

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2023 7:00 PM
In-Person and Virtual Meeting
Hanover High School; Media Center

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Matt Ferron, Mike Perrone, Mike Oates, Kaitlin Morelli, Matthew Mattos, Jaclyn Rooney, Matthew Plummer, Dan Birolini, Jesse Craddock, Jane DeGrenier

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment:

Residents gave Public Comments: Michelle Gardner-25 Brisco's Plain, and Kristen Dillon-49 Trailside Lane. Residents expressed their concerns and questions on recent issues at the Middle School and were directed to reach out to the Middle School Administration. For more details, please review the Hanover Public Schools website for the [March 8, 2023, School Committee Meeting](#).

Approval of Minutes:

January 4, 2023: Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve *January 4, 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.

January 18, 2023: Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve *January 18, 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-Abstained, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, and Ruth Lynch-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

February 1, 2023: February 1, 2023, *School Committee Open Session Minutes* were tabled until the March 22, 2023, meeting.

February 15, 2023: February 15, 2023, *School Committee Open Session Minutes* were tabled until the March 22, 2023, meeting.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

• **HPTA Update Presented by Mrs. Andrea Sheehan:**

Mrs. Sheehan shared that the mission of the PTA is focused on supporting the school system, complementing the work of Teachers and Administrators, and giving students great experiences. As reflected in the past year, it is with a sense of pride that the PTA has supported many diverse school activities, such as supportive celebrations for students moving on from the fourth and eighth grades. These essential transitions in a child's life are worthy of such recognition. Also, several motivational speakers have been funded that have informed and inspired all. Support has been provided for equipment such as Smart TVs, sports equipment, and printers. Banners were purchased which display the new District's Mission, Vision, and Motto. Certain school staples, *like Top-Secret Science*

and *One Book One School Programs*, have also been funded. The PTA appreciates all Staff; Administration, Teaching Staff, Nursing Staff, and those who have helped the schools in so many ways.

By investing thousands of dollars, the PTA has supported all these activities and is more than simply investing dollars. They are particularly pleased about the ever-strengthening and always-respectful relationships that have evolved working in partnership with school leadership. Some local representatives spend a lot of time planning and preparing to deliver a whole range of events in our schools and create excellent opportunities for families to volunteer.

As always, the PTA is grateful for the support of the Superintendent, School Principals, and the Committee. Mrs. Sheehan has committed to leading the HPTA within the values and guidelines established by this Committee, and she and the PTA have fulfilled that commitment. The PTA is facing rising costs, and now is the time to think about how resources can be replenished to continue supporting teachers and students with events and programming that bring joy and inspiration.

Fundraising activities have been reduced in recognition of the financial pressures for some families. However, the PTA hopes to sponsor the Fun Run which is done every other year. The Fun Run is their primary fundraising event. The PTA requests Committee support today, moving forward with the Fun Run in March 2024. The PTA hopes the Committee has experienced exceptional feedback about the work that the PTA has done, as they remain committed to supporting our schools in any way we can.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo commented on how grateful the Committee is for PTA Board Members. The PTA's involvement and support enriches the school's and students' experiences. The schools are better because of the efforts of the PTA. Mrs. Corbo asked if Mrs. Sheehan was looking for a vote this evening as they do not have the written request. Mrs. Sheehan responded they were seeking approval. Mrs. Corbo requested that she submit the *Fundraising Request Form* for a vote at the next School Committee meeting.

- **Policy Section I; Second Reading of Policy IJL-IMG Presented by Mrs. Ruth Lynch:**

Mrs. Lynch shared that this is the second reading of Section I, Policy IJL-IMG. She explained that it is a highly complex Policy involving many people. She continued by recognizing a few, but requested a list be compiled of everyone involved in this process. The list would then be presented to the Committee. Mrs. Lynch reviewed *Policy Section I, Second Reading of Policy IJL-IMG*. She explained 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 IJL-IMG* as presented. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia.

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 E; First Reading Presented by Mrs. Kristen Cervantes:**

Mrs. Cervantes explained that it is required with Policy changes to have a first reading and a second reading. Sections E and F will be presented tonight for the first reading, so there will not be a vote. There is still the opportunity to consider feedback and suggest any changes.

