

**Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**November 15, 2023, 7:00 PM**  
**In-Person and Virtual Meeting**  
**Hanover High School; Media Center**

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

**Absent:** None.

**Also Present:** Mr. Matt Ferron, Mrs. Debbie St. Ives, Mr. Michael Oates, Ms. Kaitlin Morelli, Mr. Matthew Mattos, Mr. Matthew Plummer, Mrs. Nancy Dutton, Mr. Jesse Craddock, Mr. Dan Birolini, Mrs. Jane DeGrenier, Isabella (Bella) Almeida, Ashley Stracco, Emeline Dhommee, Keira Long, Amelia Rea, Bella Ciccolo, Aine Scanlan, and Sue Scanlan (Aine's mother)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chair Cervantes. Mrs. Cervantes requested a motion to open the *November 15, 2023, School Committee meeting*. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. The motion carried unanimously.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Isabella (Bella) Almeida and Ashley Stracco led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Mattos gave a brief introduction to Ms. Almeida and Ms. Stracco.

Isabella (Bella) Almeida traveled to Riesa, Germany, to compete in the IDO World Tap Championship, and her fellow Team USA members won 2 Gold Medals! Bella is proudly wearing both of them. The IDO World Tap Championship was hosted by over 30 other countries and over 40 Tap Teams. Bella has danced since she was three years old and has been affiliated with the Nancy Chippendale Dance Studio this past year. She is a fantastic tap dancer, student, and peer leader at HHS, and her accomplishments were celebrated during Mission Monday announcements to the school community.

Ashley Stracco volunteers her time everywhere in town and the school community. She was recently featured in the Woman's World magazine and Hanover Living for her community service. Ashley has attained the prestigious Functional Global Seal of Biliteracy, which means she is functionally bi-literate in English and Spanish. She took AP Spanish Language and Culture at HHS and has taught Spanish since she was 11. She speaks often in Spanish with fellow students, a few of whom are at the collegiate level. Ashley has also been named a Semifinalist by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, a substantial academic accomplishment at the National Level. This Program is the most extensive corporate-sponsored, achievement-based scholarship program in the United States. She was selected as a semifinalist from over 103,000 other student applicants based on their academic excellence, leadership, and service in school and community activities. The Coca-Cola Scholars Program is currently reviewing all Semifinalist applications. After this review, only 250 students will advance as Regional Finalists, with 150 becoming Coca-Cola Scholars and receiving a \$20,000 college scholarship.

**French exchange program review and student recognitions (HHS Students) presented by Ms. Emeline Dhommee, Keira Long, Amelia Rea, Bella Ciccolo, Aine Scanlan, and Sue Scanlan (Aine's mother):**

Ms. Dhommee, Keira Long, Amelia Rea, Bella Ciccolo, Aine Scanlan, and Sue Scanlan (Aine's mother) appreciated the School Committee for approving this program. They also shared the benefits the students received as they experienced different cultures and histories, local attractions, and cross-cultural connections. To see the presentation in full, please click: [French Exchange Program Presentation](#) and click: [A School Interview of the French Students](#), a video created by the Hanover video production crew.

**The agenda has been taken out of order.**

- **Introduction of SC Student Advisory Council Presented by Mr. Matthew Plummer:**

Mr. Plummer introduced the "New" SC Student Advisory Council and briefly shared that it is comprised of eight students and five nonstudents; they are seniors Ben Elliott, Katelyn Farrell, and Anthony Mann; juniors Matt Bellerby, Dante Heffron, and Megan Nguyen; and sophomores Bella Ciccolo and Alana Cole; and five nonstudents; Mrs. Cervantes, Mr. Ferron, Mr. Plummer, Miss Janie Matheson and, Principal Mattos. He explained the purpose of the Council is to provide insight and listen to the student's voice on many things. Mr. Plummer noted that an appointed member would report to the school committee, the student council, and the Regional student council for this southeastern Massachusetts school council. He shared that these leaders have been nominated and selected because of their talent for listening, leading their peers, and helping the school.

