

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2020
Virtual Meeting

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

Also, Present: Matthew Ferron, Thomas Raab, Debbie St. Ives, Keith Guyette, Matthew Paquette, Daniel Birolini, Jane DeGrenier, Michael Oates, Matthew Plummer, Patricia Smith, Kelly Lawrence, Scott Hutchinson, Amy Tessitore

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:41pm by Mrs. Miller.

Public Comment: None

Mr. Hutchinson: On October 27th, Amy Tessitore our athletic trainer, responded to a medical emergency at a boys' soccer game. Her leadership was truly fantastic as she provided life-saving procedures to care for a game official who had collapsed from cardiac arrest. Her swift actions definitely saved this man's life. She also appropriately supervised and enabled others to assist her.

Ms. Tessitore: It was wonderful to see everyone act so quickly. We had the equipment right where it needed to be. Thank you!

Several people in attendance expressed their gratitude and appreciation to Ms. Tessitore.

Approval of Minutes:

August 21, 2020: Motion was entertained by Mrs. Miller to approve the August 21, 2020 School Committee Executive Session Minutes as written. The motion moved by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Geary. The motion carried unanimously.

September 30, 2020: Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to approve the September 30, 2020 School Committee Minutes as written. The motion moved by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Geary. The motion carried unanimously.

October 14, 2020: Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to approve the October 14, 2020 School Committee Minutes as written. The motion moved by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Geary. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of the Superintendent presented by Mr. Ferron:

Middle School Cross-Country

Mr. Ferron: Mrs. Lawrence is working on a modified Cross-County program with every safety component put into place. Information will be going out in the next couple of days.

Mrs. Lawrence: We will be putting together a recreational program. When we canceled the Fall Program, we did communicate with the other middle schools in the South Shore League that if we were given the right conditions and it becomes safe to do so, we would run a traditional Cross-Country program. We will have Cross-Country and Track and Field run back to back.

Mascot Update

Mr. Paquette: We are into the final phase of stage 1. We have 19 people on our Mascot Committee. The Committee reviewed well over 400 submissions. Many of them were repeats. After going through all submissions, we were left with 89 names. Deliberations started Monday and will run through tomorrow. We hope to have it narrowed down to 3 to 5 names to be revealed by Halloween. We will then send those names back

out for logo submission. Logo submissions are due before Thanksgiving break. We will reveal the name and logo by January 1, 2020.

COVID-19 Analytics/Dashboard & Health Services Update

Mr. Plummer: I would like to recognize Brian Converse; we are very fortunate to have him on our staff. Mr. Plummer shared the Town of Hanover COVID-19 Dashboard. Data is close to real-time. The team updates data right into the database on both the Town of Hanover and Hanover Public Schools websites. The goal is to update the dashboard twice daily.

Mrs. Smith: We have been working with our local sports organizations, HYHA and HYAA to ensure athletes are practicing social distancing on the sidelines and wearing masks. When we get a positive case, the process is the nurses start by calling the person that has tested positive and asks clinical questions; are there any underlying medical conditions, are they communicating with their physician, and what was the possible exposure? Once those are determined, we start contact tracing with the day they test positive or the 1st day they have symptoms. The infectious period goes back two days from there. We get the timeline on where they have been from that period and determine was there any close contact. Close contact is defined as being within 6' with another person for at least 10 to 15 minutes cumulative over 24 hours. From there, we move to the classroom teacher to find out if they were practicing social distancing and if masks were worn. We have not had to do much quarantining of a classroom. Athletics have been a challenge. Games played outdoors has not been a problem. The issue is when students congregate on the sidelines and in the locker rooms. The community needs to be more deliberate on where they are standing; this will ensure staying out of the quarantine zone. The Town of Hanover data is coming every day from the Maven (Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network) system. The Hanover Public Schools data is collected from each school. Joelle Casey, the Middle School nurse, enters this information every day at 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

Questions:

Ms. Miller: What is the difference between quarantine and isolation?