Mrs. Cervantes explained that Section E is about Support Services, which cover safety, pest management, emergency plans, building maintenance, security, food safety, etc. This section had no significant changes, and the Face Mask Policy was removed for now. She continued by acknowledging those experts who provided the feedback.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Hall shared that she and Mr. Oates are contacting SEPAC to ensure all their feedback is received and will forward it as soon as possible.

- **Policy Section F; First Reading Presented by Mrs. Kristen Cervantes:**

Mrs. Cervantes shared that Policy F is one of the shortest policy sections in the Policy Manual. There are four policies based on facilities development which are about the buildings, planning of long-term building goals, the retirement of a facility, naming or renaming a facility, etc. There were minor changes based on feedback.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Hall asked for clarification on MASC and Hanover Public Schools, which appear at the bottom of each policy. Is it being developed specifically for our community or is it what other districts tend to do? Mrs. Cervantes replied that every section is a bit different. She noted that the Policy Subcommittee receives the MASC version as a first review. She explained that she and Ruth spend extensive time comparing the two versions and asking why MSC recommended the changes. Is it because, legally, things have changed, or do we need to implement the laws? The Subcommittee previews what is currently being done and which is the best practice. Then, they decide which version best fits Hanover's needs.

Mrs. Cervantes reminded the community that the online forum is still available for feedback, is checked daily, and will be discussed at the next reading.

- **Superintendent Evaluation Timeline Approval Presented by Mrs. Elizabeth Corbo:**

The Superintendent Evaluation Timeline is done yearly. A draft was included in the School Committees packet for this evening's meeting. School Committee members will review the draft and make sure it works for them. If it does not, members are to reach out to Mrs. Corbo and Mr. Ferron. The Superintendent Evaluation needs to be completed by April 26th before the annual Town Elections on May 13, 2023. School Committee member Mrs. Ruth Lynch has decided not to run for re-election for the School Committee.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Miraglia and Mrs. Cervantes asked for clarification on the timeline. Mrs. Corbo and Mrs. Lynch responded.

Mr. Ferron shared the following events and updates throughout the Hanover Public School District:

- Dance Party at Cedar School led by Dr. Langton
 - March 8 - Kindergarten
 - March 9 - Grade 1
- Motivational Speaker Noel Lambert, sponsored by HFEE
 - March 16th - will present to High School Students at 1:30 PM
 - March 16th - will present to Community Members at 6:30 PM
- Internet Safety Expert Ms. Katie Greer, sponsored by HFEE and SEPAC

- March 20th - Webinar on Internet Safety for parents only at 6:30 PM
- March 20th - Webinar on Internet Safety for students
 - Grades 5 - 12 during the school day
- Time Management and Other Executive Function Skills Virtual program presented by Sarah Ward, sponsored in partnership with Wakefield Public Schools
 - March 9, 2023, at 7:00 PM
 - Open to everyone
 - Details will be shared on our website
- Winter Sports Teams are concluding the season
 - Several teams participated in tournaments and did well.
 - Junior wrestler Anthony Mann defended his D3 State Championship at 145 pounds with back-to-back State Championships
 - The team worked hard all season long
- The HHS Dance Team and Dancing Friends from the HMS
 - Dance Showcase Performance at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, March 15, at the high school
- All 16 Winter Sports Teams were recognized for Academic Excellence.
- HS Drama Club competed in the State Drama Festival.
 - Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon was performed by cast and crew
 - Individual awards won on Saturday, March 4
 - John McDougall
 - Alena Lesko
 - Marie Fortier
 - Advanced to the semifinal round, which takes place Saturday, March 18
- South Shore Superintendent and Local Legislative Contingencies First Annual Breakfast
 - March 8
 - South Shore Senators, Representatives, and Superintendents from twenty-five districts were guests
 - Discussion surrounding legislative initiatives that Massachusetts Associations of School Superintendents are moving forward for this year with Massachusetts Associations of School Committee behind these initiatives

For more details, please review the Hanover Public Schools website for the [March 8 School Committee Meeting](#).

REPORT OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT:

- **Budget Update Presented by Mrs. Libby Corbo:**

Mrs. Corbo shared and reviewed the [Hanover Public Schools Budget Presentation FY '24](#), which can be found on the School Committee website under Public Meeting Documents for the March 1st joint Advisory And School Committee meeting. A Budget Hearing will be scheduled in the evening in the upcoming weeks, devoted to budget discussion.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Miraglia asked if the Advisory Committee asked for an updated number by the end of the month. Mrs. Corbo responded that they invited the Committee to return at the end of the month. Mr. Miraglia asked if the budget would be discussed at the School Committee meeting or just the Budget Hearing. Mrs. Corbo stated that the School Committee has a standing budget discussion on the agenda, so most likely it will be discussed at both.

