

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
May 25, 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, Mrs. Ruth Lynch

Absent: None

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Debbie St. Ives, Michael Oates, Kelly Lawrence, Jane DeGrenier, Garry Pelletier, Matthew Plummer, Mike Perrone, Collin Fahey, Elsa Curtis Little-Gill, Ashley DeVincenzo, Nicole Duggins, Sarah Kelser, Jesse Craddock, Scott Hutchison, Russ Wilson, Terry Langston, Diane King

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Vice Chair Miraglia.

Mr. Ferron asked that everyone observe a moment of silence for the horrendous loss at the Robb Elementary School in Texas.

Lions Club Speech Contest Finalist: HHS Senior Elsa Curtis Little-Gill: Mr. Collin Fahey introduced the Lions Club Speech Contest, Finalist High School Senior Elsa Curtis Little-Gill, who delivered her speech on “Accountability.”

Question/Comments:

Mr. Miraglia thanked Ms. Curtis Little-Gill for doing a great job and sharing her speech with the Committee. He also commented that this was a testament to how much effort students put in and what they can achieve.

Public Comment: None presented.

Approval of Minutes:

May 11, 2022: *School Committee Executive Session Minutes* were tabled until the next meeting on June 8, 2022. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Cervantes. The motion carried unanimously.

May 11, 2022: *School Committee Open Session Minutes* were tabled until the next meeting on June 8, 2022. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mrs. Cervantes. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of the Superintendent:

- **School Committee Reorganization/Creation of Policy Subcommittee:** Interim Chair Mr. Miraglia turned the meeting over to Mr. Ferron in order to facilitate the reorganization portion for the Chair. He explained that once the chair is voted in, the Chair will facilitate the rest of the reorganization.
 - **School Committee Chairperson-**Mr. Ferron entertained a nomination to elect a Chairperson for the Hanover School Committee.
 - Motion by Lynch to nominate Pete Miraglia. The motion was seconded by Miraglia. Roll Call Vote: Ryan Hall-No, Elizabeth Corbo-No, Pete Miraglia-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-No, and Ruth Lynch-Aye. The 3-2 vote did not carry.
 - Motion by Hall to nominate Libby Corbo. The motion was seconded by Cervantes. Roll Call Vote: Ryan Hall-Aye, Libby Corbo-Aye, Peter Miraglia-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, and Ruth Lynch-No. The 4-1 vote carried.

Discussion: Mrs. Cervantes shared what she looks for in a Chair and that is the reason she supports Mrs. Corbo.

Mrs. Lynch added that her “no vote” in no way indicates that she will do nothing; but rather continue serve to the best of her ability, give support to Committee, and the important work that is done for the Community.

Mr. Ferron turned the Chair over to the newly elected Chairperson Mrs. Corbo.

Chair Corbo facilitate the rest of the reorganization portion.

- **School Committee Vice Chair-** Mrs. Corbo entertained a nomination for a Vice Chair. Motion by Corbo to nominate Ryan Hall as Vice Chair of the Hanover School Committee. Cervantes seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ryan Hall-Aya, Libby Corbo-Aye, Peter Miraglia-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, and Ruth Lynch-No. The 4-1 vote carried.
- **Budget Sub Committee Reauthorization-** Motion by Hall to reauthorize the Budget Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Miraglia. The vote carried unanimously.
- **Policy Subcommittee (NEW) Establishment** - Motion by Hall to authorize the Policy Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Miraglia. The vote carried unanimously.
- **Representative to the North River Collaborative Reauthorization-** Motion by Hall to reauthorize Matt Ferron as Representative. The motion was seconded by Miraglia. The vote carried unanimously.
- **School Committee Representative for Sick Leave Bank-** Motion by Hall to nominate Ruth Lynch as representative. The motion was seconded by Miraglia. The vote carried unanimously
- **Committee Access and Media Board** – Currently on hold.
- **Health and Safety Committee** - This is a standing committee. At this time, this Committee does not need to sit someone. If a Hanover Teachers Association issue comes up that requires the Committee to be seated, the position will be brought in front of the Committee for a vote. This will be left as an “as needed basis.”
- **Policy Subcommittee** – Libby Corbo, Chairperson, as an exofficio member would like to give her seat to Ruth Lynch. Motion by Hall to appoint Ruth Lynch. The motion was seconded by Miraglia. The vote carried unanimously. Motion by Hall to appoint Kristen Cervantes. The vote carried unanimously.
- **Budget Subcommittee-** Libby Corbo, as Chairperson, will serve as exofficio member. Motion by Hall to appoint Libby Corbo. The motion was seconded by Miraglia. The vote carried unanimously. Second member of committee is required. Motion by Hall to appoint Pete Miraglia. The motion was seconded by Cervantes. The vote carried unanimously.
- **School Committee Liaison to the SEPAC-** Motion by Cervantes to nominate Ryan Hall. The motion was seconded by Miraglia. The vote carried unanimously.

