

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2023, 7:00 PM
In-Person and Virtual Meeting
Hanover High School; Media Center

Present: Mrs. Libby Corbo, Mrs. Ryan Hall, Mr. Pete Miraglia, Mrs. Kristen Cervantes, and Jaclyn Jorgensen

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mr. Matt Ferron, Mrs. Debbie St. Ives, Mr. Michael Oates, Ms. Kaitlin Morelli, Mr. Matthew Mattos, Mrs. Jaclyn Rooney, Mr. Matthew Plummer, Mrs. Jane DeGrenier, Mr. Russ Wilson, Mr. Jesse Craddock, Mr. Dan Birolini, Mr. Rowan Kennedy

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chair Cervantes. Mrs. Cervantes requested a motion to open the *September 27, 2023, School Committee meeting*. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. Roll call vote: Pete Miraglia-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, Libby Corbo-Aye, and Jacky Jorgenson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Rowan Kennedy, 3rd Grader, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Mrs. DeGrenier introduced Rowan Kennedy, a third-grade student, in Miss Picardi's class at Center School. She shared that Rowan exemplifies everything they look for in a star student. He is respectful and responsible, makes safe, good choices, and is a very hard-working student.

Student Recognitions presented by Mr. Matthew Mattos and Mr. Matthew Ferron:

Mr. Mattos briefly described the criteria for each award and the recipient. Please click the link to see the [HHS Student Recognitions](#) in full.

- **M.A.S.S. Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence**
 - Katelyn Farrell
 - Liam DeMong
- **NSDC Award for Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning**
 - Norah Kelley
 - Eva Kelliher
- **College Board Commended Students**
 - Liam DeMong
 - Aidan O'Connor

Public Comment:

Residents gave Public Comments: Lisa Adams--191 Broadway and Rob Powers-73 Great Rock Road. Some groups and businesses donated flags, and a resident shared the critical need for full-day kindergarten. For more details, please review the Hanover Public Schools website for the [September 27, 2023, School Committee Meeting](#).

Approval of Minutes:

Mrs. Cervantes explained the voting process and when roll call votes are needed.

May 10, 2023: Mrs. Cervantes requested a motion to approve *May 10, 2023, School Committee Open Session Minutes* as written. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. The motion carried unanimously.

May 24, 2023: Mrs. Cervantes requested a motion to approve *May 24, 2023, School Committee Open Session Minutes* as written. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. The motion carried unanimously.

June 7, 2023: Mrs. Cervantes requested a motion to approve *June 7, 2023, School Committee Open Session Minutes* as written. The motion was moved by Mr. Miraglia and seconded by Mrs. Corbo. Mrs. Hall abstained. The motion carried with four votes.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

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

Mr. Ferron shared the following events and updates:

- The High School turf field has been completed and is open.
- The High School track still has some work to be done, which will be completed in the Spring.
- The High School had a College Fair today with 85 colleges participating.
- The PTA is working on a successful One-Time Donation campaign with a new Board.
- The Federal lawsuit with the Hanover Public Schools has concluded. The Court allowed the HPS's motion for summary judgment and dismissed the plaintiff's claim.

Questions/Comments: None at this time.

- **Center School Recognition Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

Mr. Ferron shared that the State recognized sixty-six schools demonstrating high achievement or strong growth under the State's accountability system, which considers MCAS scores and other measures, including chronic absenteeism and graduation rates. Center School was one of the sixty-six schools to be recognized.

Questions/Comments: None at this time.

- **Extended School Year Report Presented by Ms. Kaitlin Morelli:**

Ms. Morelli shared that the purpose of ESY services is to assist students at risk of significant regression and who have difficulty with recoupment of skills and maintaining those skills taught during the school year. Ms. Morelli reviewed the [Extended School Year Report](#), which you can review on the Hanover Public Schools website.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Hall asked if the collection of data allowed conversations to begin earlier. Ms. Morelli responded yes, and as an administration, it was focused on during August, so it was ready to roll out as soon as the school year started to have these discussions with our teams. She added they are also working on revamping the programming and aligning it to our district programming so it better serves the students.

Mrs. Corbo asked if exit surveys were done for parents. Ms. Morelli explained they were still working as they tracked data over five to six weeks during the summer to track their progress, which is new this year. She added that every service provider submitted progress notes for every student so that it could be tracked what they worked on over the summer and if there was regression or stayed at base level.

Mrs. Corbo and Mrs. Ryan expressed their interest in parent feedback and how many families are taking advantage of ESY compared to how many are recommended.

- **Superintendent Goals 2023-2024 Draft 1.0 Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

Mr. Ferron reviewed the Superintendent Goals for 2023-2024. He explained that this is annual process that engages the leadership team each goal will be discussed by Mr. Oates, Mrs. St. Ives, Mr. Oates, and Ms. Morelli.

➤ Goal 1: District Improvement: Successfully Establish a Collaborative Five-Year Funding Strategy. Mr. Oates explained the summary, the key actions, and their timelines.

➤ Goal 2: District Improvement/Student Achievement: Ongoing Successful Implementation and Monitoring of Literacy Curriculum. Mrs. St Ives explained the summary, intended change, HPS strategic objective, DESE evaluation Standard I, key collaborators, key actions, and the timeline.

➤ Goal 3: District Improvement: Successfully plan for Implementation of the new DESE IEP Format. Mrs. Morelli explained the summary, intended change, HPS strategic objective, DESE evaluation Standard I, key collaborators, key actions, and the timeline.

➤ Goal 4: District Improvement: Successful Participation and Completion of Tiered Focus Monitoring (TFM). Mrs. Morelli explained the summary, intended change, HPS strategic objective, DESE evaluation Standard I, key collaborators, key actions, and the timeline.

