

**Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**March 22, 2023 7:00 PM**  
**In-Person and Virtual Meeting**  
**Hanover High School; Media Center**

**Present:** Mrs. Libby Corbo, Mrs. Ryan Hall, Mr. Pete Miraglia, and Mrs. Kristen Cervantes. Mrs. Ruth Lynch attended virtually.

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Matt Ferron, Debbie St. Ives, Mike Perrone, Mike Oates, Kaitlin Morelli, Matthew Mattos, Matthew Plummer, Dan Birolini, Joel Barrett, Jesse Craddock, Jane DeGrenier, Nancy Dutton

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Wrestling State Champion Presented by Mr. Mattos:** Anthony Mann

Anthony Mann is a junior and a sensational student athlete at Hanover High School. He just completed one of the most accomplished high school wrestling seasons. He had 40 wins this wrestling season alone. He was the Marshfield Holiday Tournament Champion and repeated as the D3 South champion for 2022 and 2023. He placed fourth at the All States with the highlight of defeating the D1 champion at that meet. He has been captain for two years and will undoubtedly be captain next year. In addition to his wrestling accomplishments, this remarkable young man is also the Class of 2023 President, a member of the National Honor Society, last year's sophomore Class Marshall at graduation, maintains a 4.0 weighted GPA, and enrolled in four AP courses over the past two years: US history, world history, environmental science, and chemistry. Mr. Mattos presented Anthony Mann, his State Champion Plaque from the MIAA.

Mrs. Corbo opened Public Comment with a reminder that public comment will be at the beginning of every meeting, before any vote, and at the end of our public meetings.

**Public Comment:** None at this time.

**Approval of Minutes:**

February 1, 2023: Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the *February 1, 2023 School Committee Open Session Minutes* as written. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. Roll call vote: Pete Miraglia-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, Elizabeth Corbo-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, and Ruth Lynch-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

February 15, 2023: *February 15, 2023, School Committee Open Session Minutes* were tabled until the April 5, 2023, meeting. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia-roll call vote: Pete Miraglia-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, Elizabeth Corbo-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, and Ruth Lynch-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

March 8, 2023: *March 8, 2023, School Committee Open Session Minutes* were tabled until the April 5, 2023, meeting. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia-roll call vote: Pete Miraglia-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, Elizabeth Corbo-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, and Ruth Lynch-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

- **Events and Updates Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

- Spring Sports have begun.
  - Wishing all of our student athletes the very best for their season
- SEPAC Event “Understanding the IEP”
  - April 11 at the HHS library at 7pm. All are welcome
- Math Night
  - Cedar School on April 1, at 5:00 PM
  - Center School on April 13, at 6:00 PM
- Second Annual Arts Festival
  - April 4 2023, at 5:00 8:30 PM
  - Inaugural event last year
  - Cosponsored by the Friends at the Hanover Cultural Council and the Mass Cultural Council, FACE, and the Friends of Hanover Music and Theater

- **Policy Section E: Second Reading Presented by Mrs. Kristen Cervantes and Mrs. Ruth Lynch:**

Mrs. Cervantes discussed the process when updating policies. She explained that it is required to bring the policies forward at two different meetings. The first reading is done at a meeting, and there is no vote, just discussion. At that point, feedback is taken from the Committee, the community, and the public. That feedback is incorporated into the policy and brought to the second reading at the second meeting. At that time, a vote is requested. For this policy work, we are voting “in form” because the Policy Manual will not be adopted until all sections of the policies have been updated and voted “in form.”

Mrs. Cervantes shared that this is the second reading of Section E. She noted that there was very little feedback but thanked those who did give some. She is requesting a vote “in form.”

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve “*in form*” *Section E* as presented. The motion was moved by Mrs. Cervantes and seconded by Mrs. Hall.

**Questions/Comments:** None at this time.

**Public Comment:** None at this time.

Roll call vote Peter Miraglia-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, Elizabeth Corbo-Aye, Ruth Lynch-Aye, and Kristen Cervantes-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Policy Section F; Second Reading Presented by Mrs. Kristen Cervantes and Mrs. Ruth Lynch:**

Mrs. Lynch shared that this is the second reading of Section F. She noted that there was no feedback, but time was spent on the naming or renaming a school. The Policy is now very clear on the School Committee having the authority to do that, but the Policy also encourages community involvement and suggestions. Mrs. Lynch is requesting a vote “in form.”

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve “*in form*” *Section F* as presented. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia.

**Questions/Comments:**

Mrs. Hall commented that she read the Policy carefully and appreciated the clarification, thoughtfulness, and how it relates to Hanover.

Mrs. Lynch shared that a question was asked; are most of the policies we're taking on the ones that MASC has recommended, or are we taking the ones that Hanover has had in place in our current manual? Her response: we carefully look at what MASC recommends, but we want to make sure that it is what we are doing in Hanover.

