comment .
Stacy Edgar made a comment.

Simon Fisher made a comment.
Spencer Morse made a comment.

Scott Beck made some clarifying points on Act 73's foundation formula.

- **Position Letter for Danville School re: Act 73 (H 454)**

Clayton presented his research to date to support a position letter for Danville School District to the State's Redistricting Task Force. He explained the goals of this task force, which are to enact new, larger school district boundaries effective July 1, 2026, and improve staffing ratios to increase sustainability and reduce costs. Clayton explained what the task force's current school district regional map looks like, and where Danville's high school population would fall, which would possibly be with U-32. He mentioned the point that if Danville chooses to close its high school on its own, student choice is an option. If Danville's high school is closed as a result of force due to the Act 73 redistricting, the town will not have an option to send their children to independent schools, only public schools.

Sarah Welch and Natalie Conway both provided data and context regarding student counts and gave a firm number of more than 18 and maybe potentially 20 Danville residents who are paying privately for tuition.

Discussion opened to public
(this discussion and the specifics are best viewed in video form)
Stacy Edgar made a comment.
Simon Fisher made a comment.
Spencer Morse made a comment.
Luke Robbins made a comment.
Alaina Robbins, a student at Danville High School made a public comment.
Simon made a comment.
A community member made a public comment.
After discussion, Clayton will write a letter advocating to keep Danville High School open.

6. **Public Input:**
   Peter Mantius made a public comment.

7. **Future Agenda Items / Next Meeting Date**
   - Special Meeting-Date/Time TBD
   - Continuous improvement plan (CIP)
   - Teacher Contract Ratification-
   - Motion on option of early retirement
   - Next Regular Meeting Date: October 7, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

8. **Adjourn**

MOTION: Eric moved to adjourn at 8:23 pm, Tim seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Ellie Keefe