Ms. Smith: Isolation refers to a person who has tested positive. The duration of isolation is 10 days. At the end of the 10 days, if the person has been fever-free and with improved symptoms for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication then they can come out of isolation. Quarantine refers to a person who has been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID during their infectious period. Quarantine is 14 days because if person is in close contact with another person who has COVID and is exposed to the virus, they can become positive at any time within the 14 days. The best time to test is on day 5. If the test comes back negative, the person will still have to quarantine. The CDC and Mass Public Health made this determining factor because a person can still become positive anytime within the 14 days. We have three people currently in isolation because they tested positive for COVID.

Mrs. Miller: Are we tracking how many of these students convert to being COVID positive?

Mrs. Smith: Yes, we do. We have had one student convert to a positive test result for COVID. Many household family members have tested positive.

Mrs. Miller: In the past, we were being told being outside was a deterrent to the spread. Now we are being told even when we are outside, the guidelines are the same as inside. Is that true?

Mrs. Smith: It is true. It hasn't changed as far as quarantine rules from the CDC and Mass Public Health. However, being outside is better for the virus to dissipate as it reduces transmission.

Mrs. Lynch: With the number of students that have been involved, how do you logistically do all of this? Who decides on who will be quarantine?

Mrs. Smith: The nurses are making all these calls. As a team, we split up the list, make phone calls, gather information, talk about it as a group, and put it together. At that point, we defer to Nancy Funder. She makes the final decision. All our nurses became public health nurses during last summer to help Ms. Funder, if needed. School nurses will contact trace the students and families. Ms. Funder handles this for the Town of Hanover.

Mr. Miraglia: Contact tracing is very intensive. How are we keeping up with it?

Mrs. Smith: Daily, we were seeing 3 to 5 cases. We have settled down. Now we see 0 to 2 cases daily. The nurses are working hard seven days a week, extra hours, and evenings. They are committed. They love their work and their kids.

Mrs. Corbo: Is the date on the dashboard updated daily?

Mr. Plummer: The date on the upper right-hand corner is reflective of when the updated information is entered. It is possible when you look at it that date it has a previous date as that is the last time the information was updated into the system.

Reopening Plans presented by the School Committee:

Mrs. Miller: We are moving forward in developing the next stages of the reopening plans. We are working with all the key stakeholders. We will have an update in the upcoming weeks.

Mrs. Corbo: A message was sent out to the community. The Committee hopes the message was reassuring that we are looking at every option to provide the best education safely to our children, whether that is fully in-person or remote. It is just being prepared and creating a plan.

Mr. Geary: Quoting President Eisenhower: "Plans may not work out, but planning is essential." The plan has to look at every aspect of this; logistics, grades, and safety.

Report of Finance Department presented by Dr. Raab:

FY '21 Updates

1) We received our 1st quarter circuit breaker payment of \$137,900 last week. It was received at 70% of the 75% that is under the law.

For us, that is \$551K. In an uncertain situation, they typically do not release the entire amount upfront. Of course, that is less than the \$575K that was budgeted. As the year goes on and the budget settles, it is anticipated that we will see an increase to 75% that would be about \$590K.

2) Last week, the Town department heads met with the Town Manager. We have been asked to put together a preliminary FY '22 budget. Just as we are trying to finalize the FY '21 budget, we need to start thinking about next year. The Town Manager's timeline has not changed. The preliminary town budget needs to be presented at the first Board of Selectmen meeting in January. The official recommendation for the FY '22 budget needs to be presented at the first meeting in February.

Report on Teaching and Learning presented by Principals:

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Mr. Oates: The teachers are conducting parent-teacher conferences with the parents via telephone or Zoom. Rather than selecting a few afternoons and an evening, the teachers have reached out to parents to arrange times and will be done within a 3-week window. The conferences are similar to 1st term conferences in the past. It is about their effort, adjustments, school routines, social development, and academic achievement. Teachers also provide an update on benchmark assessments that were done. At this point in the year, that is DIBELS. Finally, we provide suggestions on how parents can help their children at home. We are a team. We are going to do everything possible to make sure the child is successful in all aspects.