**Public Comment:** None at this time.

Roll call vote Peter Miraglia-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, Elizabeth Corbo-Aye, Ruth Lynch-Aye, and Kristen Cervantes-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Policy Section G; First Reading Presented by Mrs. Kristen Cervantes and Mrs. Ruth Lynch:**

Mrs. Cervantes shared the big-picture update of where they are in the process. She noted there are twelve sections of the Policy Manual. Section I was done in two parts and seven sections have been approved "in form." The goal is to get through Sections G and H by the end of the next meeting, and then nine out of twelve will be completed.

Mrs. Cervantes commented that Mr. Hardy said that this is a three-year process, and that is what is anticipated and planned for at the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. She noted that the efficiency and diligence of reviewing these policies are appreciated, as she knows it is a tremendous task.

Mrs. Cervantes reminded everybody that if anyone has feedback for Sections G and H, the feedback link is on our website. She continued by sharing that Section G concerns personnel and employee-specific policies. She noted that most of them were required by law and had to be put in as legal references to ensure that they aligned with our handbook.

- **Policy Section H; First Reading Presented by Mrs. Kristen Cervantes and Mrs. Ruth Lynch:**

Mrs. Lynch shared that Section H only has three policies. She noted that they are straightforward and aligned based on the teacher's contract. Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. Cervantes welcome feedback.

**Questions/Comments:**

Mrs. Corbo inquired when the next Policy Subcommittee meeting will be held. Mrs. Lynch responded they are working on the next phase. Mrs. Cervantes added that she and Mrs. Lynch could get through the rest of the Policy Manual, and they would share their thoughts and recommendations. She continued by stating at this point; they will need to lean on the District experts to be able to take it to the next phase. There is a meeting next week.

- **2023-2024 District Calendar Draft 1.0 Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

The [2023-2024 School Calendar](#) needs to be reviewed by the School Committee so there can be a vote at the next meeting on the first day of school. "We will work with the principals for the next three months to gather all the pertinent information. The teachers will report on Wednesday, August 30th, and Thursday, August 31st, and the students will return after Labor Day on Tuesday, September 5th. The last day is tentatively June 14th.

**Questions/Comments:**

Mr. Miraglia was happy to see two full weeks of school in November.

Mrs. Corbo appreciated the work done on the District Calendar, and they will consider it and bring it to vote at one of the upcoming meetings.

Mrs. Hall appreciated the early release in January, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday instead of the 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **REPORT OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT:**

- **FY '24 Budget Update and Discussion Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

Mr. Ferron said they will meet with the Advisory Committee next Wednesday night. The budget is being updated, worked on, and refined daily with the budget requirement and needs for FY '24. He continued by noting the challenging part of preparing for FY 24, more so than in typical years, is trying to close out FY '23. One of the biggest challenges is Student Services expenses have increased dramatically and beyond what could have been predicted.

### **Questions/Comments:**

Mrs. Corbo added that it is important to emphasize, as we go through the budget process, that sometimes the most visible number we ask for at the Town Meeting, is not the Operating Budget. The Operating Budget is generally millions of dollars more, which is the cost it takes to run Hanover Public Schools, and several sources offset the costs. She would like a Public Budget Forum for parents, staff, and anyone who would like to attend at 5:00 PM next Wednesday, right before the Advisory Committee meeting. She noted that confirmation will be sent out, but it is essential that everyone understands our numbers and are comfortable with them. Mrs. Corbo will create a submission for the Advisory Committee, which she hopes to get to Mr. Ferron sometime this week. She noted that questions had been received at the Advisory Committee and other levels, asking if cuts would be made to bridge this funding gap. Mrs. Corbo emphasized that we have already dropped the request for no-fee full-day kindergarten from our original budget proposal, and we've already dropped our request for two reading teachers. Both cannot be pursued this upcoming fiscal year. She commented that Hanover is underfunded and has no place to make cuts. That is why we're in the deficit we are in now.

Mr. Miraglia commented that it is acknowledged that this is coming as a surprise to others who are not inside the budget bubble. It is tough to let go of full-day kindergarten, but a vast deficit needs to be made up. He continued by noting that we are not the only District facing a deficit in this fiscal year and looking at trying to fit it into the Town Budget the following year. He is confident that we will get through this difficult time.

Mrs. Corbo inquired if we will find out before May about Extraordinary Relief. Mr. Oates responded that it would be submitted next week, but they were told in their training on Monday that the State typically works on it for April and then gives an answer in May.

### **Special Town Meeting Article for FY '23 Presented by Mrs. Libby Corbo:**

Mrs. Corbo recommends getting the support and authorization from this Committee for a Special Town Meeting Article not exceeding \$650,000 to be funded by Free Cash Stabilization or any other source of funds. Mrs. Corbo notes that some flexibility is needed in this Special Town Meeting Article to close that gap. If we do not need it, and there are other sources of predictable funds to offset that, a motion can be made on the Town Meeting floor to reduce the amount of the ask within the scope of the Article. She added that she wants to allow the Committee enough flexibility to seek as much as required to close that overrun from FY '23. In asking the Committee for support and authorization, the intention would be to work with the Town to draft the language for that Article.

### Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Lynch asked if the difference is \$1.5 million from the projected FY '24. Does Mrs. Corbo feel that \$600,000 is enough to cover? Mrs. Corbo replied yes, the budget gap should be able to be closed with the \$650,000 because some predictable increases in Circuit Breaker relief are anticipated. Additionally, there was an increase in the Chapter 70 funding that she believes is \$118,000, which will also be offset. Mr. Ferron responded that before we even get to the \$600,000, we have a \$1.5 million gap that we apply the normal offsets available to us. We have some circuit breaker money that exceeded what we anticipated. What Mr. Perrone and Mr. Oats are doing now for the Extraordinary Relief sets the table for our entire claim at the end of the year.

Mr. Miraglia asked that if we do not need the total amount, it is just free cash that gets returned or is unused. Mrs. Corbo said that was correct.

Mrs. Hall inquired if that would zero us out in Chapter 70. Mr. Ferron answered yes.

Mrs. Corbo noted that she misspoke that it is the Circuit Breaker offset, not the Chapter 70 offset for FY '23., which makes us reasonably confident that the \$650,000 Special Town Meeting Article would be sufficient to close that gap.

Mrs. Corbo explained that the usual process for a vote is a motion, a second discussion, an open-up for public comment, and a vote.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to *authorize and support a Special Town Meeting Article in the amount of 650,000 to be funded by free cash stabilization or any other source of funds as presented.* The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia.

**Discussion:** None at this time.

**Public Comment:** None at this time.

Roll call vote Peter Miraglia-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, Elizabeth Corbo-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, and Ruth Lynch-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

### Report on Teaching and Learning:

- **Cedar School Student Data Presentation Presented by Mr. Jesse Craddock, Ms. Anastacia Frank, and Ms. Ellen Burns.**

Mr. Craddock, Ms. Frank, and Ms. Burns presented the Cedar School Student Data Presentation. The [Cedar School Student Data Presentation](#) can be found on the School Committee website under Public Meeting Documents. For more details, please review the Hanover Public Schools website for the [March 22, 2023](#), School Committee Meeting.

### Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo, Mrs. Hall, Mr. Miraglia, Mrs. Cervantes, and Mrs. Lynch asked questions and shared their comments and observations with Mrs. St. Ives, Ms. Frank, and Ms. Burns, who responded as needed.

## Action Items:

- **HPTA 2024 Fun Run Fundraiser Request Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

Mr. Ferron presented the [HPTA 2024 Fun Run Fundraiser Request](#). The HPTA is requesting the Fun Run Fundraiser be approved. This event will include all students. This event raises crucial funds for our PTA. In 2024, the Fun Run will ensure funding for the school year 2024-2025. During this challenging time, there continues to be a rise in costs. The PTA has not conducted substantial fundraising and has seen a significant decrease in funds. In September 2023, we will go into the school year with minimal funds. We are determined to support our schools as in years past. Our funds will not take us further, so this fundraiser is critical to the remaining part of Hanover Schools during the school year 2024-2025. We project approximately **\$50,000** in income from the event.

**Questions/Comments:** None at this time.

**Public Comments:** None at this time.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve the *2024 Fun Run Fundraiser Request* as presented. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia-roll call vote Peter Miraglia-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, Elizabeth Corbo-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, and Ruth Lynch-Abstain. The motion carried four to one.

- **2022-2023 Last Day of School Vote Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

The last school day is Friday, June 16, 2023, for one hundred eighty days, barring unforeseen circumstances. A vote is needed on the last school day in the 2022-2023 School Year.

**Questions/Comments:** None at this time.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve *June 16, 2023 as the last day of school for the 2022-2023 School Year* as presented. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia.

**Discussion:** None at this time.

**Public Comment:** None at this time.

Roll call vote Peter Miraglia-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, Elizabeth Corbo-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, and Ruth Lynch-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None at this time.

The Budget Committee meeting is tentatively on Wednesday, March 92, 2023

The next School Committee meeting is on April 5, 2023. FY '24 Budget update and Vote, District Calendar 2.0 Vote, Policy G; Second Reading, Policy H; Second Reading, Hawks Esports Update, Center School Student Data presentation, and other items TBD.

Mrs. Corbo encourages any members of the public who have questions on the budget or parents who cannot meet next Wednesday to reach out to her, Mr. Miraglia, or anyone on the Committee. The budget is one of the most important things the Committee does, and they are accessible to parents or any residents who have questions about the School Budget.

A motion was entertained by Mrs. Corbo to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 PM. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia-roll call vote Peter Miraglia-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, Elizabeth Corbo-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, and Ruth Lynch-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

*Tahnee Warner*

Tahnee Warner  
Executive Assistant/ Recording Secretary

Documents Used:

Appendix A Policy Section E; Second Reading  
Appendix B Policy Section F; Second Reading  
Appendix C Policy Section G; First Reading  
Appendix D Section H; First Reading  
Appendix E 2023-2024 District Calendar Draft 1.0  
Appendix F Cedar School Student Data Presentation  
Appendix G HPTA 2024 Fun Run Fundraiser Request  
2022-2023 Last Day of School Vote  
Updated School Budget Projections for FY 23 and FY 24