

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
November 18, 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, Anastasia Frank, Ellen Burns, Nancy Dutton

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by Mrs. Miller.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes:

October 28, 2020: Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to approve the October 28, 2020 School Committee Minutes as written. The motion was moved by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Geary. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of the Superintendent presented by Mr. Ferron:

Mascot Update

Mr. Paquette: The 20-member mascot committee received more than 400 entries and a total of 89 unique names. Each committee member then ranked their top five to come up with the final six. The committee is now asking students, alumni, faculty, and community members to submit their ideas for new logos as well. Several logo ideas have come in, more are expected. The committee expects to have final mascots paired with logo ideas by December 16th. Students, alumni, faculty, and community members will then get a chance to vote on the new mascot, which will be revealed on New Year's Day.

Reopening Plans

School Committee:

Mrs. Miller: During the past spring and summer, we negotiated the hybrid model with the Teachers Association and administration. As a School Committee, we are committed to getting more students back safely and in-person as soon as possible. Data reviewed can be found on the Mass.gov website by clicking [here](#) or our local Hanover Dashboard by clicking [here](#). Back in the spring, a major concern in the community was that hospitals would be overwhelmed. We had to shelter in place. This caused us to close our schools. Currently, that is not the case. The School Committee looks at this data frequently to see where we are as a State and Community. There are better outcomes and shorter hospital stays.

Mr. Miraglia: The data is managed through our Public Health Departments and school nurses. This is our way of locally tracking the data. This data tells us what is going on in Hanover and our schools. We have not seen school transmission to date.

Mrs. Miller: Governor Baker came out with new metrics. He said if your district is in any color other than red, we should be moving towards in-person return for our students. We are currently in the yellow. Parents have shared their concerns. The one thing that comes across is that teachers are doing their best. The hybrid model is not ideal for our students. We have lots of concerns regarding screen time, isolation, the lack of ability to receive help when needed, the work is challenging to complete without teachers' support. and isolation. The younger students are struggling under this model.

Mr. Geary: Per our Memorandum of Agreement, we met with our Teachers Association in October to start the discussion regarding increasing in-person learning. We were invited to the Board of Selectmen meeting on November 4th to discuss COVID, financial and operational issues, the schools, and the Town. In November, we

had met several times with the Teachers Association. We have presented a proposal for an incremental increase for in-person learning. We will continue to meet with the Union as often as necessary to move in that direction.

Mrs. Miller: We will be sending out a survey tomorrow to all parents/guardians. This survey is to help us look for data and information to move forward to help us and our administration make those plans.

Mrs. Lynch: Encourages parents to read the survey very carefully and submit their responses before Thanksgiving. We are dependent on the responses in regard to transportation, social distancing, and virtual learning.

Mr. Ferron: If parents do not receive the survey, please email your child's school.

Mr. Miraglia: This is a process. We are taking in as much information as possible. Please give us your input. We are talking to a lot of people about how best to do this safely and methodically in the best interest of the students.

Mrs. Miller: Email the School Committee with questions.

Plan for Snow Day

Mr. Ferron: Most school districts statewide are establishing plans for snow days to be remote learning days to maintain continuity. Each district is different based on their individual model and schedule. We must follow DESE guidance on this issue. If any student or family is without electricity and cannot access the online learning platform or Zoom, it will be understood that teachers and administrators will be flexible with assignments and deadlines, and the student would not be penalized for their absence. Likewise, teachers without power or access will notify their principal and a message will be shared with their students to follow the assignments in Google Classroom or Seesaw. A School Committee vote is recommended to enforce this Snow Day Procedure for 2020-2021.

Mrs. Corbo and Mr. Miraglia support this recommendation.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to approve the plan for Snow Days as written. The motion was moved by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Geary. The vote carried unanimously.

Report of Finance Department presented by Dr. Raab:

Recommendation for FY '21 Budget Action

The Recommendation for FY '21 Budget is being tabled as he is currently working with the Town Manager on the next steps.

