

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2022 7:00 PM
In-Person and Virtual Meeting
Hanover High School; Media Center

Present: Mr. Pete Miraglia, Mrs. Kristen Cervantes, Mrs. Libby Corbo, and Mrs. Ryan Hall

Absent: 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 6:00 PM by Member Corbo.

Motion by Mrs. Hall to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy related to collective bargaining with the HTA with the intent to return to General Session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cervantes. Roll call vote: Kristen Cervantes-Aye, Elizabeth Corbo-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, and Peter Miraglia-Aye.

Mrs. Corbo called the general session to order at 7:02 PM. Mrs. Corbo is acting chair for Mr. Miraglia who could not be here at the meeting in person. He joined via Zoom.

Mrs. Corbo explained that the meeting will be proceeding in a hybrid session and Mr. Miraglia will be participating on Zoom. Because the meeting is in a hybrid session, all votes will be held in roll call according to the Governor's order regarding Executive and Open Sessions being held hybrid.

Welcome: New School Committee Member Mrs. Kristen Cervantes: Mrs. Corbo welcomed Mrs. Cervantes.

Mrs. Corbo continued by noting that Mrs. Miller will be recognized and appreciated for her service in the future when there is a full committee present.

Mr. Miraglia thanked Mrs. Corbo for chairing the meeting. He added that as we welcome our newest member, the Committee would like to express their gratitude to the previous Chairperson Mrs. Miller. The Committee would like to recognize Mrs. Miller for her years of service and leadership to the schools and community. He asked that everyone stay tuned for this recognition soon.

Student Performances: Mr. Wade and Mr. Harden:

Concertino for Flute & Piano by C. Chaminade Op.107 with HHS senior Anna Minichino on flute and accompanied by Mr. Michael Wade on piano.

Tower Gardens at Center School: Mr. Steve Lovell: Mr. Lovell explained that the Tower Garden is a tower that his class grows plants on and he has been doing it for the last few years. It is tied into the science curriculum through life cycles but they also do more with it such as math and reading. It creates experiences and those experiences create memories. The kids get to grow plants and discuss what type will be grown. It is fun to do the growing part. In the end, they eat what they grow. The cafeteria staff helped create meals for the kids to try out. This year they grew a couple of different lettuce which turned into salads and popcorn chicken and tuna rolls. They also grew kale which was turned into kale chips, arugula, and basil which made bruschetta. The kids tried things they have never tried before and enjoyed it. It is not an instant gratification experience. It takes time and they have to work for it. The kids do most of the work and check the garden every morning. Sometimes they fail and they talk about failing, how failing happens, and failing is not a negative connotation. Sometimes you have to fail, but we can still be successful. Anyone who wants to see the pictures of the kids trying out the food from the

garden, the process of the plants that were first planted in the Fall, and the harvesting process go to mrlovellsclass.weebly.com.

Question/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo asked if this is a third-grade program only or could it be expanded to other grades? Mr. Lovell responded that this has been done in the fourth-grade in years past but it fit the third-grade curriculum. He added that it has been done at the middle and high. Mrs. Corbo asked how they start the growth. Mr. Lovell said it starts with seeds. The process starts in the classroom with the kids getting the tower gardens ready which takes about a month before the plants can go in. The kids are given a selection to pick out what they want to try and grow and the seeds get planted in the classroom. It takes about three to three and half months until the plants are fully grown.

Mrs. Cervantes commented what a strong example of being able to take your core curriculum and partner it with social-emotional learning for the students and for them to think about delayed gratification, learning from failure, and working as a team. She thanked him. Mr. Lovell added that Center Elementary has a lot of experiences and opportunities to do those experiences.

Public Comment: None presented.

Approval of Minutes:

April 13, 2022: Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the April 13, 2022; *School Committee Executive Session Minutes* as written. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Cervantes. Roll Call Vote: Kristen Cervantes-Abstained, Libby Corbo-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, and Pete Miraglia-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

April 13, 2022: Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the April 13, 2022; *School Committee Open Session Minutes* as written. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Cervantes. Roll Call Vote: Kristen Cervantes-Abstained, Libby Corbo-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, and Pete Miraglia-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

April 27, 2022: Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the April 27, 2022; *School Committee Open Session Minutes* as written. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Cervantes. Roll Call Vote: Kristen Cervantes-Abstained, Libby Corbo-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, and Pete Miraglia-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

The agenda is out of order due to moving the Action Item up.

Action Items:

- **HHS Italy Field Trip Request (pre-approval) presented by Mr. Kevin Perry:** This request was made by Mr. Kevin Perry. This field trip is available for grades 10 through 12 only. The field trip presentation was outlined in [Appendix C](#).

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Hall asked how many students typically go on this trip. Mr. Perry responded the highest has been thirty-eight and the lowest was nine. There is no cap but the minimum preferred is twelve.

Mrs. Cervantes inquired about what makes a student eligible to be able to go on this trip. Mr. Perry replied it is open to any student from tenth grade to twelfth grade who wants to experience a trip of a lifetime.

Mrs. Corbo asked if they have a payment plan. Mr. Perry responded yes. Mrs. Corbo asked if they offered trip insurance. Mr. Perry responded that they do have trip insurance.