Mrs. Lynch asked how the Advisory Committee reacted. Mrs. Corbo replied she thought they were surprised.

- **FY '23 Q2 Revolving Account Report Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron and Mr. Michael Perrone:**

The FY '23 Revolving Account Report will be tabled until quarter three concludes at the end of March. It will be added to an April School Committee Meeting.

- **Donations Presented by Mr. Michael Perrone:**

Donations totaling **\$20,996.70** were received from Mass Cultural Council, Hanover Foundation, and the Walsh Family Foundation. Mr. Perrone is requesting a vote to approve these donations.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve *Donations* for \$20,996.70 as presented. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia.

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.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

- **HHS AP/SAT Presentation Presented by Mr. Matthew Mattos, Mrs. Jaclyn Rooney, and Mr. Matthew Plummer:**

Mr. Mattos, Mrs. Rooney, and Mr. Plummer gave an overview of the Hanover High School Standardized Assessment Results. The [HHS AP/SAT Presentation](#) can be found in its entirety on the School Committee website under Public Meeting Documents. Please refer to the Hanover Public Schools website for the [March 8, 2023](#), School Committee Meeting for more detail.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Lynch inquired how many years has this material been presented. Mr. Plummer replied from 2010 to 2022, thirteen years. Mrs. Lynch noted that this year's presentation was different than previous years. Mr. Plummer responded that the Committee asked for the numbers and percentages last year. He pointed out the bar graph, parenthetically is the total number of students in each of the five scoring categories, which is essential. Mrs. Lynch asked for clarification that there were 49 students in two sections, and Mr. Plummer concurred.

Mrs. Hall asked what math course the students in physics would want to take as a prerequisite. Mr. Plummer replied precalculus.

Mrs. Corbo pointed out the prerequisite issue for AP. She would like to hear at a future meeting some thoughts on whether or not that is a future direction, how teachers feel about it and if it is an unfair task for them, and whether it would have an impact on AP scores if there were a baseline qualification to get into the class.

Mr. Miraglia thought the scores looked good in many categories, but he noticed we were saturating and hitting some limits. He asked if it was put in terms of participation rate or as a percentage of students, would it look any different, continue to go up, or stay the same? Mr. Plummer responded that it is a delicate balance that is essential. He continued stating they worked hard with the counselors and department heads to be able to guide students. Mr. Miraglia inquired if they found any

significant takeaways from this year's data that might change things for next year. Mr. Mattos answered that he looks for improvements, and Mr. Plummer looks at the data.

Mrs. Corbo reminded the Community that not all colleges would accept a score of three and give credit. So even though it is a passing score, the goal would be that more students would score four and five.

Mrs. Hall added that open enrollment versus prerequisite skills should be considered. She is interested to hear what Mr. Plummer comes up with as he digs into that and what those thoughts are, specifically, coming from math and science.

Mrs. Corbo inquired about summer work and what if they do not complete their summer work, what happens.

Action Items: None at this time.

Public Comment: None at this time.

The next School Committee meeting is **on March 22, 2023**. Expected agenda items will be: FY '24 Budget update and vote, District Calendar 1.0, 2022-2023 last day of School Vote, Hawks Esports Update, Cedar School Assessment Update, Policy Matters, and other items TBD

Mrs. Corbo added regarding the budget discussion tonight, please feel free to reach out directly if you have any questions for Mr. Ferron or her. They are happy to discuss it; she understands it can be overwhelming and confusing. She reminded the Community to keep an eye open for a Budget Scheduling Meeting at the end of March, which will be posted on the School Committee Website and social media.

Mrs. Corbo entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 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 I; Second Reading of Policy IJL-IMG
- Appendix B Policy Section E; First Reading
- Appendix C Policy Section F; First Reading
- Superintendent Evaluation Timeline Approval
- Appendix D FY '23 Q3 Revolving Account Report
- Appendix E Donations
- Hanover Public Schools Budget Presentation
- Appendix F HHS AP/SAT Presentation