Questions/Comments: Discussed above.

- **Introduction of the New Cedar Principal: Jesse Craddock presented by Mrs. Debbie St. Ives:** Mrs. St. Ives is thrilled and honored to be able to introduce the new principal of Cedar School, Jesse Craddock. She thought the best way to do this was for the School Committee to hear from members of the Search Committee. First, she genuinely thanked the Search Committee for the time they put into the entire process. Their professionalism, honesty, and collaboration were outstanding. She turned it over to several of the members of the Search Committee, who explained a little about the process. Mrs. St. Ives then introduced each member of the Search Committee:

Cedar School Principal Search Committee

- Kristen Gokey, Cedar Administrative Assistant
- Ashley Arienti, Cedar Preschool Teacher
- Kathleen Chandler, Cedar Kindergarten Teacher
- Liz Downs, Cedar Grade 1 Teacher
- Michelle Pollock, Cedar Grade 1 Teacher/HTA President

- Terry Langton, Cedar Specialist
- Sarah Kelser, Cedar School Psychologist
- Katie Davis, Cedar School Psychologist
- Nicole Duggins, Cedar Parent & PTA Representative
- Michelle Hill, Cedar Parent & PTA Vice President
- Ashley DeVincenzo, Cedar Parent & School Council Member
- Michelle Cavallaro, Cedar Parent & School Council Member
- Joel Barrett, Cedar Parent & HMS Administrator

Ashley DeVincenzo, Nicole Duggins, and Sarah Kelser spoke on the Search Committee Process. Please refer to the Hanover Public Schools website for the [May 25, 2022](#), School Committee meeting for more detail.

Mr. Craddock thanked the Committee and gave a brief background and overview of why he is excited about his new role.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo thanked Mr. Craddock for taking the time to join the meeting and meet the Committee and the Search Committee for the summary and allowing a glimpse into the process.

Mrs. Hall welcomed Mr. Craddock. As a Cedar Parent, she is excited that all the things the Committee was looking at aligned with the things she thinks of when she thinks of Cedar. She also commended the Committee for the time and energy put into this process.

Mrs. Cervantes echoed what Mrs. Hall said and how proud she is to be part of a District that recognizes how 14 voices on a Committee might be tough. It is the right thing to do to find the best person and to prevent any kind of bias in the process. She added that she loves the magic about the culture there, particularly today.

Mr. Miraglia also thanked the Search Committee for their hard work and all the hours put in. He also welcomed Mr. Craddock.

Agenda is out of order.

- **Consideration of Naming the Cedar Driveway presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron and Mr. Scott Hutchison:**
Mr. Ferron gave a brief overview of ways they could honor Coach Judy Schneider and the process it took to get it done. Lots of options were looked at but the one that consensus has landed on is to name the driveway at Cedar School; “Coach Schneider Way.” A copy of the proposed signage was given to the Committee. In working with the Town Manager and Council on the mechanics of how this would work, the Cedar driveway is not a public street. At this point, it is a driveway. To name something, the Committee would need to approve it, and then it would be referred to the Select Board for their vote. Their vote will officially name the driveway “Coach Schneider Way.” The Cedar School address will remain 265 Cedar Street.
Mr. Hutchison gave a brief history of Coach Schneider’s time at Hanover High School. Coach Schneider personally is a wonderful person for everything she does, who she is, and how she never forgets a birthday. Professionally Coach Schneider taught in Hanover for fifty-three years in physical education. She taught tennis, basketball, and field hockey. He thanked the Committee for their consideration of naming the Cedar School Driveway in honor of a lifetime coach and teacher in Hanover. Please refer to the Hanover Public Schools website for the [May 25, 2022](#), School Committee meeting for more detail.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Lynch recognized how busy Mr. Hutchison is. Even though it has been a couple of years since they started talking about this, he and Mr. Ferron have been supportive of this because they recognized that it was time to acknowledge an incredible educator in this District.

Mr. Miraglia thanked Mr. Hutchison for the time put into this and the coordination with the town.

