

***Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2022 7:00 PM
In-Person and Virtual Meeting
Hanover High School; Media Center***

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

Absent: Mrs. Kristen Cervantes

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Debbie St. Ives, Michael Oates, Mike Perrone, Matt Mattos, Jane DeGrenier, Garry Pelletier, Matthew Plummer, Lori Clements, Kaitlin Morelli

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Corbo.

HMS Track Team Recognition Presented by Mrs. Kelly Lawrence: Tabled for a future meeting.

Public Comment:

Public Comments were given by residents Julie Leone-106 Dillingham Way, Lisa Adams-919 Broadway, Mary Gilmartin-179 Dillingham Way, and Darcy Edwards-187 Center Street. Please refer to the Hanover Public Schools website for School Committee Meeting on [June 8, 2022](#), for more detail.

Approval of Minutes:

May 11, 2022: Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the May 11, 2022; *School Committee Executive Session Minutes* as written. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. The motion carried unanimously.

May 11, 2022: Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the May 11, 2022; *School Committee Open Session Minutes* as written. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. The motion carried unanimously.

May 25, 2022: *School Committee Open Session Minutes* were tabled until the next meeting in August 2022.

Report of the Superintendent:

Mr. Ferron expressed his appreciation to everyone for attending graduation. There was more faculty there than in the past. Congratulations Class of 2022.

- **New Administrator Introductions presented by Mr. Michael Oates:**

Mr. Oates introduced and gave a brief background for Ms. Lori Clements and Ms. Kaitlyn Morelli.

Lori Clements is the Special Education Administrator at the Cedar School. Ms. Clements comes from the Boston Public Schools and was the building principal for two years. Before that, she spent nine years as a building-based Special Education Coordinator, worked as a private home and hospital teacher, and has taught in various public-school settings including a language-based learning program. She also spent six years working for the *Boston Globe* as a newsroom coordinator and a city desk manager. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the team.

Ms. Clements thanked the Committee for the opportunity to come to the meeting and meet everybody. She is excited to work at Cedar School and shared that her passion is Special Education.

Ms. Kaitlin Morelli is the Assistant Director of Student Services for the District. Ms. Morelli comes from the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District and is the Special Education Administrator. Before that, she was in the role of coordinator of Family and Students Supports which included Out of

District Coordinator, Social Emotional Learning Coordinator, and Homelessness Liaison. She brings her expertise and experience to the Administrative Team.

Ms. Morelli appreciated the opportunity to introduce herself. She expressed her excitement to work in the Hanover Public Schools and is looking forward to meeting fellow administrators, faculty, staff, students, and families. She is eager to tour the buildings and see the specialized programming in the District. She shared that she is very active in her current school community and looks forward to going to events, school activities, and sporting events in Hanover. She is honored to become a member of the Hanover Public Schools.

Mr. Oates announced that in a few days they will be announcing the high school Special Education Administrator.

Questions/Comments:

The Committee welcomed them aboard and thanked them for attending the meeting to introduce themselves.

- **Summer Meeting Schedule presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

Mrs. Corbo shared that the Committee needed to decide when the first meeting of the next school year will be. The consensus from the Committee is that August 24th would work. Mr. Ferron shared possible agenda items for the first meeting which may include information on school openings, follow-up from the Special Education plan for the upcoming school year, and preparing goals and strategic objectives.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo asked about the MCAS information. Mr. Ferron stated that Mrs. St. Ives and he will work on this for either August or an upcoming meeting.

Report of Finance Department:

- **FY '22 Budget Close-out Report presented by Mr. Michael Perrone:**

This and the Special Education Reserve Fund Report will be discussed together as they go hand in hand. The budget is changing daily beyond June 30th. There are two meetings for warrants on July 7th and 14th for services rendered in June and that were put in fiscal year '22. The Committee will be kept up to date on those changes. Mr. Perrone's goal was to have a second report out when another set of bills are sent out at the end of June for the Committee's review. Mr. Perrone will present a similar report to the one Dr. Raab presented last year.

- **Special Education Reserve Fund Report presented by Mr. Michael Perrone:**

It is getting close to the end of the fiscal year and the plan is to send out a detailed final closeout report before the end of June. The next few weeks will allow us to provide a more precise end-of-year projection. Each year the District has implemented an all-funds approach to balancing the budget. This year Circuit Breaker, IDEA, and ARPA funds have been appropriated to help offset the cost of Special Education tuitions. The chart below is a current snapshot of the Special Education Transportation and Special Education Contract Services line items. We experienced more expenses in these line items than originally anticipated.