Mr. Miraglia inquired how they get around in the Country. Mr. Kelly said they have a private coach and a delegated bus driver that are with them the whole trip along with a tour manager. Mr. Miraglia asked if Italian is taught at the high school. Mr. Ferron noted not yet. Mr. Miraglia asked how the students prepare for the trip. Mr. Kelly responded that they do not do anything formally and that having the tour manager with them twenty-four hours a day for seven days is extremely helpful. Mr. Miraglia asked when the students need to commit and Mr. Kelly said September 2022.

Mrs. Hall asked what the chaperone ratio was and Mr. Kelly said it is one chaperone to every six kids.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the *Hanover High School Field Trip Request to Italy* as presented this evening. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Cervantes. Roll Call Vote: Kristen Cervantes-Aye, Libby Corbo-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, and Pete Miraglia-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of the Superintendent:

- **Events and Updates presented by Mr. Ferron:**

- Mr. Hugh Galligan was just named Massachusetts High School Principal of the Year. He was the former Assistant Principal at the high school for six years. He was instrumental in a lot of the safety and security issues, Structural Rounds, and worked with Mrs. St. Ives on initiatives, and an all-around AWESOME guy. He has been the Principal at Norwood High for four years. Congratulations to Mr. Galligan!
- Hanover has a couple of Drum Majors. Justus Carney, Class of 2019, was just named Drum Major of the UConn Marching Band and Beth Monahan, Class of 2020, is a finalist to be the Drum Major at UMASS Amherst.
- This week is National Police Week. Mr. Ferron took the opportunity to thank Office John Voelkel, the School Resource Officer, and the Hanover Police Department. Office John is an important fabric of our organization.

- **Update on the Class of 2022 High School Graduation presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

- Friday, June 3rd
- Administration and staff are to wear suits and formal attire as there will be no gowns this year per the new principal
- Families will be seated on the field but can bring as many guests as they want but only six will be seated on the field.
- It should run for about ninety minutes to two hours.
- In the event of bad weather, people need to bear with the team as they navigate through it.
- Please RSVP if coming School Committee members are coming to ensure there is a seat.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo asked if we have a weather cancellation or change how would parents be notified. Mr. Ferron responded it will be communicated. Mrs. Corbo asked if graduation will be streamed on Facebook and Mr. Ferron replied yes and it will be on local cable.

- **Ratify AFSCME Contracts:** The AFSCME contracts were discussed and reviewed by the Committee in Executive Session. All contracts must be voted on in Open Session.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Cervantes asked if there was any discussion about making changes to the contract for the paraprofessionals because of the Special Education Report and recommendations. Mr. Ferron noted that in this process there were no discussions as these are Collective Bargaining Agreements that go back thirty years so we treated this as the current present day. On a separate parallel track, we are looking at all our support staff both in relation to the Special Education Report and the review with Mrs. St. Ives and the Principals of all of these positions regularly.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the *Administrative Assistants Agreement for July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025* as presented. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Cervantes. Roll Call Vote: Kristen Cervantes-Aye, Libby Corbo-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, and Pete Miraglia-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the *Paraprofessional Agreement for July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025* as presented. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Cervantes. Roll Call Vote: Kristen Cervantes-Aye, Libby Corbo-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, and Pete Miraglia-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to ratify the *Cafeteria Workers for July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025* as presented. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Cervantes. Roll Call Vote: Kristen Cervantes-Aye, Libby Corbo-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, and Pete Miraglia-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of Finance Department:

- **FY '22 Donations presented by Mr. Michael Perron:** Donations totaling \$11,537.89 were received from Bay State Textiles, Box Tops, HPTA, and Michael Foley.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo and the Committee would like to thank Bay State Textiles, the families that use the Box Top Program, the Hanover Parent Teacher Association, and the Foley Family for their generous donations.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the *FY '22 Donations* as presented. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Cervantes. Roll Call Vote: Kristen Cervantes-Aye, Libby Corbo-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, and Pete Miraglia-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Q3 FY '22 Revolving Account Update by Mr. Michael Perron:** Mr. Perrone reviewed the [FY '22 Revolving Account Update](#) which can be found on the School Committee page on the Hanover Public Schools website. This report is reflective of revenue and spending from the Revolving Accounts from July 1, 2021 - present. Overall, the Revolving accounts are tracking as expected to date, with the exception of a few accounts, which are summarized below.

Lunch Program

The lunch account is in a strong position. The turnaround in the Lunch Service Program is directly related to the fact that all student lunches are free and fully reimbursed. We expect to end the year with approximately \$200,000. Having such a healthy balance has afforded the District to allocate more salaries from the Lunch Program that would have normally been paid from the General Fund. The lower expense to the General Fund results in a lower expense to the usual budget offsets, affording us more flexibility as we plan for the FY '23 budget.

