

**Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**May 10, 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 Oates, Kaitlin Morelli, Matthew Mattos, Matthew Plummer, Dan Birolini, Jesse Craddock, Jane DeGrenier, Kelly Lawrence

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Chair Corbo after Executive Session.

Mrs. Corbo opened the meeting by announcing it was Committee Member Ruth Lynch's last School Committee meeting after a decade of service. She invited her to lead the pledge of allegiance.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment:**

Lisa Adams-919 Broadway. Ms. Adams presented Mrs. Lynch with flowers and thanked her for all she had done for the community and schools in her years of service on the School Committee.

**Approval of Minutes:**

March 8, 2023: Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve *March 8, 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.

March 22, 2023: Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve *March 22, 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.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

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

Mr. Ferron announces that many events are happening during the school year. He encourages families to watch for communications from the schools and check the school calendars.

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

- **Policy Section IJ-R; Second Reading Presented by Mrs. Ruth Lynch:**

Mrs. Lynch shared this is the second reading. This policy replaces KEC, which combines these two policies into one and places them in a section called "Instruction." She continues stating excellent suggestions, ideas, and inputs have been given. She noted that the forms referred to in these policies have IJ-R and IJL-R are online. Mrs. Lynch is requesting an "in form" vote.

**Questions/Comments:**

Mrs. Corbo and Mrs. Hall shared their appreciation of the balancing of concerns, the need to provide comprehensive, uninterrupted instruction to students, and that the policies are not redundant and are clear and concise, allowing for accountability of these policies.

**Public Comment:**

Residents gave Public Comment: Leslie Molyneaux-23 Water Street. Mr. Molyneaux expressed his concerns regarding Policy KEC. He read a letter to the Committee and gave a copy for the records. For more details, please look at the Hanover Public Schools website for the [May 10, 2023, School Committee Meeting](#).

Mrs. Corbo responded with her thoughts and stated she would review Mr. Molyneaux's concerns with Council and, if necessary, it could be revisited, but she would not table the vote.

Mrs. Cervantes commented that Section K was approved "in form," which had Policy KE called "Addressing Concerns in Hanover Schools." It outlines the different types of concerns, who to go to first, and who has the most knowledge about them. A review committee is not automatically put together because, based on the concern, that might not be what is needed. Policy KE is more responsive to all of the different variety of needs of stakeholders.

Mr. Miraglia shared that he read it a few times and conversed with Mrs. Cervantes. He added that he was very comfortable with it and thought they did well.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve "in form" Policy IJ-R as presented.

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

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 explained that Section G was delayed for two weeks to be certain; our policy GCRD-R pertains to Administrative Guidelines for Staff who provide private tutoring and other educational services. After consultation with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, we wanted to make sure that this policy is in line with legal documentation that teachers cannot provide tutoring services to students whom they currently have as a student, expected that they will have those students in the future, or have had them in the past for at least one calendar year. Mr. Ferron added the Executive Staff for the Teacher's Association is supportive as it is now written. Mrs. Lynch is requesting an "in form" vote.

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

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

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve *in form* Section G 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 J; First Reading Presented by Mrs. Kristen Cervantes:**

Mrs. Cervantes explained that Section J is about students, not to be confused with instruction, which has already been covered. It is deliberately organized to separate the two. She states that this policy

covers attendance, entrance age, transfer students' transfer credits, students experiencing homelessness, truancy, and summit discipline that addresses dress code pieces, which must be there for legal reasons. The attempt was to avoid overlapping what is in the handbooks as much as possible, for example, hazing, bullying, student complaints and grievances, extracurricular activities, travel, and athletic policies. A few health policies were a significant undertaking and, with the help of Mrs. Smith, were reviewed and updated. She added that the final part was about maintaining student and attendance records.

**Questions/Comments:**

Mrs. Corbo stated that the last vote controls the discipline section but asked if this policy is consistent with the Handbooks. Mrs. Cervantes replied that it is, and because the Handbooks have not been reviewed for next year, should there be concerns or questions that the order of operations was one that they were aware of.

