

***Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
April 12, 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: Mr. Matt Ferron, Mrs. Debbie St. Ives, Mr. Michael Oates, Ms. Kaitlin Morelli, Mr. Matthew Mattos, Mrs. Jane DeGrenier, Mrs. Nancy Dutton, Ms. Emeline Dhommee, Ms. Celine Mahoney, Mr. Russell Wilson, and Ms. Megan Caiafa

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chair Corbo.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment:

Mrs. Corbo opened up Public Comment, reminding the community that public comment is taken at the beginning and end of every meeting and before any item is scheduled for a vote. She also added to make sure their name and address are stated before speaking during public comment.

No public comment at this time.

Approval of Minutes:

February 15, 2023: *February 15, 2023, School Committee Open Session Minutes* were tabled until April 26, 2023, meeting-roll call vote: Pete Miraglia-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, Elizabeth Corbo-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, Ruth Lynch-Aye. The motion was carried unanimously.

March 8, 2023: *March 8, 2023, School Committee Open Session Minutes* were tabled until April 26, 2023, meeting-roll call vote: Pete Miraglia-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, Elizabeth Corbo-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, Ruth Lynch-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Corbo advised that the agenda will be presented out of order.

• **HS Student Account Authorization - Eco Club Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

Mr. Ferron presented a new student activity account to approve for the HHS Eco Club. He continued by sharing that the Eco Club's goal is to provide a resource to enhance students' and community members' knowledge of climate change, sustainability, and environmental issues. The plan is to engage in after-school meetings revolving around: fundraising plans, speaking on matters important to the community and club members and planning town clean-up events. Fundraising will support and spread awareness about environmental causes. An immediate goal is to design a beach clean-up around earth day to spread awareness about using single-use plastic and littering. Ideally, the club expects to be a place to recognize the importance of keeping our earth healthy and inspire our community to do so, recognizing the impact everyone can make on the planet.

The plan is to meet after school on Fridays, around 2:35 - 3:20 PM. Ideally, meetings would start as soon as possible, and our first clean-up would follow quickly. The first meeting will revolve around getting to know each other and creating goals as a group. The Eco club is open to all students and staff to encourage learning and growing as environmentalists.

Questions/Comments: None at this time.

Mrs. Corbo entertained a Motion to approve the *HS Student Account Authorization - Eco Club* as presented. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia-roll call vote Peter Miraglia-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, Libby Corbo-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, and Ruth Lynch-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

- **HS French Exchange Program Presented by Ms. Emeline Dhommee:**

Ms. Dhommee presented the HS French Exchange Program. She reviewed the benefits, who Le Lycee Saint-Franrois d'Assise in La Roche-sur-Yon, France, the organization of the exchange, academic and security requirements for the students, and the cost breakdown. Mrs. Dhommee shared that participating in this exchange program is a way of renewing and continuing the French American Alliance for the participants, their families, and the two communities. This type of experience brings people, families, and communities closer together.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Miraglia, Mrs. Corbo, and Mrs. Lynch inquired about the level of proficiency in French, if students have to be enrolled in a French class, the number of chaperones, safety, vetting of host families, where the students would stay, departure date, number of days spent with the host families, number of students with each host family living facilities, agenda, if the program has been done in the past, if other Districts have participated in similar programs, if it is typical for students to go and students to come from the host country to Hanover, approximate number planning to participate, plans in place if there are any conflicts, communication plans between student and their families, and trip insurance plan.

Ms. Dhommee answered all their questions and assured them that she was comfortable with this program professionally and personally.

Public Comment: None at this time.

Mrs. Corbo entertained a Motion to approve the *HS French Exchange Program* 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-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Center School Student Data Presentation Presented by Mrs. Jane DeGrenier, Ms. Celine Mahoney, Mr. Russell Wilson, and Ms. Megan Caiafa:**

Mrs. St. Ives, Mrs. Jane DeGrenier, Ms. Mahoney, Ms. Caiafa, and Mr. Russell Wilson presented to the Committee the [Center School Student Data Presentation](#), which can be found on the School Committee website under Public Meeting Documents. For more details, please view the Hanover Public Schools website for the [April 12, 2023, School Committee Meeting](#).

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo, Mr. Miraglia, Mrs. Cervantes, and Mrs. Hall inquired about the data differences in their method of assessment, the measurement difference if the green tier reflects a specific score, commentary around the pandemic, what the eighty percent means, historical trends versus COVID-19 trends, a protocol for communicating scores with families, protocol for students that have intensive needs versus strategic needs, timeframe on the response if program working, how long this system has been used, and if the math questions are word problems.

Ms. Mahony, Mr. Wilson, Mrs. St. Ives, and Mrs. DeGrenier answered all their questions and added the District would put out Summer Learning for Reading and Math on the Hanover Public Schools website.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

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

Mr. Ferron requested approval of the [2023-2024 District Calendar](#) as presented at the March 22 School Committee meeting, as there were no changes.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Cervantes, Mr. Miraglia, and Mrs. Hall asked about the last day of school and would like to discuss further early release days.

Mrs. Corbo entertained a Motion to approve the *2023-2024 District Calendar* 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-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Policy Section G: Second Reading Presented by Mrs. Ruth Lynch:**

Mrs. Lynch is requesting to table the approval of Section G, as there have been some given that the Policy Committee would like to. Mrs. Cervantes explained that this is the first reading of Section I, Policy IJL-IMG. She shared that this section talks about our use of technology, and it was updated to be more enduring so that an update would not need to be rewritten again in less than five years. She noted a few current policies in this section, like how to observe certain holidays.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo asked if there was feedback from members of the public. Mrs. Lynch replied there was no feedback from members of the public.