Foster Care Transportation Reimbursement

Under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), children in foster care are required to remain in their School of Origin if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the child. The School of Origin is responsible for funding the cost of this transportation to receive any federal funds for the transportation of foster children; a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be in place between the Town of Hanover and the Hanover Public Schools. The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), in a partnership with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), has developed a methodology that could reimburse a share of these transportation costs through Title IV-E (a section of the Social Security Act that provides federal reimbursement to states for services provided to children in foster care) This voluntary program allows Local Education Authorities (LEAs) to report their eligible transportation expenditures for children in foster care to the state to be claimed for federal reimbursement. It is estimated that LEAs will receive about 20% of reported costs in reimbursement. Here in Hanover, we may receive approx. \$1,000. Back on June 29, 2020, the Town voted to accept the memorandum under Article Seven of the Special Town Meeting. On Monday, June 19, 2020, the Board of Selectmen voted to accept the memorandum. A School Committee vote is requested.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to allow the Hanover Public Schools to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Town of Hanover, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Department of Children and Families to apply for reimbursement for Foster Care Transportation expenses. The motion was moved by Mr. Geary and seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The motion carried unanimously.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

Fall Assessment Data K-8: Presented by Debbie St. Ives, Daniel Birolini, Jane DeGrenier, Michael Oates, Reading Specialists-Anastasia Frank, Ellen Burns, and Math Coach-Nancy Dutton. The goal of the presentation is to go over the Fall Data 2020. This presentation can be found in its entirety on the Hanover Public Schools website or by clicking [here](#). The following topics were discussed in detail:

Dibels (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) and i-Ready Assessment Overview-Mrs. St. Ives: We have completed both the Dibels and iReady assessments. The testing facilitation looked different this year. New procedures were created this year which allowed us to gather the best results possible. Both of the assessments presented tonight are given three times a year; the Fall, Winter, and Spring. The goal is data-informed instructional planning and progress monitoring for students. Teachers use this data to isolate needs, establish flexible groups, and prescribe intervention. The goal of this presentation tonight is to walk you through an overview of each assessment, our current student data, and how this information is being used to accelerate learning.

- *Dibels Assessment-Anastasia Frank and Ellen Burns:* Hanover switched to Dibels 8 this year which is universally administered to students K – 5. Dibels helps identify students at risk for reading difficulties as well as students acquiring grade-level skills. It documents student progress of reading skills in response to their intervention through our progress monitoring tools. It sets a level of performance for all students to reach to be considered on track for becoming a proficient reader through benchmark goals and timelines. It demonstrates the efficacy of our curriculum and instructional practices used to meet our students learning goals.
- *iReady-Nancy Dutton:* iReady is an online program for reading and mathematics that helps determine students' needs, personalize learning, and monitor progress throughout the school year. It consists of two parts: Diagnostic & Personalized instruction. iReady diagnostic is an adaptive assessment that adjusts its questions to suit students' needs. It is both norm-referenced which compares how students performed relative to students across the country and criterion-referenced which compares what students know and can do against grade-level standards. This data is one way to help teachers understand student progress.

Questions:

Mrs. Miller: How do you determine who gets an RTI block?

Mrs. Frank: RTI block is available to all students. RTI is a block of time where the students are supported with a reading specialist, special education, or classroom teacher. The teacher works in small groups. Historically at Cedar, RTI is four days a week with three days of direct instruction time and one day for progress monitoring.

Mrs. DeGrenier: All students at Center receive RTI. They meet with a reading specialist, special education or classroom teacher depending on their schedule. Some meet on remote days and others on their in-person days.

Action Items:

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

Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to approve the Homeschool Request 2020-2021. The motion moved by Mrs. Lynch and was seconded by Mr. Geary. The vote carried unanimously.

Appointment of North River Collaborative Board of Director: Mr. Ferron is recommending a motion to be re-appointed to the North River Collaborative Board of Directors.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to re-appoint Mr. Ferron to the North River Collaborative Board of Directors. The motion was moved by Mrs. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Geary. The vote carried unanimously.

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2020. Time to be determined. Expected agenda items will be: FY '21 Budget Update, COVID Health Update

Motion by Mrs. Lynch to adjourn at 8:16 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Geary. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tahnee Warner

Tahnee Warner
Executive Assistant/ Recording Secretary