

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2015
Hanover High School

Present: John Geary, Ruth Lynch, Libby Corbo and Kimberly Booker

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Thomas Raab and Debbie St. Ives

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice Chairman Geary

High School Music Students Award Recognition

- Mr. Paquette introduced the students
- Mr. Schnell gave an overview of the Hanover Music Departments trip to Virginia
- Spirit of Williamsburg Award was presented to the students of Hanover at the music festival in Virginia and they are very proud of this award
- Tomorrow night is instrumentals pop concert and all are welcome to attend
- Friends of Hanover music presented a check in the amount of \$8000.00 to enrich music education which will be allotted as follows:
- HHS will receive \$3,750.00; HMS- will receive \$2,750.00, Center & Cedar will receive \$750.00 each

Public Comments: None presented

Approval of Minutes:

-Motion by Lynch to approve the executive meeting minutes of April 29, 2015 as written. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried with a unanimous vote with an abstention by Corbo

-Motion by Lynch to approve the general meeting minutes of May 6, 2015 as written. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried by unanimous vote with an abstention by Corbo

Motion by Lynch to approve the executive meeting minutes of May 6, 2015 as written. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried by a unanimous vote with an abstention by Corbo.

Report of Superintendent

Welcome New Committee Members:

- Welcome back to Ms. Corbo
- Congratulations to Mr. Geary on re-election

Updates and Events:

-FACE programs are thriving and new families are enrolling for these programs

- Letter from Ms. Miske who chaperoned the recent trip to Costa Rica and what a wonderful experience it was for the students

-Senior Week Events were discussed by Mr. Paquette- Seniors today visited the elementary schools for 2 hours and interacted with the students and teachers

- It was a great experience for the students and teachers- it was a magical moment of showing how the community comes together and works together

- Middle School scholar leaders are having dinner tonight with Mr. Colantouni and other local scholar leaders. The Middle School scholar leaders are Stephen Gill and Caroline Zilinski
- Grade 1 at Center School will be putting on a Memorial Day show on Friday
- 4th grade chorus concert is on June 3rd
- Tours of the new nature trail will begin in June
- Mulan Jr. the musical was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended

Finance Department

Donations

- Friends of Hanover Music Department made a donation in the amount of \$8,000
- Final \$100 check for Washington DC trip for 8th graders was received- each family will receive a \$40 reimbursement
- Motion by Lynch to approve donations in the amount of \$8,100.00. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

Substitute Teacher Pay Rate

- Substitutes are paid on differential- Certified teachers receive \$75.00 and \$60.00 if you are not certified
- \$60.00 differential is no longer competitive
- The new teachers contracts allows teachers to Roll unused personal days into sick days
- The savings in this will cover the increase in the substitute pay
- Ms. Corbo would like to have another source of funding for the substitute increase in case we don't realize the personal day savings as we expect from the teachers contract
- Question by Ms. Lynch- are there different rates for long-term substitutes? Response by Dr. Raab that long term substitutes are paid \$75.00 per day for first 21 days and over 21 days, the rate is \$150.00 per day
- Motion by Lynch to support Dr. Raab's recommendation to increase the substitute pay rate for those who are not certified from \$60 to \$75 for the next school year. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

Special Education Transportation Update

- Survey will be given to special education parents regarding transportation
- This survey was worked on with the PAC
- Dr. Raab would like to encourage parents to give feedback and wants to make sure the parents are satisfied with the transportation
- He will make it accessible to parents on Google documents and will have paper copies available, if needed

Report on Teaching and Learning

Elementary and Middle School Report Card Schedule

- This is a discussion regarding possible change to a 3 term system
- In 2012, the report cards were changed from a 3 term system to a 4 term system
- Teachers believe that student assessments are being shortened by a four term system and the deadlines that accompany these terms
- 3 terms would align with benchmark assessment and research intervention timelines

- 74% of teachers have responded to a survey regarding changing to a trimester and 80% would like to return to a trimester
- Full evaluation of impact of this change to students with IEP will be researched
- Aspen will be updated to provide better communications to parents
- Comment by Ms. Booker she is concerned for students who do not meet benchmarks- what will be put in place to make sure that if we are moving from 4 to 3 terms, that we catch students earlier that are not meeting their benchmarks
- Response by Ms. St. Ives that we would like to strengthen communication with parents and we will make sure that parents receive plenty of information throughout the year about the students assessment
- Comment by Mr. Geary- how long will it take to determine if this would be a good change- does it take a few years? Response by Ms. St. Ives that right away looking at assessment schedules will match up to the terms and we will need feedback from parents regarding how they feel the communication has been strengthened
- Comment by Mr. Geary that when you put a proposal together- make sure you put a definitive timeline of when this would be evaluated to determine if it has been successful or not
- Comment by Ms. Corbo- were any parents of the PAC included in this? Response by Ms. St. Ives that there were no parents on the committee at the time it was created a few years ago. Ms. St. Ives plans to reconvene the committee. Comment by Ms. DeGrenier that teachers were on the committee but the plan was presented to the PAC and other parents at that time
- Comment by Ms. Lynch why is high school on a 4 term? Responses by Ms. St. Ives that 1st quarter grades are used for college guidelines for seniors. The timeline is driven on college requirements and deadlines

- Additional documents included in the packet are: EMR Policy which is in draft form and BMI Policy & Life Threatening Allergies Policy are redlined- these are to be reviewed for the next meeting

Public Comments: None presented.

Motion to adjourn by Lynch at 7:50pm. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Andrea Holmes

Documents Used:

Minutes 4/29/15 executive

Minutes 5/6/15 open

Minutes 5/6/15 executive

Donations 5/20/15

Substitute Pay Rate Memo and Chart

Special Education Transportation Update Survey

Letter from Costa Rica Field Trip