

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2024, 7:00 PM
In-Person and Virtual Meeting
Hanover High School; Media Center

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

Absent: None at this time.

Also Present: Mr. Matt Ferron, Mrs. Debbie St. Ives, Mr. Michael Oates, Ms. Kaitlin Morelli, Mr. Matthew Mattos, Mrs. Jane DeGrenier, Mr. Jesse Craddock, Mr. Dan Birolini, Mrs. Nancy Dutton, Mr. Paul Economos, Mr. Peter Arena, Addy Phillips, Natalie Brown, Claire Sullivan, Abby Chizauskas, Nora Connerty, Allie Jara, Maddie McLaughlin, Mr. Matthew Plummer, Mrs. Jaclyn Rooney

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Cervantes. Mrs. Cervantes requested a motion to open the *January 17, 2024, School Committee meeting*. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. The motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The 2023 Middle School Girls Cross Country State Champions led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Birolini briefly introduced the Middle School Girls Cross Country State Champions, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. He shared that these students are impressive and hard-working in the classroom and exceptional athletes. Mr. Birolini explained that these girls led the Hanover Girls Cross Country Team to an undefeated season, a league championship, a win at the South Shore Cross Country Invitational Champions, which is always held right at Forge Pond Park with over 800 runners, and these seven girls represented Hanover at the State Meet and came in first place. They are the 2023 Middle School Cross Country State Champions. He introduced the coaches and HMS teachers, Mr. Economos and Mr. Arena, and the seven runners: Addy Phillips - Grade 8; Natalie Brown - Grade 8; Claire Sullivan - Grade 7; Abby Chizauskas - Grade 7; Nora Connerty - Grade 6, Allie Jara - Grade 6, and Maddie McLaughlin - Grade 6.

Public Comment: None at this time.

Approval of Minutes:

December 6, 2023: The December 6, 2023, School Committee Open Session Minutes were tabled for a future meeting.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

• **Student Advisory Council Update Presented by Mr. Dante Heffron:**

Mr. Heffron shared that term two ends on Friday, but there is a lot of homework that comes with that, and departments are giving mid-year exams as well. He added that there is another Shakespeare Competition on Thursday, January 18th, held by the HHS Drama Club and led by Mr. Colin Fahey, and a college and career planning night on Thursday, February 1st, at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Heffron noted that he understands that there is some debate over what cuts are being made and concerns about budgets, but he feels these departments are critical, not only just to him as a student but to the Student Advisory Council and students,

Mr. Ferron added that there was a Student Advisory Council meeting yesterday where the budget was discussed, and they understood budget challenges.

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

Mr. Ferron shared the following events and updates:

- The Hanover Public Schools Counseling Department and the Hanover SEPAC are co-sponsoring a webinar, “Supporting Your Child Through Big Emotions: Tips and Tricks for Parents/Guardians and Caregivers.”
 - Dr. Julia Martin Burch
 - Monday, January 22
 - 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
 - Via Zoom
- HPTA FUNdraiser
 - Ryan’s Hanover Crossing
 - Saturday, January 27
 - 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
 - 20% of the food and fun sales from this event will be donated back to the organization
- Budget Meeting
 - Monday, January 29
 - Time to be determined
 - One item agenda
 - related to the Hanover Public Schools budget
 - a budget vote on behalf of the school committee
 - review what could happen if the budget is not successful in moving forward
 - More details to follow

Questions/Comments: None at this time.

REPORT OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- **FY25 Technology Article and Transportation Bid Update Presented by Mr. Michael Oates:**

Mr. Oates explained the transportation bid under Mass General law. Chapter 30, the Hanover Public Schools entered a competitive bidding process for regular education, transportation, field trips, and athletic events for FY25 through FY27, with options for FY28 and FY29. He said that bids were received when they opened at noon on Thursday, December 21, according to the bid documents. Mr. Oates shared that the Ingles Bus Company has provided Hanover Public Schools with the best price and transportation contract. He is requesting a vote to award the FY25 through FY27 Transportation Bid to Ingle Bus Company so a draft of the transportation contract can begin and be presented for approval at the February 28th School Committee Meeting.

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Corbo inquired if Ingle Bus was the only bid and what the increase was. Mr. Oates responded that it was a **\$134K** increase, which is a little bit larger than what was budgeted.

