

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2020
Hanover High School

Present: Mrs. Leah Miller, Mrs. Ruth Lynch, Mrs. Kimberly Booker, Mr. John Geary and Mrs. Libby Corbo

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Thomas Raab, Keith Guyette, Matthew Paquette, Allison Gately, Maura Aborn and Rachael Miller

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mrs. Miller

Public Comment: None presented

Approval Minutes:

Motion by Lynch to approve the January 22, 2020 School Committee General Session minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Booker. Geary and Corbo abstained. The motion carried.

Report of the Superintendent presented by Mr. Ferron:

- **Events and Updates** – The first session of the Destination Graduation series was held on Tuesday, February 4th and it was incredibly successful. Over 100 parents attended and the HHS Guidance staff did a fantastic job. The next session will be on March 4th and will be a panel with representatives from different colleges to discuss the application and acceptance process. FACE's summer program launched last week and had great registration numbers in the first few hours. The HMS Band played at the State house today and the Superintendent also attended a meeting with the DESE Commissioner to learn more about new funding procedures.

Action Items:

- **HHS Peru Field Trip Request** – This request was presented by HHS Spanish teachers Allison Gately and Maura Aborn and also Rachel Miller, a representative from Explorica. This presentation can be found in its entirety on the Hanover Public Schools website. Mrs. Gately and Mrs. Aborn began the presentation by stating that this trip is a once in a lifetime opportunity for students, particularly those studying Spanish as it would allow them to immerse themselves in the Culture and Language. Machu Picchu in particular is rich in culture and history and would be a wonderful place to learn and experience a different culture. Ms. Rachael Miller was present as a representative from the travel company, Explorica, and noted that she has gone on this trip before and it was a wonderful experience. She noted that this trip is expensive at \$2,974.00, but they do try and keep cost in mind and ensure that each student is getting a rich experience for the best price.

Mrs. Corbo asked what type of plane the student would be flying on between Lima and Cuzco. Ms. R. Miller explained that it was a larger airplane, not a puddle jumper.

Mrs. Lynch asked what airline they would be using. Ms. R. Miller replied that the domestic airline in Peru is LAN and that would likely be the airline used to travel between Lima and Cuzco. The airline for the flight from the United States to Peru would be determined based on market fares and schedules.

Mrs. Corbo asked if the students would take a train from Cuzco to Machu Picchu. Ms. R. Miller replied yes, that is the only way to get there, other than hiking. Mrs. Aborn noted that the trains have glass ceilings for travelers to have great views on their trip.

Mrs. Lynch noted that the price is high, but knows that it is a great opportunity for students and if a family is able to afford their child this opportunity it would be a wonderful experience. She also noted that she appreciated the very in-depth presentation provided, as that really cut down on questions the committee had.

Mrs. Lynch asked if there would be a minimum number of students required for the trip to take place. Mrs. Gately and Mrs. Aborn replied no, but this presentation was based on 10-12 students. If any more students were added, another adult chaperone would also be added as well.

Mrs. Leah Miller asked if this trip would be available just to students taking Spanish class. Mrs. Gately replied no, it is open to all students, though students taking Spanish would benefit greatly from the experience.

A motion by Lynch to approve the HHS Peru Field trip. The motion was seconded by Geary. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Leah Miller requested that the students who go on the trip come back to present to the School Committee after they have returned and share their experience.

Committee Updates:

- **Fire Station Planning Committee** – Mrs. Lynch attended the first meeting of the Fire Station Planning Committee and noted that she learned a lot about the history of the Hanover Fire Dept. and why there is a need for a second fire station in town. She is excited to be part of this committee and is looking forward to going through the process of making a recommendation to the Town.
- **Traffic Safety Committee** – Mrs. Miller and Dr. Raab attended this committee meeting and noted that the traffic study on Rt. 139 was discussed, but there have been no results yet. Residents in the Walnut Hill neighborhood are concerned about the traffic the new mall will bring and are requesting a pilot program that has a barrier or a gate of some sort preventing traffic from cutting through to Rt. 53. The Committee agreed this would be best done in the summer months, to avoid issues with school busses.

Report of Finance Department Presented by Dr. Thomas Raab:

- **Budget Update** – This document can be found in its entirety on the Hanover Public Schools website. Dr. Raab noted there is very little to report at this time. The FY '21 budget remains the same since it was presented at the January 8th meeting. Dr. Raab noted that he would be looking ahead at expenditures for the remainder of FY '20 to ensure the budget supports everything and up to this point they have spent 53% of that budget. Dr. Raab also noted that any balances that are currently negative would be brought back to black by the end of the year, hopefully without utilizing the stabilization fund.

Mrs. Miller asked if we have used any of the Stabilization Fund at this point. Dr. Raab replied we have not.

- **Donations** – Donations totaling \$7,249.12 were received from Bay State Textiles, the Washington D.C. field trip group, Lifetouch Photography and the Hanover Cultural Council.

Motion by Lynch to approve the Donations in the amount of \$7,249.12 as written. The motion was seconded by Geary. The motion carried unanimously.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

- None

Public Comment: None presented

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2020 at Hanover High School. Expected agenda items will be: 2020-2021 School Calendar 1.0, FY '21 Budget 3.0, Q2 FY '20 Revolving Account Update, Superintendent Evaluation Timeline Review, Annual District School Choice, Lunch Debt Procedures, Report from the HPTA.

Motion by Lynch to adjourn at 7:55pm. The motion was seconded by Geary. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Caitlin Potolicchio

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Executive Assistant/ Recording Secretary

Documents Used:

FY '20 and FY '21 Budget Update
Donations
HHS Peru Field Trip Request

Appendix A
Appendix B
Appendix C