

***Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes***  
***September 14, 2020***  
***Virtual Meeting***

**Present:** Mrs. Leah Miller, Mrs. Ruth Lynch, Mr. John Geary, Mrs. Libby Corbo, Mr. Pete Miraglia

**Also Present:** Mr. Matt Ferron, Mrs. Debbie St. Ives Dr. Thomas Raab, Mr. Dan Birolini. Mr. Matt Paquette, Mrs. Jane DeGrenier, Mr. Michael Oates

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 3:32 PM by Mrs. Miller.

**Public Comment:** *none*

**Approval Minutes:** Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to approve the August 7, 2020 School Committee Executive Session minutes as written. The motion moved by Mrs. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Geary. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Leah Miller, Mr. John Geary and Mrs. Ruth Lynch all spoke about how impressed they were when they visited each school. They were also very grateful to all the staff members who created warm and welcoming environments during this time of uncertainty. Mr. Geary asked that parents remain patient and selfless through this time of learning for parents, students, and staff.

Mrs. Leah Miller stated that it was great to see all the work from teachers, staff, and administration come together.

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

Mr. Ferron started by thanking the School Committee for touring the schools today and for their support. He informed everyone that this morning round two for COVID testing happened for all employees and staff. The testing was impressive with the amount of professionalism and organization. Parents, students, and staff should feel comfortable knowing that this testing has been done with the help of Hanover Fire Department, Health Department, Tricia Smith and her team.

**Dr. Thomas Raab presents Transportation Update:**

Dr. Raab stated that bus information will be sent to all families by 10am tomorrow. He acknowledged Steve Ingle, administration and everyone who worked so hard to implement the transportation guidelines. Bus letter and/or parent provided transportation will be posted in the family portals. Dr. Raab also reminded everyone that masks are required on the bus and all students must sit in their assigned seats. If anyone is interested in being a bus monitor, please reach out to Dr. Thomas Raab via email or phone call.

Dr. Thomas Raab provided an update on food services, stating that all students will receive free lunches, regardless of income level. Additionally, 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible for free breakfast. The free meals will continue until December 31, 2020.

Mr. Matt Ferron updated everyone that HVAC is still being worked on in all buildings. Overall, the schools are in good shape, but there is some continuing work to be done at the Middle School. An engineering hygienist tested the air quality in each school and the results indicate that the air quality is fine. Mr. Ferron added that we have been continuing to work with the facilities department.

Adding necessary staffing at all levels has been a challenge. Support staff and long-term substitute teacher positions are posted on School Spring. These positions will be filled as soon as possible.

Mrs. Leah Miller asked for clarification regarding personal devices. When each principal discussed their school plan, they provided information on the borrowed Chromebooks.

#### **Cedar School Update Presented by Mr. Michael Oates:**

Mr. Michael Oates started by thanking the community for getting the youngest learners in person four days a week. Students were able to come to an orientation last Tuesday and Wednesday with small groups. Additionally, kindergartners were able to take a bus ride. Today was virtual academy student orientation. Mr. Oates also talked about the last two weeks and the wide variety of professional development that took place. Chromebooks were distributed to online academy students today, and clarification on Chromebooks will be communicated tomorrow. *The Cedar School COVID Handbook* is being finalized. He also thanked all Cedar School staff, especially the school nurse, Mrs. Dowling.

#### **Center School Update Presented by Mrs. Jane DeGrenier:**

Mrs. Jane DeGrenier stated that the wide variety of professional development had been great for staff. Today was the first day of student visits; hosting Cohort A to see their school and classrooms. All went smoothly with clear excitement, happiness, and smiles. Mrs. DeGrenier said she cannot speak enough about the Center School faculty. She said the biggest thing they are working through is technology glitches. The IT department and staff are working together to figure out any issues.

#### **Middle School Update Presented by Mr. Dan Birolini:**

Mr. Dan Birolini stated that the meet and greets were a huge success when the students visited. Teachers and Staff were excited to have students back again. Online orientation for each grade was successful as guidelines were explained. Signage with positive messages have been placed all around the school and Mr. Birolini thanked all individuals involved. Student schedules will be posted tomorrow. He thanked the custodial staff and administration for getting the building ready. He also thanked the nurses for keeping everyone informed. Finally, Mr. Birolini thanked the teaching staff for the training and collaboration during the past few weeks.

### **High School Update Presented by Mr. Matt Paquette:**

Mr. Matt Paquette stated the high school will be ready when the curtain opens. He talked about all the little details that have been laid out which will all come together. Additionally, he talked about the satisfaction that comes from having students come in person. Training has been done and the *COVID Handbook* is being completed. He then provided clarification on credits.

Mr. John Geary asked about what will happen Wednesday. Each principal explained to the Committee their school remote plan for the first day.

Question by Mrs. Ruth Lynch was posed regarding Chromebook purchases. Dr. Raab explained they are currently on back order. However, they were ordered in May and he hopes they will arrive soon.

Mr. Matt Ferron stated there will be additional communication in the next few days. He thanked all parents and students for understanding the need for the 10 days of preparation prior to school starting. Additionally, he thanked all the principals for their hard work.

Mrs. Leah Miller encouraged the community to also thank an administrator.

### **Mask Policy**

Discussion continued regarding the mask policy. School Committee members shared their comments regarding the need and creative ways to utilize such a policy.

Mr. Matt Ferron reiterated the importance of this policy. Although challenging, this policy will be enforced.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to approve the *Mask Policy* as written. The motion moved by Mrs. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Geary. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Leah Miller wished everyone a wonderful start to the school year.

Motion by Mrs. Lynch to adjourn at 4: 35pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Geary. The motion carried unanimously.