Mrs. Corbo also thanked Mr. Hutchison and Mr. Ferron for the work for this recognition.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to *Designate the Cedar Driveway as Coach Schneider Way*. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Vision Statement Committee Update:** Mr. Russ Wilson and Mr. Terence Langston reviewed the process, the vision, mission, and motto from the Vision Committee. The Vision Statement Committee also thanked Ruth Lynch for recognizing the need to revitalize and update our Vision Statement and for bringing the initiative to Mr. Ferron. Thank you to Mr. Ferron and to the SC for making this a district goal and allowing us to serve on the Vision Leadership Committee. Please see the [Vision Committee Presentation](#) in full on the School Committee website. The unveiling of the Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Motto:

VISION STATEMENT:
HANOVER HAWKS WILL SOAR AND SUCCEED WITHOUT LIMITS.

MISSION STATEMENT:
The Hanover Public Schools prepares students to soar and succeed by upholding the highest expectations for teaching and learning. We engage all learners within a welcoming, challenging, and supportive learning environment by promoting:

- Meaningful and relevant curricula
- Opportunities for character development, self-responsibility, and leadership
- A culture of curiosity, creativity, empathy, and inclusion
- A community where all feel welcomed
- Enrichment opportunities in the arts, athletics, and fundamental life skills
- Transparent and trusting relationships

MOTTO
SOAR AND SUCCEED

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo thanked Mr. Wilson and all the members of the team. She asked how they began the process of all the different community views and how long it took to gather all the information and put it into the statement and motto. Mr. Wilson responded that it took about ten months from start to finish.

Mrs. Lynch shared how it was the most enjoyable, outstanding, and fun Committee she has experienced and worked with. She was fascinated to see how it evolved and came together.

Mr. Miraglia thought that was powerful and was deeply impressed with how succinct it is.

Mrs. Corbo noted that this agenda item was not scheduled for a vote. The Committee will take time to process it and put it up for a vote at the next meeting.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

- **SEPAC Annual Update: SEPAC Leadership presented by Ms. Diane King:** Mrs. Diane King shared that The Hanover SEPAC is an independent community organization which collaborates with district professionals and functions in an advisory role relative to special education issues. “We strive to provide information and support to the special education community.” She explained what SEPAC is, the initiatives and special projects, and a look ahead. You can find the [SEPAC Annual Status Report](#) and the [SEPAC Presentation](#) in full on the [School Committee website](#).

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo thank all the members of the SEPAC Board and the Officers and added how much the hard work done throughout the year is appreciated.

Mrs. Hall shared how wonderful it was working with the SEPAC in her role this year.

Mrs. Lynch added how wonderful it is to see the outside experts brought in and what jumped right out was this statement under Roundtable events; “We believe that we can harness the expertise of the professionals within our district, to help educate and guide families, while at the same time help facilitate open and productive lines of communication.

Mrs. Corbo loved the addition of the office hours and added what a tremendous opportunity for parents with questions.

Mr. Miraglia thanked them for the public service the whole SEPAC team is offering to the community. He particularly wanted to thank them for their participation in the Special Education Review that was done this year which was so important.

Mrs. Cervantes could not help but make a connection between the vision and mission unveiling and what SEPAC shared.

Mr. Ferron thanked Ms. King and her team for a great job!

Mr. Oates thanked Mrs. King and SEPAC at large for the work and the vision of where we want to go next year.

Report of Finance Department:

- **State Budget (Education Funding) Update presented by Mr. Michael Perron:** The Senate came out with its budget. The House budget is already out. There are very few changes from each but only one would affect Hanover and it is not bad. The report came from Roger Hatch and he said; “Education accounts fared well in the budget process.” The only difference that affects Hanover is the Circuit Breaker Funding. Both the House and Senate have increased. If we spend what we spent last year, there would be an increase and we budgeted flat so that would be an increase in the budget. We will look at our budget in the next few weeks, then we will have a final budget.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo inquired if the amount of increase was significant. Mr. Ferron responded no. Mr. Perrone responded with Chapter 70 there is a \$200,000 increase which is not great compared to other Districts. Mrs. Corbo noted that some Districts received upwards of a half-million dollars or more and Hanover received \$200,000. Mr. Perrone replied that is correct. Mr. Ferron explained that Hanover budgeted the actual projected amount of Chapter 70 out of the Governor’s budget. In years past, we would budget Chapter 70 flat and if the money came in above and beyond that it would go into the general fund of the Town. If it was not spent throughout the year, it would come out in the form of free cash.

Mr. Miraglia comments the next meeting we have Sped Reserve vote. Mr. Ferron replied yes. Mr. Miraglia suggested that we show the budget chart to show where everything lands. Mr. Ferron responded that was a good suggestion.

