

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2022 7:00 PM
In-Person and Virtual Meeting
Hanover High School; Media Center

Present: Mrs. Leah Miller, Mr. Pete Miraglia, Mrs. Libby Corbo, Mrs. Ryan Hall, and Mrs. Ruth Lynch

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Debbie St. Ives, Michael Oates, Kelly Lawrence, Patricia Smith, Jane DeGrenier, Garry Pelletier, Matthew Plummer, Mike Perrone

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Mrs. Miller.

Wrestling State Champion: Anthony Mann: Mr. Scott Hutchinson: Hanover's first-ever D3 State Champion in wrestling; Anthony Mann was presented with a MIAA plaque. He won this title on February 19, 2022 and is a Division 3 State Champion wrestler in the 138lb weight class. Congratulations to Mr. Mann and his great season!

Hockey Team State Champions: Coaches and Captains: Mr. Scott Hutchison: Representatives of the HHS Boys' Hockey team were present for recognition of the 2022 D3 State Championship. Numerous accolades have been bestowed on the team and individuals. Some of the representatives attending the meeting was Captain Thao Lanagan, Liam Joy, Tyler Richards, Ben Lines, Liam Monahan, Coach Danny Dailey, and Head Coach Jonny Abbon.

ARTS Festival Recap: Mr. Matthew Harden; Mrs. Kelly Lawrence; Mr. Collin Fahey; Mr. Mike Wade, Ms. Jane, Mrs. Thornton and Mr. Ferron: Mr. Ferron shared that the Hanover Public Schools Arts Festival was Tuesday, April 5th where the talents, passion, and creativity of the students from kindergarten through 12th grade were displayed. There was an array of mediums, dramatic vignettes, and musical performances by soloists and groups. Mr. Harden, Director of Fine Arts and Performing Arts, continued by comparing Tuesday to being similar to a renaissance. The incredible resurgence of passion and energy could be felt. Expressions of joy could be seen everywhere. A special thank you to the Hanover Cultural Council for their generous grant in support of this inaugural event. He continued by recognizing and thanking his team; Mrs. Kelly Lawrence, Director of FACE; Ms. Alison Palmucci, Fine Arts Teacher and Ms. Anne Thornton, Music Teacher, both from Cedar School; Ms. Karen Cass, Arts teacher and Mr. Dustin Lindsey, Teacher, both from Center School; Mr. Aaron DiGaudio, Fine Arts Teacher; Mr. Michael Fine, Arts Teacher, Ms. Gillian Desmarais, Music Teacher, Ms. Julianne Thornell, Music Teacher, all from the Middle School; Mr. Colin Fahey, Drama Director, Mr. Michael Wade, Choral Director, Mr. David Crawford, Art Teacher, and Ms. Janet Curley, Art Teacher, all from the High School. He ended by stating it takes a village to support the arts and thanked the School Committee and building administrators for supporting this endeavor.

Mrs. Miller thanked Mr. Harden and shared how she loved the way he compared the ARTS Festival to the renaissance. She also liked that the younger kids had the opportunity to see the whole program.

Mr. Ferron hinted that for the remaining meetings this year, we may have an occasion to celebrate one or two of our artists as they share some of their talents with the Committee.

HHS Peru Trip Feedback: Mrs. Allyson Gately, Mrs. Maura Aborn, Mr. Landon McLaughlin, Mr. Andrew Corbo, Mr. Raymond Tschudy, and Mr. Daniel Leskow: Mrs. Aborn and Mrs. Gately thanked the Committee for approving the trip. Mrs. Aborn, Mrs. Gately, and the students shared their experiences, "this was a trip of a lifetime", and all the obstacles they had faced. The students also thanked Mrs. Gately and Mrs. Aborn. Mr. Corbo created a video that was shared with the Committee.

Comments:

Mrs. Lynch commented on the great job Mr. Corbo did with the photography.

Mrs. Miller loved hearing about the trip and giving feedback at the meeting.

Mrs. Corbo added that there was a significant travel delay and as a parent, it was nerve-wracking. She is thankful for the way the delays were handled, the juggling that was done, and done professionally.

Public Comment:

Mrs. Miller opened the floor to public comment. She explained, “To speak during public comment, the speaker can come up to the microphone and state their name and address. There will be a time limit of three minutes per speaker. If anyone wants to speak via Zoom, raise your virtual hand, and I will call on you. I will alternate between in-person and zoom.”

Public Comment was given by resident Leslie Molyneux-23 Water Street. Please refer to the Hanover Public Schools website for the [April 13, 2022 School Committee Meeting](#) for more detail.