We are requesting the School Committee's approval for use of the Special Education Reserve Transfer of up to \$400,000.00. Currently available in the Sped Reserve account is \$560,000.00. That includes a \$210,000.00 roll forward from the FY2020 Town Warrant and the \$350,000.00 from the Town Warrant of 2021. Also, note that at last month's Town Meeting an additional \$350,000 was voted. These funds were voted to assist the District for these exact situations. A roll forward balance

of \$510,000.00 would still be available for next year's budget should we once again encounter unanticipated Special Education expenses.

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| Special Education Transportation Budget | \$465,000.00 |
| Special Education Transportation Expenses | \$823,560.00 |
| Transportation Deficit | (358,560.00) |
| Special Education Contracted Services Budget | \$140,000.00 |
| Special Education Contracted Services Expenses | \$316,335.00 |
| Contracted Services Deficit | (\$186,639.00) |
| Total Deficit Transportation and Contracted Services | (\$545,199.00) |

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Miraglia commented that expenses from Circuit Breaker and Sped Reserve are what was expected. The only surprise is the amount of spending on Special Education transportation and contracted services.

Mr. Miraglia made a motion to approve the Sped Reserve by the end of the fiscal year which is less than 30 days away. The Board of Selectman needs to vote on it as well. The follow-up would be for the Budget Sub-committee to meet with Mike and Matt to figure this out. It is not a large amount. In the future, there needs to be a discussion on what impacts are there on the overspending. Mr. Ferron mentioned the areas where we are over on spending and that wasn't a surprise; however, the amount was surprising. Transportation could go either way yearly depending on the need which is why there is Circuit Breaker and Sped Reserve. Contracted Services was a COVID casualty and created a lot of challenges with staff. Mr. Ferron is asking the School Committee to approve the \$400,000. If it is not needed, then they won't use it. He will then go to the Town Manager to get this on the next agenda.

Mrs. Corbo asked if the substantial transportation increase was because of unanticipated out-of-district transportation or if it was a COVID casualty. Should this new amount be budgeted going forward? Mr. Oates responded the biggest impact was students that were not on the original plan and with students who moved into the district that required specialized transportation or at a distant location. Some students may have been identified for a placement out of the district that requires specialized transportation. It is not just move-ins but we have had those that are very costly. It is in line with the increase in out-of-school districts. Budgeting at a higher number is something that needs to be looked at. Mr. Ferron noted tuition does not change much but transportation is variable.

Mrs. Hall commented that in terms of the contracted services the staffing and planning are intentionally moving us towards not needing the outside contracted services to support the students we have. She thinks the number should be significantly less based on our plans. Mr. Ferron replied we have budgeted for the staff we have hired. Mrs. Hall responded that because of the staff hired, outside contracted services will no longer be needed and that will bring down the number. Mr. Ferron shared that the plan we have in place should bring down the number and transportation will vary depending on the children we have and we give them what they need.

Mrs. Corbo reviewed the Special Education Fund that is for unanticipated expenses. She feels these expenses qualify as unanticipated. She explained the process is the School Committee votes; then the Board of Selectman also needs to vote to approve the transfer.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve *the transfer of up to \$400,000* from the Special Education Reserve Fund. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. The motion carried unanimously.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

- **Grant Updates presented by Debbie St. Ives:**

Mrs. St Ives reviewed the three competitive grants from this year that we applied for and received that brought additional funding into the District. Before she explained each of the grants, she thanked Nancy Dutton who helped and supported Mrs. St. Ives put the grants together, meeting timelines, and going back and forth with the State. She shares that Ms. Dutton is a pleasure to work with and continues to go above and beyond.

- Grant 1: Accelerating Mathematics Instructional Grant for Students which is a State grant. It was applied for on June 11, 2021, and awarded to us on July 20. The goal is to support districts in the accelerating learning of mathematics. The grant funding is a supplemental computer-based program designed to enrich and deepen K – 8 students' conceptual understanding of mathematics through a visually-based approach. I-Ready was one of the approved programs. This grant paid for all of our i-Ready instruction and assessment for students in K – 8 including professional development. The grant amount awarded was \$42,839.
- Grant 2: Accelerating Literacy with High-Quality Instructional Materials. The grant was issued by the State but was funded through the Federal Government. The focus of the grant was focused on high-quality instructional materials to improve core literacy experience and outcomes. This grant was used to purchase resources and professional development for Hanover middle school students in grades 6 – 8 literacy. It was applied for on December 20, 2021, and awarded to us on February 17. The grant amount awarded was \$107,315.
- Grant 3: Accelerated Math Instruction for Students which was reissued by the State for next year. Approval was received on Monday, June 5, 2022. This grant was partially funded for \$19,776 which will help pay for i-Ready for another year. It also includes professional development which will be an Advance Users Professional Development for K – 8.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Hall inquired about the accelerated literacy for the middle school and what it covers specifically. Mrs. St. Ives responded that it is funding all the study sync materials for grades 6 – 8 and the professional development that goes along with it.

