

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
June 17, 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 3:35pm by Mrs. Miller

Public Comment: Mr. Pierotti stated that he wanted to start the dialogue to change the school mascot. He noted that he has spoken to several community members who feel the same and there seems to be a growing need to change the name. Mr. Landolfi was also on the line with him and supported Mr. Pierotti's suggestion, as well as both their sons, who are students at HHS.

Mrs. Miller thanked the men for coming forward and sharing this concern. She noted that it would be added to a future agenda to discuss it and work with the HHS administration to come up with a process.

Approval Minutes:

Motion by Lynch to approve the June 3, 2020 School Committee General Session minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Lynch to approve the June 10, 2020 School Committee General Session minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of the Superintendent presented by Mr. Ferron:

- **Events and Updates** – Mr. Ferron began by thanking several people for their work and support over the year, especially during the closure. From students to faculty and staff to parents, their dedication throughout this process has been incredibly appreciated and he noted that the work was not yet done. Mr. Ferron stated the administrators would be working through the summer to ensure that the opening in September is as seamless as possible. Mr. Ferron also took the time to Thank Mrs. Joanna McCormick, as she would be stepping down from the HPTA after several years of dedicated services. He also thanked all the retiring teachers for their decades of dedicated services to the Hanover Public Schools.
- **Superintendent Evaluation** – Mrs. Miller stated that the evaluation process this year was challenging due to the school closure, as Mr. Ferron was unable to achieve several of his goals through no fault of his own. She noted that a letter of commendation would be submitted for his personnel file to thank him for all he's done throughout the Covid 19 crisis. Mrs. Miller read through all of the ratings of the evaluation and noted that overall; Mr. Ferron would be receiving an "Exemplary" rating.

Mrs. Lynch said that in many ways, this evaluation was very easy because there was so much of what great a leader Mr. Ferron is. She noted that he was a steady force and helped us all through this. Mrs. Lynch thanked Mr. Ferron and stated it was an honor to work with him.

Mr. Geary stated that Mr. Ferron did a great job and also noted that he's looking forward to next year's Evaluation because he's certain we will recover and it will be very exciting to watch.

Mr. Ferron thanked the Committee and noted that none of it would have been possible without everyone else present on the call.

Motion by Lynch to approve the Summative Evaluation for Mr. Ferron for the 2019-2020 school year. Motion seconded by Geary. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of Finance Department Presented by Dr. Thomas Raab:

- FY '20 Budget Update –Dr. Raab stated that FY '20 is trending as expected and after this week's payroll was posted he could see that the \$150,000.00 he expected to be remaining will be there to help in revenue gaps. He stated that he would be able to close all gaps and finish FY '20 in the black.
- FY '21 Budget Update – Dr. Raab stated the numbers from last week's presentation were still holding. He noted that he and Mr. Ferron continue to work with other Town Officials and are making their position very clear. Mr. Ferron requested patience from the community as they work through this very stressful process.
- Athletic's Update – Dr. Raab introduced Mr. Scott Hutchison, Athletic Director for Hanover Public Schools. Mr. Hutchison presented the Athletics update for the 2019-2020 school year. This presentation can be found in its entirety on the Hanover Public Schools website. Mr. Hutchison noted that participation rates for this year were very similar to years past and remained consistent. He noted that the spring sports were on target as well, before the closure. Mr. Hutchison stated that there were several notable achievements this year such as the Girls Cross Country team being state champs this fall for the first time in 14 years. The Boy's Hockey team was also co-champions after the final game was cancelled due to the closure. Mr. Hutchison thanked the athletics boosters, as several parents who lead this initiative were graduating out of the program and he noted that he would be looking to fill those spots. Boosters have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years. Dr. Raab stated that the athletics' expenses presentation would be put online after the meeting and shows a six-year history of Athletics' funding. Dr. Raab noted there was over \$100,000.00 in donations towards athletics this year.

Mrs. Booker questioned the unified sports teams and if they were counted in the overall numbers and how many students typically participate? Mr. Hutchison stated that they are not included in the overall number, and participation typically depends on schedules and other activities. Mrs. Booker requested that in the future the unified sports students be included in the overall number. Mr. Hutchison agreed to do this in future reports.

Mr. Geary questioned if there had been any interest in girls golf? Mr. Hutchison said no, but any girl who wishes to participate can play with the boy's team in the fall and also has the opportunity to compete with other girl's teams in the spring.

Mr. Geary questioned if the cost per male and female athlete would be shown on the presentation. Dr. Raab stated that it is not always even due to family caps on fees, but it will show that on the spreadsheet.