Approval of Minutes:

March 9, 2022: Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to approve the March 9, 2022; *School Committee General Session Minutes* as written. The motion was moved by Mr. Miraglia and seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The motion carried unanimously.

March 23, 2022: Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to approve the March 23, 2022; *School Committee General Session Minutes* as written. The motion was moved by Mr. Miraglia and seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of the Superintendent:

- **2021-2022 School Calendar Last Day of School Re-Vote presented by Mr. Ferron:** The 2021-2022 School Calendar for the last day of school was voted incorrectly at the last School Committee meeting on March 23, 2022. The last day was incorrectly stated as June 24th but the official last day will be Thursday, June 23rd. This requires a revote by the School Committee. This vote will supersede the previous vote.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to approve *June 23, 2022 as the last official school day*. The motion was moved by Mr. Miraglia and seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The vote carried unanimously.

Questions/Comments: None at this time.

- **2022-2023 School Calendar Early Release Adjustment presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:** The 2022-2023 School Calendar has been adjusted per the Committee’s request for less Early Release days. Leadership team met and recommended removing January 3rd as an early release. If the Committee feels strongly more early release days should be adjusted, then further discussion will be needed.

Questions/Comments: None at this time.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to approve the *2022-2023 Hanover Public Schools Calendar*. The motion was moved by Mr. Miraglia and seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The vote carried unanimously.

Mr. Ferron added that the approved versions of the [2021-2022 School Calendar](#) and the [2022-2023 School Calendar](#) will be posted on the Hanover Public Schools website soon.

- **Appointment of Business Manager presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:** Mr. Ferron recommends that the School Committee appoints Mr. Michael Perrone as a Business Manager pending successful negotiations with Mr. Ferron with given parameters that were already shared with the Committee. Mr. Ferron added that Mr. Perrone has been doing a great job for six months and he has worked hard learning the systems. Mr. Ferron added that this does require a vote from the Committee.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo commented that she had the opportunity to have conversations with members of Town Leadership AdComm. Every person mentioned how professional, thorough, concise, and transparent Mr. Perrone has been through the entire budget season. She added for the past six months he has been building confidence and relationships with members of the Town Leadership which is remarkable. She expressed her gratitude to him.

Mr. Miraglia also commented that he had the opportunity to work with Mr. Perrone closely on the budget. He added that Mr. Perrone came up with a number of creative ideas when there were tight spots in the budget.

Mrs. Miller agreed that it was a tough year to begin a new job and he did it well.

Mrs. Lynch added that Hanover Public Schools is fortunate to have him. Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to appoint *Mr. Michael Perrone as Business Manager pending successful negotiations with Mr. Ferron within the parameters that have been shared with the School Committee.* The motion was moved by Mr. Miraglia and seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The vote carried unanimously.

Report of Finance Department:

- **Staffing Update presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:** This is the time of year when the structure of the support staff is reviewed and making sure the paraprofessionals and ABA tutors are in the right places. This will take place over the next couple of months. There are several leadership positions posted including the Principal of Cedar School. Mrs. St. Ives has convened a screening committee. Mr. Oates, Mr. Mattos, Mr. Plummer, and Mrs. DeGrenier are all working on hiring positions that have been identified as key positions for Special Education. We have good candidates for all these positions but the concern is the speed needed to act. Also, this time of the year, we look at class size. We may need to move teachers up and down a grade level and have support staff in place. Current long-term substitutes are being evaluated to see if they are a good fit for either a permanent position or another year as a long-term substitute.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Miller thanked Mr. Pelletier for filling the gap this year at the Cedar School.

Mr. Miraglia asked how many administrative positions are open? Mr. Ferron responded five.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

HHS Program of Studies presented by Mr. Matthew Plummer: Every year at this time, we have the privilege of introducing the *High School's Program of Studies* with a definitive document with course changes and the specific rationales for these changes. This year we will be presenting you with the *HHS Program of Studies* document which can be viewed [here](#) and Mr. Plummer reviewed the changes made to this year's *HHS Program of Studies*.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Miller commented that she liked the new courses which were added and that they seem applicable. Also, she liked the new framework for World Languages and it is exciting as well that a department head has been added. She asked how a student gets to be in C-Calculus. Mr. Plummer replied that it is case by case and tends to accelerate quickly. She then asked if the students use virtual high school and Mr. Plummer replied that they use him. Mr. Plummer added that accelerating like that is not for everyone. Mrs. Miller inquired how many students you need to run an AP calculus class. Mr. Plummer explained that enrollment size matters but they have been making it work in a less than ideal situation. Ideally, he is looking for ten or more in those specialized classes, and if it is an elective then more than ten students.