Mr. Miraglia inquired if the math grant was for K – 8 as well. Mrs. St. Ives replied this year it covered everything K – 8 because of the amount but next year it is only \$19,000. Even though they are not asking us to specify what we are using it for. It will supplement the money we would have been spending to continue using i-Ready.

Mr. Miraglia was curious about what aspect of the data did she see as opportunities to dig into. Mrs. St. Ives explained that when you use i-Ready and Diagnostics you get results back. The tool can give you a lot of information and sometimes too much information unless you know how to use it. We are focusing on providing support whether it is through a math coach, administrator, or some of the PLCs we are having with the teachers. We know how to get the information, how to take the assessment, and the spreadsheets and grouping will be given but what do we do with that? But what is it telling us about our students?

Mrs. Lynch thought we were already doing that type of approach with MCAS for years. Mrs. St. Ives confirmed that we have but i-Ready gives a lot more information than MCAS would. MCAS is summative and i-Ready is in the moment and tells you things you can do tomorrow.

Mrs. Corbo asked what the time frame and the turnaround time are from when take the test is taken and when the data is received. Mrs. St. Ives explained that we have testing windows. After the windows are done, all of the reading specialists will go in and help try to organize them so we can

have data meetings. Then we can make those shifts two different times a year. The teachers can look at it anytime they want but formally we look at it twice a year.

Mrs. Hall would be interested in how the data is looked at. What the percentages and growth are in the three benchmark testing spots? What impacts our district and how students are doing? Can we look at that from a district level? How it is improving over time for our students? Mrs. St. Ives shared that those are all things that we do. When our analysis is done, cohort and grade level data are analyzed. Also, i-Ready and DIBELS data are analyzed.

Mrs. Corbo asked about how long after the testing should the parents be on the lookout for the results that get mailed. Mrs. St. Ives noted about three weeks.

Action Items:

- **Vision Statement Approval presented by Mr. Wilson:**

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

Mr. Wilson responded to a public comment about academic excellence not being reflected in the mission statement. He explained that there were over fifty-five pages of qualitative narrative and read every page multiple times. What the Committee learned from the data is success and potential have different meanings for different individuals. In the presentation two weeks ago, it was demonstrated how to use the Vision of Hanover Hawks will Soar and Succeed without Limits by posing the question, "How will you soar?" Some students will soar in classes, some by working right from graduation, and others heading to the Armed Forces. The vision embeds a multitude of words that were thematic throughout the process and narratives. Soaring and succeeding without limits bound them all together. You can soar in a multitude of ways and the Committee's opinion indicates academic excellence.

Mrs. Lynch added that when the Committee started reading all the feedback, the one consistent thing particularly from parents is they want their child to be ready, well prepared, and able to be a member of society. We help students to achieve whatever that level is for the particular student to be academically strong in school so that when they leave, they have those skills. Yes, it is important to teach students to work well with others, and to have character development, self-responsibility, and leadership. We agreed that all of those are important, but the focal point was and is academic excellence.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo noted Michael Green's speech that was made last week. Parents want other things for their children that are equally important and other aspects to being successful in the Hanover Public schools in addition to academic excellence.

Mrs. Lynch mentioned that if the Vision Statement is approved tonight that it should be part of the student handbooks.

Mrs. Corbo asked what the intention is for the Vision statement, the Motto then the Mission statement and if they are used in different ways. Mr. Ferron explained the Vision statement will appear on agendas, letterhead, and t-shirts, the Motto will be used on t-shirts, and the Mission statement will be published in the handbook. Mrs. Corbo asked if this Vision Statement will be available on the website and Mr. Ferron responded yes.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the *Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Motto* as presented in appendix D. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Comments:

Mr. Miraglia gave a shout out to Mrs. Thornell for the HMS concert.

Mrs. Lynch gave a shot out to Mr. Mattos for his first Hanover Graduation. Congratulations to you and your staff.

Mrs. Lynch suggested that Mrs. Corbo think about starting the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Motto.

Mrs. Corbo noted Hanover day on June 25th and the "Don't Hide the Pride" event on June 11th. The middle schools' kids are on the bus and on their way home. Camp Squanto is coming up on Monday.

Mr. Miraglia thanks the chaperones in advance for chaperoning the Camp Squanto trip for the kids.

The next School Committee meeting is August, 24, 2022. Expected agenda items will be: FY '23 Budget Update, Staffing/Hiring Update, School Security Planning Update, Policy Sub-Committee Update, and others TBD.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 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:

None