Mrs. Cervantes requested a motion to approve awarding the transportation bid to Ingle Bus Company for the FY25 to FY27 Transportation Bid. 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.

Mr. Oates shared that following the January 3 School Committee meeting presentation, the Town-Wide Information Technology Study Committee secured quotes and drafted a Town Meeting Article requesting approximately \$400,000 to \$450,000 to begin a strategic hardware renewal cycle. He added that the Committee plans to submit an article annually to maintain the hardware renewal cycle for the Hanover Schools and Town Offices for the upcoming fiscal years. Mr. Oates added that upon receiving the final votes, the amount requested and the article language will be shared with the School Committee for approval, and a vote to endorse this will be at the next meeting. Mr. Ferron added that he discussed with the Town Manager to ensure he is aware that the budget will

not make the cuff off day of January 28 and affords the grace period necessary to get the budget done right.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Miraglia inquired about the next steps of the process. Mr. Ferron replied that the process will be to bring an article with a number refined and what it will be for to a certain degree, and then it will be up to the Committee to endorse, vote to endorse, and submit the article to the Select Board. Mr. Miraglia asked if this would be done in two meetings, and Mr. Ferron stated it would be done in one meeting. Mr. Miraglia then wondered if this could be done at the meeting **on January 29th**. Mr. Ferron responded, yes.

Mrs. Hall wanted clarification on whether the articles would be presented together, and Mr. Ferron responded that was the plan.

Mrs. Cervantes appreciated the Technology Study Committee's quick turnaround on the presentation.

- **FY25 Budget Update and Vote Presented by Mr. Michael Oates:**

Mr. Oates explained that the FY25 - FY30 five-year budget projections have been adjusted to include additional specialized programming beginning in the 2027-2028 school year, including these expenses as part of five-year financial projections to ensure that we have identified the need for the resources required for an increase in programming that is vital to the success and inclusion of students as they transition between schools in the years ahead. Mr. Oates commented that a rejection or request has yet to be made regarding an increase to the bottom line of the budget projections that have already been publicly shared. He added that more information will be added if possible changes or adjustments are made when the final budget is presented and deliberated before a vote to approve. Mr. Oates said an updated projection document will be shared with the committee and posted on the website. He continued to share that the FY25 budget proposal continues to progress, and specific needs that support all students in various capacities have been identified specific needs.

For more details, please watch the [January 17, 2024, School Committee Meeting](#) on the Hanover Public Schools website. The [Report of the Finance Department](#) can be found on the School Committee website under Public Meeting Documents for January 17, 2024.

Mr. Miraglia, Mrs. Corbo, Mrs. Hall, and Mrs. Cervantes appreciated the feedback given, process, work, and planning in preparing and explaining the budget and when adjustments are made.

Mrs. Cervantes acknowledges the Budget Committee's hard work and messaging so the community, families, and staff have an understanding.

- **FY24 Donations as of January 12, 2024 Presented by Mr. Michael Oates:**

Mr. Oates requests approval of the donations received from Bay State Textiles, Hanover PTA, Shutterfly Lifetouch, Rhonda Hinman (Center School Farmhouse), HFEE, Storybook Cove, Rachel Arnold, and Boston Tops totaling **\$19,599.13** as of January 12, 2024. You can see the [FY24 Donations](#) in full on our Hanover Public Schools website.

Questions/Comments: None at this time.

Mrs. Cervantes asked for a motion to approve the *FY24 Donations of \$19,599.13 as of January 12, 2024* as presented. The motion was moved by Mrs. Hall and seconded by Mr. Miraglia. Roll call vote: Ryan Hall-Aye, Kristen Cervantes-Aye, Libby Corbo-Aye, and Jacky Jorgenson-Aye. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mrs. Cervantes moved this up in the meeting.

A resident gave Public Comment: Rob Powers-73 Great Rock Road. He inquired about the budget hearing process. For more details, please review the Hanover Public Schools website for the [January 17, 2024, School Committee Meeting](#).