Mr. Miraglia inquired about science, language, and history and asked what the pathway is to get to the levels middle school to high school. Mr. Plummer thinks the pathway already exists with a decent set of courses for the kids to enroll in. Mr. Miraglia wanted more information about the virtual high school program. Mr. Plummer responded that the high school has had a virtual high school for a while where they see about twenty to forty students in a course. They try to reserve it for juniors and seniors who cannot get the elective they are looking for or are interested in something not taught at the high school. The students are not interested in the virtual high school this year so the virtual high school contract is for twenty-five seats and there are twenty-one students enrolled. Mr. Miraglia added how he is impressed with the capacity to stretch students to high levels of achievement, particularly in the AP area.

Mrs. Hall commented that given that there are no formal prerequisites, she liked that the guidelines allow students to reflect and think about their ability and learning. She inquired if there are other courses that the department heads are looking at? Mr. Plummer responded 100% now that they have seen it, they will talk about how to do it and develop meaningful guidelines. Mrs. Hall inquired what the enrollment would be like if AP Statistics was offered?

Mr. Plummer answered that they have tried to run it before and it has not received any traction yet.

Mrs. Corbo commented in regards to the ASL course not having a teacher. She wondered if there was a way to arrange a teaching share operation with another district? Mr. Plummer is hoping it runs and agrees with Mrs. Corbo on the importance of this course.

Mrs. Lynch shared how she thinks the book is extremely well done and it is clear, concise, and gives a lot of information. She thinks this is the most important document that is created by the high school. She extended her congrats to the department heads, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Mattos, and anyone else that worked on it. She asked him to rethink “participation in graduation” and that it should be in the Handbook in capital letters, and not in the *Program of Studies*. She would appreciate Mr. Plummer giving it a second thought. She added how she liked the fact Mr. Plummer stated that we want all students to have the opportunity, but we also want them to look at it carefully because all students develop at different times. She reiterated that Mr. Plummer looks at the consequences of not doing summer work. She feels that if the summer work is not being done, then the spot in the AP classes will not be saved. She believes it is a good message to send to the students right at the beginning. She added Mr. Plummer’s explanation for not having a flow chart for math was explained perfectly and it is something that parents get confused about. Mrs. Lynch is happy to see two more AP classes and the offering of language and literature to both the 11th and 12th graders. Her final request is that Mr. Plummer looks at the partnership descriptions again in the wording in the music section, PE section, and art section. She believes there is a real variation. She does not feel comfortable saying a “special needs student” and feels more comfortable saying a student with special needs or a student with needs.

Mr. Ferron added that Mr. Plummer and his team are looking at all the enrollment in all the classes. There are a lot of electives listed but we are not going to run all of them.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to approve the *Hanover High School Program of Studies 2022-2023* as presented this evening. The motion was moved by Mr. Miraglia and seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The vote carried unanimously.

Action Items:

- **HMS Track-n-Field Early Dismissal Request presented by Mrs. Kelly Lawrence:** The track-n-field program started last week with 124 middle school students enrolled. Track meets begin the week after April vacation at the Hanover High School. During a full league season, students will be attending five different meets but there are two qualifying meets. The qualifying meets were held over the weekend in the past but they are being held on a Friday this year. To participate, for our division, it does require that the qualifying students that go would need to leave school by 12:30 PM on Friday, June 10th with a rain date of Monday, June 13th. The hope is we do not need the rain date as it will conflict with Camp Squanto. Unlike cross country when all students can go out and run one course with no equipment, track-n-field is more complex in facilitating the meet. Not all of the team will go, only the qualifiers.

Questions/Comments: None at this time.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to approve the Field Trip Request Form for the 5th through 8th grade track and field team qualifiers for Friday, June 17th, 2022 as presented this evening. The motion was moved by Mr. Miraglia and seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The vote carried unanimously.

Other Comments:

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2022, at 7:00 PM. Expected agenda items will be: HHS Quebec Trip Feedback, Superintendent's Summative Evaluation, Report of the HPTA, FY '22 Budget Update, HHS Italy Field Trip Request, FACE Before/After Rate Increase, and others TBD.

Mr. Miraglia requested a meeting to get together as a subcommittee since there will be budget update.

Mr. Miraglia, Mr. Ferron, Mrs. Ruth Lynch, and Mrs. Corbo shared their experiences at the ARTS Festival.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM. The motion was moved by Mr. Miraglia and seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tahnee Warner

Tahnee Warner
Executive Assistant/ Recording Secretary

Documents Used:

2021-2022 School Calendar Last Day of School Re-Vote
2022-2023 School Calendar Early Release Adjustment
HHS Program of Studies
HMS Track-n-Field Early Dismissal Request

[Appendix A](#)
[Appendix B](#)
[Appendix C](#)
[Appendix D](#)