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

September 27, 2023: Mrs. Cervantes requested a motion to approve *September 27, 2023, School Committee Open Session Minutes* as written. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. The motion carried unanimously.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

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

Mr. Ferron shared the following events and updates:

- Varsity Soccer
- Varsity Football team will be playing on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>
- Mama Mia is running November 17 through November 19 at the High School.

Mr. Ferron shared an update to the FY25 Budget 2.0 presentation. He added that these documents will be posted tomorrow under the [Public Meeting Document](#) on the School Committee and [Budget Planning](#) webpages.

Mrs. St. Ives shared that Anastasia Frank, Ellen Burns, and Jen McDonald, all reading specialists, were selected out of a pool of candidates to be presenters at the ASHA Conference, which is being hosted in Boston this year, for their work with Mass General on structured literacy and structured writing. She added that Ms. Frank would present with Charlie Haynes and Sue Smith, who work at the Massachusetts Mass General Hospital. She noted that they were selected to present and showcase the work being done in Hanover in collaboration with Mass General as an exemplar. Mrs. St. Ives added that on November 7<sup>th</sup>, Terry Langton presented at the MAPFRE Conference. At that conference, Shelly Westerling Ireland was also recognized as the 2023 Health Teacher of the Year.

- **Introduction of SC Student Advisory Council Presented by Mr. Matthew Ferron:**

This was presented at the beginning of the meeting.

**REPORT OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

- **FY25 Budget 2.0 Presentation Presented by Mr. Michael Oates:**

Mr. Oates provided a brief overview of the latest draft of the fiscal year 2025, operating budget, or budget 2.0, which will be referred to during the presentation; he also reviewed some information that has been shared in recent meetings and double share new information that has been added to the latest draft. Mr. Oates explained that since the last meeting, he will also share this year's NASDAQ Special Education Trends report. For more details, please review the Hanover Public Schools website for the [FY25 Budget Presentation 2.0](#), [FY24/25 Budget Presentation 2.0 Line Items](#), [FY25-FY30 Budget Forecast](#), [NESDEC 2023-2024 Special Education Trend Report](#) or the [November 15, 2023, School Committee Meeting](#).

### **Questions/Comments:**

Mr. Miraglia commented that the numbers are getting solid with many different angles. He added that it was discussed two years ago in developing Kettle to have the forecasting capability. Mr. Miraglia said he was not expecting the five-year projection, but now the foundation is there to update. Mr. Ferron responded that now there is a crucial baseline from which to work with reasonable projections and the understanding of how to look at things in a few different ways.

Mr. Miraglia noted the one thing he had yet to consider before is the average cost per IEP. He asked if this could be regarded as adding to that group per pupil. Mr. Oates replied that he would have to get a little more information and would share that at a future meeting.

Mrs. Corbo commented that she hopes that, at some point, vision and growth will be discussed. She added that it is shown what has essentially been a maintenance budget for our school for a long time. Mrs. Corbo shared that she hears from people in the community that the schools always end up fine, so she thinks what is OK and what is not needs to be shared. She inquired about the last time a general education teacher was hired. Mr. Ferron responded this has been discussed a lot, and it has been staff. He stated that HPS has not added to the teaching staff or administrative team in years. He said that staff have moved, but it has been a long time for a net addition of teachers.

Mrs. Hall also commented that she agrees that conversations must be had to ensure budget issues are being looked at. Still, she thinks sometimes the focus is on the unexpected costs, which are big ticket items and the unanticipated special education costs.

Mrs. Jorgenson appreciates the passion and added that looking to the future at what our identity is and who we want to be.

Mrs. Cervantes agreed and stated that she could commit to working with Mr. Ferron on the two agendas we have coming up for the two meetings before a vote is needed and thinking about what can be put on that agenda. She thanked Mr. Oates for the complete presentation and how the story was told so support can be built with our community's support to be successful.