REPORT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING:

- **2023 MCAS Presentation: Center, Middle, and High School presented by Mrs. Debbie St. Ives, Mr. Dan Birolini, Mr. Matthew Plummer, Mrs. Nancy Dutton, Mr. Matthew Mattos, Mrs. Jaclyn Rooney, and Mrs. Jane DeGrenier:**

Mrs. St. Ives shared that the goal this evening is to provide an overview of the MCAS scores, including cohort data for arts in neighboring districts and highlights for our curricular and instructional improvement plan. Mrs. St. Ives added the scores from grades three to eight and ten will be shared, as well as a glimpse into the data analysis process and the next steps ahead. She shared the highlights below:

- Center School was identified as a school of recognition this year. To be awarded this recognition, a school must improve by one-and-a-half-scaled score points in reading and math, have a student growth percentile of greater than 50 in both ELA and math and have a targeted percentage of greater than 75% in meeting or exceeding. Only 66 schools in the state met this goal.
- Grades three to eight aggregate scores outperformed the state in ELA math and science by demonstrating overall improvement in ELA and math in grades three to eight, from 2022 to 2023 by moving more students into the meeting and exceeding categories, moving from 53% to 58%, with an excellent student growth percentile of 61% in grade four and the area of math greater than 60% is considered strong in 2022 it was 58%.
- The district was categorized again as not requiring assistance or intervention. All Massachusetts districts are classified into one or two accountability categories, requiring assistance and intervention or not requiring it.

Mrs. St. Ives invited members of the Leadership Team to present the Spring 2023 MCAS Report. Each member presented the MCAS results for students in grades 3 through 10 meeting or exceeding in comparison to the State.

- Mr. Birolini presented the English Language Arts (ELA) Next Generation MCAS Results.
- Mr. Plummer presented the Mathematics (Math) Next Generation MCAS Results for students.
- Mrs. Dutton presented the English Science and Technology/Engineering (STE) Next Generation MCAS Results for students.
- Mr. Mattos and Mrs. Rooney presented the 2023 District Analysis Review Tools (DART) and Neighboring Towns Data for students.
- Mrs. DeGrenier presented, reviewed, and explained the process for the following Next Steps:
 - Continue Data Analysis & Progress Monitoring
 - Implement High-Dose Math Tutoring Grant
 - Continue to support teacher training
 - Focus on acceleration of learning
 - Implement high-quality instructional materials
 - Continue with educational partnerships
 - Strengthen MTSS (RTI)
 - Utilize Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS)

The [Spring 2023 MCAS Report](#) can be found on the School Committee website under Public Meeting Documents. For more details, please review the Hanover Public Schools website for the [January 17, 2024, School Committee Meeting](#).

Questions/Comments:

Mrs. Hall asked if there was data on how many students in the district participated, and Mrs. St. Ives responded that she would get that data and share it with the Committee.

Mr. Miraglia asked for insight on some trends and how they work. Mrs. St. Ives explained how it is done on different levels. Mr. Miraglia noticed that the 10th-grade data always seems better, even at the state level. He inquired if it was like that across-the-board bias in the test. He asked if there was a reason for this. Mrs. St. Ives explained that a graduation requirement intrinsically motivates students. Mr. Miraglia then wondered if there are expectations for ELA scores in the coming years. Mrs. St. Ives replied that there are expectations.

Mrs. Corbo inquired about the number of students not passing the MCAS or who do not graduate because of the MCAS requirements, referring to students in the alternative and certificate programs. Mrs. Rooney responded that about four students in the RISE program have either decided not to take it or are continuously taking it and have yet to pass it. For regular ed students, for the ELA and math, zero students still need to meet it; for biology, there were two. She added that many of our students are transfer-ins and will retake them in February. Mrs. Corbo asked about the process for students in six and twelve who are not on an IEP, do not meet expectations on the MCAS, and are yellow on all the other tests. Mrs. DeGrenier replied that they are monitored. Mrs. Corbo explained that she is asking from a budget standpoint to ensure the planning is in the budget. Mrs. St. Ives explained that the students would receive additional daily instruction in a small group setting.

Mrs. Hall asked if the budget hearing would be just the budget, and Mr. Ferron responded yes.

ACTION ITEM: None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

The next School Committee meeting is on **February 7, 2024**. Expected agenda items: Events and Updates, FY24 Budget Update, FY25 Budget 3.0 Presentation and Vote, and others TBD.

Mrs. Cervantes entertained the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 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 - Report of the Finance Department](#)

[Appendix B - FY24 Donations](#)

[Appendix C - MCAS Presentation \(2023\)](#)

[Additional 2023 MCAS Data](#)

School Committee MCAS Analysis and Trends 1-17-24