DANVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 1, 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)

Student Representative Present: Kearah MacDougall

Community Members Present: Bruce Melendy (zoom), Kaity White (zoom), Stacy Edgar (zoom), Vermont Senator Scott Beck, Ellen Foster, Louise Lessard, Eric Hutchens, Wendy Hutchens

1. **Call meeting to order:** Clayton called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Introductions were made around the room. Clayton and all congratulated Sarah Welch on being this year's Vermont Principal's Association Principal of the Year.

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

3. **Approve Minutes:**
   - March 5, 2025

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

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

   Matt's report was included in the packet.

   - **Student Services Report**

   Student Services' report was included in the packet.

   - **Principals Report**

   Principal's report was included in the packet. Sarah congratulated 3 students that participated in the Vermont State Spelling bee. There are many extra-curricular activities happening right now at the school. A college and career fair also took place, which brought in students from other schools. Thank you to the staff and organizations that made this possible.

   - **Student Representative**

   Kearah researched the responsibilities of Student Representatives at other schools. She continues to collaborate with administration and the school board to build this role for Danville School.

5. **Board Business:**
   - **Authorize Board Chair to sign contract and warrants (Discussion/Approval)**

Clayton summarized this for the room and asked for a motion.

MOTION: Tim made a motion to authorize the Board Chair to sign contracts and warrants, Eric seconded, all in favor.

- **Policy B20 - Personnel Recruitment, Selection, Appointment, And Background Checks (Recommended). An update to existing policy that outlines SU and District practices related to background checks for potential employees. (Discussion/Possible Adoption)**

After consulting legal advice, the update to the existing policy as written is recommended.

MOTION: Tim made a motion to adopt Policy B20 for Danville School, Kay seconded, all in favor.

- **Potential new hire(s) (Discussion/Approval)**

Isabel Bourgeois-3rd Grade Elementary Teacher

MOTION: Tim made a motion to hire Isabel Bourgeois as 3rd Grade Elementary Teacher, Dave seconded, all in favor.

- **Elevator Repairs (Discussion/Possible Action)**

Sarah summarized the problems and the new parts that would be needed for the elevator to function appropriately, as well the quotes that have been gathered to repair the current elevator. Brandon Lawrence and Sarah recommend Alpha Elevator Company to conduct the repairs, as they are the current vendor used by the school for elevator needs. There is concern from all parties that repair/replacement of parts may not be successful, so a backup option that must be considered is a new elevator. The elevator is an essential need. The repair work would be completed this summer.

MOTION: Tim made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed $10,000 from unrestricted funds for the purpose of parts and labor, using Alpha Elevator Company. Dave seconded, all in favor.

- **Education Transformation Proposal - How the Foundation Formula Could Potentially Affect Danville School District (Discussion)**

Eric reviewed a slideshow of what he has learned from the State of Vermont Education Committee regarding the reconfiguration of school districts under this new proposal. He shared a map of northeast Vermont from Canaan to Chelsea, which would be the proposed Northeast Supervisory Union, and the school districts that would make up the Northeast SU. The approximate ADM is 7,581.
He compared Danville's current foundation formula that contributed to Danville's FY26 budget to the proposal's foundation formula. The proposed formula would give approximately $590,000 less to Danville, regardless of redistricting.
This new proposal also changes the number of staff to student ratios; more students to less staff.
Scott Beck listened to the conversation from the board, administration and community that though this proposal and the need for it is understood by all, it is not favorable for Danville. Clayton shared that if this proposal goes through, Danville would not have enough students to operate a high school, and high school students would likely need to

attend Oxbow or Hazen school. Kay brought up the concern that if this passes, sports and extra-curricular opportunities could be out of reach for Danville students. Tim added the concern to fund Danville's infrastructure needs if the redistribution of funds follows the students that would now be attending schools besides Danville. Clayton will share a list of contacts on the House & Senate Education Committees and he encourages the community to voice their opinions to these representatives.

List of Legislators can be found here:
List of Senators and Congressmen to Contact about Education Reform

- **Vermont Rural Schools Community Alliance (Discussion /Possible Action)**

This is an advocacy group in Peacham whose focus supports keeping local elementary schools (not middle or high schools), which serve as important community hubs, open. If Danville joins their group, Danville will receive information and advocacy. There is no cost associated with joining. The board decided no action will be taken at this time to join, as this stance does not entirely align with Danville's needs.

- **Student and Family Handbook - Review (Discussion)**

Clayton suggested this agenda item be pushed to the following meeting due to time.

- **Graduation Requirements for HS (Discussion)**

Natalie has researched Danville's graduation requirements as compared to other similar schools. Previously the term used for graduation requirements was credits, it is now semesters. Danville requires less semesters than other schools, which causes seniors to leave school before their final year ends, which affects culture, student leadership and class sizes. She proposes increasing the number of required electives by 4 semesters, and explained the reasoning for that. She proposes a Civics requirement, Financial Literacy requirement, a consideration for P.E., and career exploration. She proposes increasing electives from 2 to 6. This could take effect with 2025 incoming freshmen. She welcomes comments from the community.

6. **Public Input:**
   None.

7. **Future Agenda Items / Next Meeting Date**
   - Student and Family Handbook
   - Possible New Hire(s)
   - Next Regular Meeting: May 5, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

8. **Adjourn**
   Tim moved to adjourn at 8:07 pm, Eric seconded, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Ellie Keefe