- **Approval of Student Handbooks:** Each school reviewed the summary of changes to each handbook.
 - **Summary of Changes for 2022-2023 Elementary Handbook:** Presented by Elementary Principals Jane DeGrenier and Garry Pelletier. (1) Housekeeping Updates of School and District Administration names, School Committee Members, School Council Members, Synopsis Of Laws Coordinator, and Chief of Police (2) Formatting changes throughout in spacing, indenting, bold print, etc., (3) Page 7-9: Important Dates Updated, (4) Page 15: Health Office & Health

Requirements Sections Updated, and (5) Page 15: Medication Policy Updated. Mrs. DeGrenier addressed questions sent by Mrs. Lynch.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Cervantes shared some inconsistencies within the handbooks regarding parents or parent/guardian.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the *Elementary 2022/2023 Student Handbooks* subject to the notes that Mrs. Cervantes raised. The motion was moved by Hall and seconded by Miraglia. Motion carried unanimously.

- *Summary of Changes for 2022-2023 HMS Handbook*: Presented by Middle School Principal, Daniel Birolini. (1) Housekeeping Updates of School and District Administration names, School Committee Members, School Council Members, Synopsis Of Laws Coordinator, and Chief of Police (2) Formatting changes throughout in spacing, indenting, bold print, etc., (3) Page 4: Principal's Welcome Letter, (4) Page 5: Teachers and Specialists Updated, (5) Page 7: Important Dates Updated, (6) Page 21: Dress Standard Updated, and (7) Page 22: Health Office Updated.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Lynch asked about the policy on page 6 for grades reported in Aspen and if that policy is working? Mr. Birolini responded yes.

Mrs. Corbo appreciated the interaction with the students and the fact that feedback is taken seriously.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the *Hanover Middle School 2022/2023 Student Handbooks* as written. The motion was moved by Hall and seconded by Miraglia. Motion carried unanimously.

- *Summary of Changes for 2022-2023 HHS Handbook*: Presented by Matthew Plummer, Curriculum Director. (1) Housekeeping Updates of School and District Administration names, School Committee Members, and School Council Members, (2) Page 4: Principal's Welcome Updated, (3) Page 5: Learning Expectations Updated, (4) Formatting changes throughout in spacing, indenting, bold print, etc., (5) Page 8: Important Dates Updated, (6) Page 10: Clubs and Activities Updated, (7) Page 26: Tardiness to School Updated, (8) Pages 30: Alcohol and Drugs Updated, (9) Page 31: In-School Suspension (ISS) Updated, (10) Page 32: Dances Updated, (11) Page 33: Electronic Devices Updated, (12) Page 33: Health Office Updated, and (13) Page 34: Prom Updated.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Lynch inquired about outside guests going to Prom and if there is a guest sign-up sheet. Mr. Mattos responded at this time it is done informally, but going forward they will create a formal document. Mrs. Lynch commented on the In-School Suspension in the *Middle School Handbook* and she suggests Mr. Mattos take a look at it. Mr. Birolini stated he has shared that with Mr. Mattos.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the *Hanover High School 2022/2023 Student Handbook* as written. The motion was moved by Hall and seconded by Miraglia. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Corbo asked if the Student Handbooks with the changes were posted under Public Documents on the School Committee page. Mrs. St. Ives responded yes.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

- **SEPAC Annual Update: SEPAC Leadership presented by Ms. Diane King**: Presented out of order. Please see above.

Action Items: None at this time.

Other Comments:

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2022, at 7:00 PM. Expected agenda items will be: FY '22 Budget Close-out Update and Special Education Reserve Fund Request, HMS Gettysburg Field Trip Feedback, Vision Statement Vote, New Administrator Introductions, Summer Meeting Schedule, and others TBD.

Mrs. Corbo shared what a great example of collaboration in our District tonight with the work done by the Vision Committee, SEPAC, the hiring Committee, and the recognition of Coach Schneider. She continues by mentioning the tragedy in Texas and how it reminds us why we all do this work. It provides a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment for our children and students. She is honored to sit on this Committee and with these members. Even with their differences of opinions, they work together as a team and collaborate on what is in the best interest of the students.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 PM. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tahnee Warner

Tahnee Warner
Executive Assistant/ Recording Secretary

Documents Used:

Appendix A Draft Elementary Student Handbook 2002-2023
Appendix B Draft HMS Student Handbook 2022-2023
Appendix C Draft HHS Student Handbook 2022-2023
Appendix D Vision Statement
Appendix E SEPAC Annual Status Report 2021-2022
SEPAC Presentation
Vision Committee Presentation
Coach Schneider Way