### **Report on Teaching and Learning:**

- **Update on Tiered Focus Monitoring (TFM) Process Presented by Ms. Kaitlin Morelli:**

Ms. Morelli shared that the self-assessment is complete, and everything was submitted to the State. She explained that we are in full TFM, and the site visit is happening. Ms. Morelli noted that on Tuesday of this week, Henry and Winnie, site staff from DESE, completed a site visit. Ms. Morelli took Winnie around the High and Cedar schools, and Mrs. Linehan took Henry around Center and Middle school. She said there were interviews with staff and various stakeholders today, and tomorrow will be the same. There will be an exit interview with herself, Superintendent Ferron, and Assistant Superintendent Mrs. St. Ives. Ms. Morelli commented that Winnie and Henry emphasize the integration of students into general education. She added the observations of the interactions between our students and staff; they had smiles on their faces talking about just seeing that great interaction with our students, with their teachers, seeing successes in the classroom, talking about our flexible seating, and seeing our students so engaged in the lessons. She shared that they even commented on how the physical spaces are so clean and well-maintained. She finished by stating that tomorrow is the final day of the visit, where they will share feedback.

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

- **Update on staff training for the new IEP Presented by Ms. Kaitlin Morelli:**

Ms. Morelli shared that the new IEP has begun. She explained that she, Mrs. Linehan, and Mrs. Murphy, on October 17, went to the new IEP Train the Trainer sessions with DESE. She said collaborating with other stakeholders from other districts who had the same experience, starting over and fresh, and learning from one another. Mrs. Morelli discussed the activities and how they could train them to embark on this in the district and engage staff. She loved that at the end, time was given to work in our groups or district groups, to create an action plan of how to support and train staff, and to plan out the rest of the school year. They then came back as a whole, and everyone shared their ideas. With the help of Mrs. Linnehan and Mrs. Murphy, they were able to roll out the PD with staff as soon as December 5, which will start with an overview, and then come January 9, they will begin breaking down each section of the IEP, so staff are not overwhelmed by everything. She added it will end in March as a whole working group. Ms. Morelli also highlighted that in November, during PD day, programs K through 12 had the opportunity to spend time together. It was remarkable to see program teachers from pre-k to grade 12 interact and share stories, student successes, and resources.

Mr. Oates added that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has made a lot of money in grant funds, and we are applying for over **\$25,000** in grants just for training and preparing to implement the new IEP. He will keep the Committee updated on that.

**Questions/Comments:**

Mrs. Corbo asked what is being done to support the parent experience. Ms. Morelli explained that they will be partnering with SEPAC and starting early next year 2024 to start having sessions, even having office hours.

**Action Items:**

- **HMS Washington DC Field Trip Request Presented by Mr. Dan Birolini:**

Mr. Birolini shared the tentative schedule and reviewed the Washington DC Field Trip, noting that they will not add Gettysburg, PA, this year. He has requested the trip be approved.

Mrs. Cervantes requested a motion to approve *the presented HMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington DC Field Trip Request*. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia.

**Question/Comments:**

The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Cervantes reminded the community that there is an opportunity for financial support for students and to contact the principal for more information.

Mrs. Hall also reminded the community that the food drive at the middle school ends on Friday.

Mrs. Cervantes thanked all the teachers and staff who have spent much time prepping for the Teacher Conferences.

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

Mrs. Cervantes entertained the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 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

- [FY25 Budget Presentation 2.0](#)
- [FY24/25 Budget Presentation 2.0 Line Items](#)
- [FY25-FY30 Budget Forecast](#)
- [NESDEC 2023-2024 Special Education Trend Report](#)

Appendix B - HMS Washington DC and Gettysburg, PA June 2024 Field Trip Request  
2023 French Exchange Program Presentation and the School Interview of the French Students  
Video