- **Approval of Superintendent's Summative Evaluation Presented by Mrs. Elizabeth Corbo:**

Mrs. Corbo explained that the Committee met in Executive Session before the Open Session to discuss the Cumulative Evaluation for Superintendent Ferron. She shared that Mr. Ferron received high marks and how thankful the School Committee is for his service in the District. She noted that some edits to the draft were made, but it will be uploaded to the Public Meeting Documents. Mrs. Corbo added that it was a collaborative process and thanked the Committee for taking the time to evaluate.

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

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to approve *Cumulative Evaluation* as edited in Executive Session. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia.

**Discussion/Comments:** 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 OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT:**

- **FY '23/'24 Budget Update Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

Mr. Ferron shared that because of the work of Mr. Oates and Ms. Morelli on the Circuit Breaker Extraordinary Relief process for FY 23, we will be receiving around \$202,000 in FY '23 to help close the FY '23 deficit, mostly related to extraordinary costs. Mr. Ferron noted that we were fortunate enough to be approved for \$650,000 at the Special Town Meeting to help close the gaps. He added that from the time that whole process began and our original deficit was identified, we have continued to accrue new costs on unanticipated costs. Those funds will be applied as soon as they arrive around the middle of May. There is a plan to use it right to current expenses, which involved working with the CFO, Chelsea Stephens, to apply the Town Meeting money to some of those deficits, so we are managing all that in real-time, which is an important update. He commented that the District will continue to advocate at the Legislative level for more relief in FY '24.

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

## **FY '23 Special Education Reserve Vote Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

Mrs. Corbo noticed that there was a special education reserve vote, but she thought that it had already been voted on. Mr. Ferron responded that the order of operations might be mixed up. Mrs. Corbo asked if this needed to be voted on, and Mr. Ferron replied that he would prefer if we could revote it and get it solid because Mr. Perrone was trying to confirm the amount remaining in that account is \$510,000.

### **Questions/Comments:**

Mrs. Lynch commented that when the warrants were done, she was overwhelmed with the million dollars in the way it was spent and the percentages for these expected or unexpected expenses.

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to the *use of \$510,000 of the Special Education Reserve Fund* 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:**

### **• Personnel Update Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

- Mr. Ferron shared that Mr. Perrone is leaving at the end of the school year, and we are very grateful for him. Mr. Ferron is recommending the appointment of Michael Oates to the Director of Finance and Operations position. Mr. Oates will be departing his position as Director of Student Services; Mr. is fully certified and qualified for this position by both the Department of Education and through his own very aggressive training that he has been going through. Mr. Ferron requested that the Committee vote to appoint Mr. Oates.

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

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to appoint *Mr. Oates as Director of Finance and Operations* 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, and Ruth Lynch-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Ferron recommended Kaitlin Morelli for the Director of Student Services role. Ms. Morelli has done a fantastic job this year. She has impressed us with her experience and knowledge of Special Education Law, other student services we support in this District, and her connections throughout the community and the region. Mr. Ferron has asked the Committee to support his recommendation to appoint Ms. Morelli.

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

Motion entertained by Mrs. Corbo to appoint *Ms. Caitlin Morelli as Director of Student Services* 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, and Ruth Lynch-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Corbo invited the Hanover Hawk in to present Mrs. Lynch with flowers and said that a donation was made in her name to the Frank Lynch Scholarship Fund. She took the opportunity to share a quote that reminded her of Mrs. Lynch: "Work for a cause, not for an applause, just make your absence felt. Live life to express, not to impress. Don't make your presence noticed. Just make your absence felt." Mrs. Corbo added that her absence will be felt on the Committee and thanked her for

her service to the schools. She invited Mrs. Lynch to make a motion to adjourn the School Committee meeting.

**Action Items:** None at this time.

The next School Committee meeting is **on May 24, 2023**. Expected agenda items will be: Lions Club Speech Contest Winner, SEPAC Update, FACE Update, Policy J; Second Reading, 2023-2024 Student Handbooks, 2023-2024 District Calendar, FY '23/'24 Budget update, HHS Italy 2024 Field Trip Request, Grant Updates, and other items TBD

Mrs. Corbo entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 PM. The motion was moved by Mrs. Lynch 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 G  
Appendix B Policy Section J  
Appendix C Policy Section IJ-R  
Appendix D Superintendent's Cumulative Evaluation