For more details, please refer to the Hanover Public Schools website for the [Superintendent Goals 2023-2024 Draft 1.0](#) or the [September 27, 2023, School Committee Meeting](#).

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo asked if she could reach out to Ms. Morelli to discuss the database which she is pleased with.

REPORT OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- **FY23 Budget Close-out and FY24 Projections Presented by Mr. Pete Miraglia, and Mr. Michael Oates:**

Mr. Miraglia shared that the budget discussion started early this year. He explained that given the challenges of the overwhelming last year and the pressure on the budget this year, the new metrics are to start early and often. Mr. Miraglia added that the Budget Working Group includes Mrs. Corbo, Mr. Ferron, Mr. Oates, and himself. He explained that they had met and reviewed the preliminary budget information developed by the administration team. He acknowledged Mr. Oates and the staff from the town financial department for being so diligent in getting to the bottom of last year's actuals. Mr. Miraglia added that it was not an easy task. Getting this information right is critically important as it lays the foundation for developing a five-year plan plus projecting that budget for FY 25.

Mr. Oates reviewed the handout for the closing out of FY 23 and the early projections for FY 24. He explained the chart illustrates the funding sources and amounts used to close out FY 23 And the funding sources and amounts planned to be utilized in the current school year. For more details, please review the Hanover Public Schools website for the [FY23 Budget Close-out and FY24 Projections](#) or the [September 27, 2023, School Committee Meeting](#).

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo asked if the \$87K deficit take in consideration for future out of district costs. Mr. Oates respond that he is pretty confident there will not be an \$87K deficit and it does not account for any

additional costs but the expense line is built on last year's actual expenses and part of the increase that was built into the expense prediction includes some room for change. Mrs. Corbo wanted to be clear and transparent with the public that there is no wiggle room.

Mr. Miraglia ask about salaries and expenses. Mr. Oates responded that the salaries come out of Kettle, but the salary number is fully staffed and it is a little bit higher than what was predicted.

Mrs. Cervantes asked if that was the format that was shared with the Committee at the last meeting and that there will be quarterly updates. Mr. Oates explained that the quarterly update was on the revolving accounts but a similar schedule should be put into place for the operating budget as well. He added he thinks it needs to be either quarterly or more frequently. Mrs. Hall added that she would like to see it more frequently than quarterly and she also wants it to be transparent with community.

Mrs. Cervantes reminded the community that if anyone has questions or comments they can share them during public comment at the end of the meeting.

- **FY25 Capital Project Update Presented by Mr. Michael Oates and Mr. Matthew Ferron:**
Mr. Oates shared this agenda item above with the FY23 Budget Close-out and FY24 Projection.

Questions/Comments: None at this time.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

- **FY '23 Advanced Placement Report Presented by Mr. Matthew Plummer and Mrs. Jaclyn Rooney:**
Mr. Plummer explained that tonight's presentation will be based on Hanover's data as the State has not released comparative data for DART and neighboring towns. This information will be shared with you as soon as it is available.

Mrs. Rooney and Mr. Plummer gave an overview of the enrollment, multiple choice and open response, colleges that may grant credit or waive requirements, national standardized testing, weighted and scaled scores 1 - 5, with 5 being the highest, and scores 3, 4, or 5 considered "qualifying scores." You can find this [presentation](#) in full on the School Committee website.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Hall asked if most calculus AP students take it in their junior or senior year. Mr. Plummer replied most of them seemed to be taking calculus as juniors.

Mrs. Jorgenson asked what grade she usually takes in physics. Mr. Plummer responded that it is split between juniors and seniors.

Mrs. Hall inquired about how many AP offerings we have for juniors so they do not overload themselves a senior year. She added that she knows the number is unavailable but wants them to consider it when balancing this part of the conversations.

Mrs. Corbo noticed that Music Theory had three students take the AP exams and wondered if that class had only three students. Mr. Plummer replied that a class that size would typically be taught simultaneously with another group of students.

Action Items:

- **Superintendent's Contract Presented by Mrs. Kristen Cervantes:**

Mrs. Cervantes explained that she reviewed the contract with Mr. Ferron. She added that there is no contract change except extending the dates to 2028. All salary negotiations happened in previous years. Mrs. Cervantes noted that the Committee all have a copy of the contract.

Mrs. Cervantes requested a motion to approve extending *Mr. Ferron's Employment Contract* through 2028 as presented. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia.

Question/Comments: None at this time.

Public Comment: None at this time.

Roll call vote: Pete Miraglia-Aye, Ryan Hall-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Nay, Libby Corbo-Aye, and Jacky Jorgenson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Academic Working Group Presented by Mrs. Kristen Cervantes:**

Mrs. Cervantes explained the Committee and Administration have established the Academic Working Group. She read the statement's purpose to make it available to the community, and then this [documentation](#) will be posted. For more details, please review the Hanover Public Schools website for the [September 27, 2023, School Committee Meeting](#).

Mrs. Cervantes requested a motion to appoint Mrs. Jorgenson and Mrs. Hall as representatives to *the Academic Working Group Appointment*. The motion was moved by Mr. Miraglia and seconded by Mrs. Corbo.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Jorgenson expressed their excitement to work with the District on these goals.

The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: None at this time.

The next School Committee meeting is **on October 11, 2023**. Expected agenda items: Budget Timeline, Budget Transfer Votes, and others TBD.

Mrs. Cervantes entertained the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. The vote carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tahnee Warner

Tahnee Warner
Executive Assistant/ Recording Secretary

Documents Used:

Appendix A Extended School Year Report
Appendix B Superintendent Goals 2023-2024 Draft 1.0
Appendix C FY23 Close-out and FY24 Projections
Appendix D FY '23 Advanced Placement Report
Superintendent's Contract
Academic Working Group Description 2023