- **Policy Section H: Second Reading Presented by Mrs. Kristen Cervantes:**

Mrs. Cervantes is requesting the approval of Section H; there weren't any changes or feedback was the first reading at the March 22 School Committee Meeting.

Questions/Comments: None at this time.

Public Comment: None at this time.

Mrs. Corbo entertained a Motion to approve in form *Section H*; 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-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Mrs. Cervantes reviewed Section K: School Community Relations. She explained this was the first reading and discussed the changes and feedback received for this section and the changes made. Mrs. Cervantes noted that the most significant change is moving KEC out of Community Relations in Section K and into IJ-R: Reconsideration of Instructional Resources. Section K will be voted on at the next School Committee meeting.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo wanted clarification that there is a separate policy for the "review" of library materials and instructional Materials. Mrs. Lynch responded yes.

- **Policy Section L: First Reading Presented by Mrs. Kristen Cervantes and Mrs. Lynch:**

Mrs. Cervantes reviewed Section L: Education Agency Relations. She explained this was the first reading and reviewed what this section entails.

Questions/Comments: None at this time.

Mrs. Corbo inquired about the timing of the Policies with Mrs. Lynch's resignation as a School Committee Member. Mrs. Lynch replied the next meeting might be her last, but the policies will all have been presented to the Committee.

Mrs. Lynch shared an email that she received from a parent regarding the use of Sped for students and teachers.

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

The 2023-2024 District Calendar was presented out of order at the beginning of the meeting.

REPORT OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- **FY '24 Budget Update Presented by Mrs. Libby Corbo:**

Mrs. Corbo shared that the Advisory Committee had a meeting last Wednesday at which they approved the two articles asking for an increase in the Special Education Reserve Account in the amount of up to \$750,000 and a Special Town Meeting Warrant Article of up to \$650,000 which was approved unanimously at the Annual Town Meeting. She explained that this would be to close this year's budget deficit. Mrs. Corbo noted that good tools are in place to help address the funding gap for FY '24 and the budget deficit for FY '23. And in light of that, she presented a statement updating community members and parents. She circulated a [School Community Statement](#), which can be reviewed on the School Committee Website. Mrs. Corbo explained that it was a collaborative effort to put it together. She stated it summarizes the action of the Select Board and reopening the warrant, allowing the two articles to be addressed at the Special Town Meeting and that the Special Town Meeting occurs just before the Annual Town Meeting. She noted that it is a baseline request that will help us move forward and cover any unanticipated Special Education expenses that come forward in FY '24.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Lynch requested clarification on the need to do this. Mrs. Corbo responded that it allows parents to stay involved in keeping them current on the budget, and several parents reached out to her concerned about whether or not they need to advocate. She added that this provides them with the informational tools and resources to answer those questions. Mrs. Lynch explained why she was hesitant. She feels this information has been given in many different ways. She agrees it was okay to share that the Advisory Committee and Select Board approved both, and the community should attend the Town Meeting. Still, she thinks the part about the future should be left out and trust that Ad Committee Members are aware of the pieces they have in place for this plan.

Mr. Miraglia added that there is a deficit to deal with, and it had to be figured out. He explained that a common solution was found, but work still needs to be done.

Mrs. Corbo entertained a Motion to approve *letter*; 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-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Authorization to Access Special Ed Reserve Account Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

Mr. Ferron is requesting authorization to access \$510,000 from the Special Education Reserve Account.

Questions/Comments: None at this time.

Public Comment: None at this time.

Mrs. Corbo entertained a Motion to *Authorization \$510,000 to Access Special Ed Reserve Account* 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-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

- **Center School Student Data Presentation Presented by Mrs. Jane DeGrenier, Ms. Celine Mahoney, Ms. Meghan Caiafa, and Mr. Russell Wilson:**

The Center School Student Data Presentation was presented out of order at the beginning of the meeting.

Action Items:

- **HS French Exchange Program Presented by Ms. Emeline Dhommee:**

HS French Exchange Program was presented out of order at the beginning of the meeting.

- **HS Student Account Authorization – Eco Club Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

HS Student Account Authorization was presented out of order at the beginning of the meeting.

Questions/comments:

Mrs. Corbo reminded Committee Members the School Committee goals would be a focus, so there will be a few meetings over the Summer.

Public Comment:

Resident Leslie Molyneaux gave Public Comments: He acknowledged that he received some answers to his concerns but prepared a letter that he read and shared with the Chair. For more details, please look at the Hanover Public Schools website for [April 12, 2023, School Committee Meeting](#) for detail.

The next School Committee meeting is **on April 26, 2023**. Expected agenda items will be: HS Hawks Esports Sports Club Presentation, ARTS Festival Recap, Policy J; First Reading, Policy K; Second Reading, Policy L; Second Reading, FY '23/'24 Budget Update, HMS Student Data Presentation, HMS Gettysburg/DC Field Trip Request, and other items TBD.

Mrs. Corbo entertained the motion 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, Libby 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 G; Second Reading
Appendix B Policy Section H; Second Reading
Appendix C Policy Section K; First Reading
Appendix D Policy Section L; First Reading
Appendix E 2023-2024 District Calendar Draft 2.0
Appendix F Center School Student Data Presentation
Appendix G HS French Exchange Program
Appendix H Student Account Authorization - Eco Club
HPS FY '24 Budget Presentation for Budget Forum
School Committee Statement – Approved April 12, 2023
Mr. Leslie Molyneaux letter to the School Committee