Athletics

The Athletics account is experiencing the most difficulty to this point. The account currently shows a positive balance of \$11,000. However, there are multiple factors that need to be addressed moving forward. As a result of the pandemic and the cancellation of the Spring 2020 Athletic Season, there were no user fees collected. In

addition, the hockey program added new expenses to uniforms, practice and game ice time, transportation, and officials. Lastly, the overall decreasing student enrollment will most likely result in reduced revenue from participation fees. We expect that there will be an overall shortfall in the Athletic Program of approximately \$20,000 which will be absorbed by the General Fund Budget as we approach June 30th.

Full Day Kindergarten

The third-quarter balance in Full Day Kindergarten is slightly over \$275,000.00. We are in process of transferring designated salaries originally paid from the General Fund to the Full Day program, which will draw down this balance and assist at the end of year balancing of the General Fund.

High School Transportation

As the Committee is aware, high school students pay \$300 per year for transportation and as a result, \$26,000 was collected. This revenue was used to offset the overall Transportation Budget. The Committee may recall during budget deliberations that a provision in the Transportation contract that allowed for a “Fuel Escalation” clause was unforeseen during the building of the FY22 budget. The transfer of these Revolving funds will more than offset the increased costs.

FACE Program

We continue to be in a rebuilding phase of all areas of the program as we navigate the side effects of the pandemic. Currently, the overall FACE Program has a positive balance of approximately \$48,000. The overall goal is to end the year with a positive balance and we are confident that will occur.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo wondered if the Committee will need to approve some line item transfers between the general fund and the revolving account while moving funds in and out. Will that come at a later date? Mr. Ferron replied that they will be working with the CFO of the Town on journal entries. There may be things to come to the Committee with but some have already been approved. Mrs. Corbo added that she was thinking of athletics were a transfer from the transfer fund to the revolving account and that Mr. Raab use to take care of that at the end of the year. Mr. Ferron confirmed it will be brought to the Committee to approve it if needed.

Mr. Miraglia asked if there was any word on the food for next year. Mr. Ferron said it is not known yet but it will not be funded by the Federal Government but DESE is still discussing it.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

- **Administrator Hiring Update presented by Mr. Matt Ferron and Mrs. Debbie St. Ives:** Mr. Ferron and Mrs. St. Ives gave an update on Administrator hiring. Interviews are continuing for vacant positions.
- See positions updates below:
 - K-6 Curriculum Director: appointed Nancy Dutton
 - Math Coach-excellent candidates being interviewed
 - Assistant Director of Student Services: Mr. Oates has made an offer for the position and it has been accepted. Just finalizing the paperwork
 - Special Education Administrator at Cedar School: Mr. Oates has made an offer for the position and it has been accepted. Just finalizing the paperwork
 - Assistant Principal: Mr. Mattos and Mr. Plummer working on hiring for this position
 - Dean of Students: Mr. Mattos and Mr. Plummer working on hiring for this position
 - Special Education Administrator at the High School: Mr. Oates and Mr. Mattos working on hiring for this position.
 - Cedar Principal: Mrs. St. Ives gave an update on the Cedar Principal search. The search team will be invited to share the process with the Committee the night the new Principal is introduced. The large group of 14 people quickly turned into a collaborative team. The team consisted of five parents, a middle school administrator, and seven Cedar staff. All they kept talking about is the word “magical”

and this would be the first glimpse into our school system for the student and parents. Parents talked that the new Principal needs to be someone who will bring the magic. Someone to take care of the children and not just academics but the balance and experience they provide. They will be introduced at an upcoming meeting. The team narrowed it down to ten candidates and interviewed seven. The committee put forward two names. Mr. Oates, Mr. Ferron, and Mrs. St. Ives interviewed them Friday. Today the top candidate was called and waiting they are waiting for an answer. This was the unanimous top candidate from the committee.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo thanked Mrs. St. Ives and the Committee for investing so much time and sharing the process as this position is very important to our District.

Mrs. Hall commented that the number of people on the Committee and the time put into this was very important. It is an early learning center and the first step for a lot of students into education and she can see where the magical connection comes up. She added that it is a testament to how much the school means to everyone that was involved in this process.

Mrs. St. Ives added that she went and met with the staff and got their views and qualities they were looking for in a candidate. The Committee reviewed and added to that list.

Mr. Corbo thanked the interim Principal at Cedar School, Garry Pelletier, for doing a fantastic job stewarding the school.

Mrs. Corbo had a general question about the hiring and if there has been a drop in candidates. Mr. Ferron confirmed that there has been a radical decline in applicants.

Mr. Miraglia commented he is impressed with how quickly this was pulled together but curious about overall numbers for administration positions. Mr. Ferron replied except for the high school positions, everyone else is done and offers have been made. The hopes are to be able to publish names within the next week.

Action Items: Moved to the top of the agenda.

Other Comments:

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2022, at 7:00 PM. Expected agenda items will be: School Committee Reorganization, Approval of the Student Handbooks, SEPAC Update, Lions Club Speech Contest Winner, Vision Statement Update, and others TBD.

Mr. Miraglia reminded the Committee that there are two upcoming events; Senior Awards on May 26th and Graduation is on June 3rd.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Cervantes. Roll Call Vote: Kristen Cervantes-Aye, Libby Corbo-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, and Pete Miraglia-Aye. 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](#)