Mr. Geary questioned the process to address inequality in funding. Mr. Hutchison stated that teams that do not have their own boosters group receive targeted fundraising to alleviate any inequality.

Mrs. Lynch stated that there are several coop teams and asked if Mr. Hutchison can predict any teams that would not be a cooperative in the future? Mr. Hutchison stated that there are several teams that are very close to having big enough numbers to be on their own, but noted that if even one or two students leaves for a private high school, it would drastically change their position.

Mrs. Lynch questioned the “friends of Hanover” groups that help raise money for many of the athletic teams, as they were not mentioned in Mr. Hutchison’s presentation. Mr. Hutchison stated that when he joined Hanover Athletics, there were very few of these groups; but now there are several groups and they have set up procedures and policies for them to run equitably. Mrs. Lynch said she was happy to hear there were so many groups, but suggested enforcing those policies to ensure funds are reported properly.

Mrs. Lynch questioned how many years back the Hanover Hall of Fame would go? Mr. Hutchison stated it would go back as far as people are willing to go. Mrs. Lynch noted that these events could be great fundraisers as well.

Mr. Geary questioned a drop in gate receipts in 2019 from 2018 and if that was due to the Thanksgiving game not being a home game this year? Mr. Hutchison replied yes

Mr. Geary questioned if we get any money from the MIAA for state championship games. Mr. Hutchison replied no, after quarterfinal games, the MIAA takes all money from the gate, but they do cover all expenses to manage the games as well.

- **Donations:** Dr. Raab noted there were several line items for this round of donations and that this document is online in its entirety for people to take a look. He thanked the HPTA and especially Mrs. Joanna McCormick and Mrs. Sandra Suchoff as they will be stepping down from their roles.

Motion by Geary to approve the Donations in the amount of \$140,684.50 as written. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

- **ESY Update** - Mr. Keith Guyette stated that some face-to-face services have been approved for the most “at risk” students. At this time there are 248 students signed up to participate and about 60 of those students will have the option to do on-site service. He noted that Center School and HHS will be the designated locations and Ms. Andrea Hurley has done a fantastic job scheduling and creating that program. Mr. Guyette stated that he has also been working with Mrs. Tricia Smith, Director of Health Services, to ensure that everyone is kept safe by having the appropriate PPE and cleaning supplies.

Mrs. Corbo questioned how students were selected for the face-to-face services and is there a hope to be able to expand those services later in the summer? Mr. Guyette stated that he hopes they can expand and include more students as the summer goes. The students were selected based on the guidelines set forth by the DESE.

Mr. Ferron thanked the SEPAC leadership, as there would be a changing of the guard. Michelle Gardner and Jaqueline Porro would be stepping down as Co-Chairs and he thanked them for all their hard work over their time in the group. He noted that Diane King and Kate Sullivan would be taking over. He also noted that Caitlin Melone would be the new secretary and Adriana Mason would be the new treasurer.

- **HPS SOA:** Mrs. St. Ives gave the Committee some background on the process, as the deadline for this plan has been a moving target due to the closure. She noted that even though Hanover would not receive any financial assistance as a result of this plan, it is required to be submitted. Mrs. St. Ives read through the four commitments of the plan and noted that Hanover has chosen to deepen many of those commitments, particularly in regards to literacy. The goal is to continue to receive professional development from the Landmark School to further their understanding of how students learn to read.

Mrs. Booker stated that she had sent over several questions to Mr. Ferron along with some research about The Reader's Workshop not aligning with The Science of Reading. She questioned what that would mean for the TLA? Mrs. St. Ives stated that Hanover has modified the model and their focus is on comprehension and phonics, along with phonemic awareness and a reboot of the Foundations program. She also noted that reading specialists re-took the training to better support teachers. Mrs. St. Ives stated that the team is always looking for ways they can be doing better.

Motion by Lynch to approve the Student Opportunity Act Plan. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Miller wanted to recognize Mrs. Kim Booker, as she will be stepping down from the Hanover School Committee. Mrs. Corbo read a prepared statement from the Committee thanking her for 6 years of dedicated service and that she always worked tirelessly toward a better education for the students of Hanover.

Public Comment: None

The next School Committee meeting is TBD.

Mrs. Lynch requested that consideration be made for the time of day for the next meeting since it is summer and schedules are varied.

Motion by Booker to adjourn at 5:04pm. The motion was seconded by Miller. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Caitlin Potolicchio

Caitlin Potolicchio

Executive Assistant/ Recording Secretary

Documents Used:

FY '21 Athletic Revolving Account Update

Donations as of 6/17/29

HPS SOA

Appendix C

Appendix D

Appendix E