

***Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes***  
***June 3, 2020***  
***Virtual Meeting***

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

**Also Present:** Matthew Ferron, Thomas Raab, Debbie St. Ives, Keith Guyette, Matthew Paquette, Daniel Birolini, Jane DeGrenier, Michael Oates and Matthew Plummer

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 3:30pm by Mrs. Miller

**Public Comment:** Mr. Matt McGarry thanked the Committee and Administration for their work through this crisis. He noted that he wanted put forward the notion of a pro-education budget. Mr. McGarry stated that Hanover has made several gains due to the hard work of the teachers and feels it is beneficial to retain those positions that spend the majority of the day interfacing with students while keeping their hopes and dreams in mind. He stated that the teachers are caring and dedicated and have devoted their lives to teaching the kids of Hanover.

**Approval Minutes:**

Motion by Lynch to approve the May 20, 2020 School Committee General Session minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Booker. Corbo Abstained, the motion carried.

**Report of the Superintendent presented by Mr. Ferron:**

- **Events and Updates** – Mr. Ferron stated that he is preparing a letter to Senator Brady and Representative DeCoste regarding retaining the Circuit Breaker funding. The Advisory Committee will meet tonight and Mr. Ferron and Dr. Raab will present the updated budget and answer any questions in hopes of moving forward. Mr. Ferron also noted that there are several events happening to recognize the class of 2020 this week.
- **Superintendent Evaluation** – Mrs. Miller noted that the committee met in Executive session on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> to work on Mr. Ferron's 2019-2020 Evaluation. They have prepared a draft and it will be ready to be voted on at the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Report of Finance Department Presented by Dr. Thomas Raab:**

- **FY '20 Budget Update** –Mr. Ferron thanked Mr. McGarry for his comments and noted that everyone agrees with his thoughts and feelings and the Administrative team will work hard to maintain everything they can as they share the same goals he mentioned. Mr. Ferron noted that they are working in a very unexpected situation, and have moved from a very comfortable budget that was created earlier in the year into maintenance mode trying to preserve as much as they can. He highlighted the history of the FY'21 budget and noted that it has seen several changes since it was first voted on earlier in the year. Mr. Ferron addressed several shortfalls as they move forward, including no town tax increase and no use of Free Cash to balance the budget. He also addressed the expected cut of federal and state aide as well as potential cuts in previously awarded grant money. He also commented on the revenue generating services such as Food Services and the FACE program whose futures are still very much unknown at this point. Mr. Ferron and Dr. Raab are currently predicting a budget that is approximately \$497,000.00 below last year's operating budget, but there is still much that is unknown and there could still be several changes in the coming weeks and month. He and Dr. Raab are working each

day to close that budget gap and unfortunately will be sending out pink slips to staff next week. He noted that he is also working on offering an Early Retirement Incentive to staff and will also be entering into negotiations with unions to ask for provisions on contracts. They will also continue to advocate for budget support from at the Town Meeting.

Mrs. Miller noted that Mr. Ferron and Dr. Raab have already been advocating at the town level and they are doing everything they can. Mr. Ferron noted that he would be holding another All Staff meeting soon in order to keep everyone well informed.

Mrs. Corbo stated that the HPS budget is unique in that the majority of the budget is dedicated to personnel and there are mandated salary increases in place. She questioned if Mr. Ferron or Dr. Raab knew how much those increases would be in total? Dr. Raab responded he believed it was around \$700,000.00. Mrs. Corbo added that it becomes very complicated when cutting our budget because it is so closely tied to personnel and their salary contracts. Mrs. Corbo also applauds Mr. Ferron and Dr. Raab for pursuing contract negotiations to ensure students are taken care of and she stated that she also appreciated Mr. McGarry's sentiments and knows the administrators will do everything they can for the students.

A community member asked if there were any savings acquired from the closure that could offset these cuts? Dr. Raab responded by noting that there were savings associated with the closing, but that money was used to make FY '20 whole at the end of the fiscal year and preserve the Special Education stabilization fund.

A community member asked if the Integrated Preschool generates funds and if that goes toward salaries, and also if that program will be impacted next year. Dr. Raab noted that some refunds for that program were issued. There will not be a lot in the account for next year, but there is no reason the program can't run.

Mr. Geary commented that the budget presentation would also be reviewed again tonight at the Advisory Committee Meeting.

#### **Report on Teaching and Learning:**

- **Class of 2020 College and Career plans -** Mr. Matthew Paquette stated that all but 20 students have submitted their future plans. Those who have not, are likely still waiting due to the closure and questions about the fall semester. Of those students who have disclosed their plans: 145 are going to a 4 year college, 7 are going to a 2 year college, 3 are going into the work force, 3 are going into career training, 1 student is going to a prep-school and an unprecedented 8 students have shown interest in the armed forces. Mr. Paquette said the list of schools that students are attending is impressive and it makes Hanover proud. Mr. Paquette also commented on the several events that have taken place to honor the class of 2020. He noted that he was so touched to see how the entire community came together to honor these students and has gotten such positive feedback. He wanted to take a moment to thank Mrs. Miller, the HMS staff and especially Principal Birolini for their help in organizing the Celebrate a senior event. It was a great idea and went off seamlessly.
- **ESY Update:** Mr. Keith Guyette stated that as of today, the ESY program will run virtually and schedules were sent out to families yesterday. It is his hope that in person services may be possible at some point and noted that he will continue to monitor the guidelines to see when and if that might be possible. He noted that all students on an IEP would receive their services as outlined, just virtually. However, there will be some

students who cannot participate virtually due to the nature of their program and they will be the ones who will be missing out on the in person services. He stated that this is not how he had hoped the program would run, but his team will do their very best to ensure each student gets the services they need.

Mrs. Miller questioned if things might change later in the summer? Mr. Guyette replied that he really hoped they do.

- **2020-2021 Planning Update** – Mrs. St. Ives stated that there was a call with the DESE Commissioner yesterday that gave some additional information. Mrs. St. Ives thanked the teachers for all they have done because they have been phenomenal and she knows they will make the end of the year as special as they can for their students. She also noted that updated guidance for summer programs will be out this week and will likely include a date at which face to face services can resume. She also noted that they expect guidance for the fall to be issued the week of June 15<sup>th</sup> and there will be much more direction than before, with about 85% guidance. The other 15% will be left up to each districts discretion. Mrs. St. Ives stated that there would be several working groups for all areas so that once the guidelines are received the teams can begin working toward the fall opening.

Mrs. Miller noted that they were all very anxious to see what comes.

**Public Comment:** A community member noted that their daughter loved Duckling Day!

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2020 - Time TBD: *Approval of Superintendent's Summative Evaluation, FY '20 Budget Close Out Report, FY '21 Budget Update, Athletic Revolving Account Update.*

Dr. Raab noted that the Donations would be tabled until the next meeting.

Motion by Geary to adjourn at 4:26pm. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

*Caitlin Potolicchio*

Caitlin Potolicchio  
Executive Assistant/ Recording Secretary

Documents Used:

FY '20 and FY '21 Budget Update

Appendix A