Mrs. DeGrenier: Conferences will begin on November 3rd for all grades, then each grade has a second set of conference times on either November 4th or 5th. Teachers have sent out available times via Sign Up Genius. Parents should have already signed up but if they have not, they can reach out to their child's teacher. In addition to the conference with the classroom teacher, we asked our special educators to send out conference times as well. Students have completed their fall assessment benchmark that includes iReady assessments as well as DIBELS. iReady gives information so that students can now be individually aligned with the work they need to do and the level they are at. Each teacher comes together either at a grade level or as a school to have a data meeting on the assessment. DIBELS is new to Center School. DIBELS is a critical assessment to tell us where students are with their reading. Each teacher meeting with a specialist to go through that data and coming up with a plan for either a class, a small group, or individual for the student. This will be shared if needed with the parents at the conferences. They will also be sharing how the first month of school has gone, how students have settled in, and what parents can do to support the learning.

Mr. Birolini: Parent-teacher conferences are starting on November 3rd with afternoon and evening times via Zoom. The message went out today that scheduling will go out tomorrow at 3 PM through Book It. We are meeting Tuesday morning to discuss iReady data. We will have information from iReady to share with the Committee.

Mr. Paquette: Parent-teacher conferences are starting on November 3rd from 1:00-3:00 PM and 6:00-8:00 PM and are being scheduled with Book It. The teachers enter each timeframe into Book It; the parent chooses the time which they prefer. The Zoom link will then be sent to the parent. We scheduled these conferences in November as a mid-point for the 1st half of the year and just before the end of the term.

Mrs. Miller: In the spring, we talked about having accumulated data to show what knowledge the students had lost by the close of the school year. At some point, a presentation of the data gathered from DIBELS and iReady would be helpful information for the School Committee.

Mrs. St. Ives: Grades 2 to 8 uses iReady and Grades K to 5 uses DIBELS and when necessary grades 6 to 8.

Mr. Paquette: Traditionally, we provide a PSAT session for every single freshman, sophomore, and junior and collect data from that session. Since we cannot offer such a large session due to COVID, we decided to open it up in October voluntarily. 50 juniors (25 from Gold and 25 from Blue Cohort) will be taking PSATs tomorrow. We will be able to divide the gym in half and have one cohort on each side. We will collect data from that session and in January, we will get the other grades and collect that data.

Action Items:

Approval of Homeschool Request for 2020-2021: Mrs. St. Ives has received an additional request for homeschooling. It is a renewal for four siblings. Ms. St. Ives recommends this Homeschooling be approved under the Charles Decision.

Motion by Mrs. Lynch to approve the Homeschool Request for 2020-2021 as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Geary. The vote carried unanimously.

HHS Peru Field Trip Postponement: Mr. Ferron is recommending the HHS Peru Trip that was approved by the School Committee last year for the Spring of 2021 be approved for a postponement until the Spring of 2022. Explorica requires the vote of the School Committee on the postponement for seniors to get a refund and the other students to leave their deposits on their account.

Motion by Mrs. Lynch to approve the postponement of the HHS Peru Trip to the Spring of 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Geary. The vote carried unanimously.

Appointment to Transportation Committee:

Mrs. Miller: Dr. Raab has requested that we ask for 2 members from the School Committee for the Transportation Committee. This committee will have a singular focus on looking at the bus contract for the Ingle Company in regards to the COVID situation. Mrs. Lynch and Mr. Miraglia have volunteered to be on the Transportation Committee.

Motion by Mr. Geary to appoint Ruth Lynch to the Transportation Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miraglia. The vote carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Geary to appoint Pete Miraglia to the Transportation Committee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The vote carried unanimously.

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2020. Expected agenda items will be: FY '21 Budget Update, COVID Health Update

Motion by Mr. Geary to adjourn at 8:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tahnee Warner

Tahnee Warner

Executive Assistant/ Recording Secretary