

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2015
Hanover High School

Present: William Marriner, John Geary, Michael Phillips, Ruth Lynch and Kimberly Booker

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Thomas Raab, and Deb St. Ives, Mr. Paquette, Ms. Lawrence

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chairman Marriner

Motion by Geary to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing non-union personnel negotiations with the intent to return to general session. Motion was seconded by Phillips.

Roll Call Vote: William Marriner- yes, John Geary- yes, Mike Phillips-yes, Ruth Lynch- yes, Kimberly Booker- yes

General session was called to order at 7:17PM by Chairman Marriner.

Public Comments:

- Comment by Mr. Lovell (president of the Hanover Teachers' Association)– He would like to inform the committee that we had HTA day yesterday and we presented a Friend of Education Award to Mr. Marriner. We are very proud to have him as our Friend of Education and we wanted everyone to know and to thank him.
- Mr. Marriner – it was a great honor and surprised me. It's been a great relationship.

- Mr. Marriner requests to move action item forward on the agenda. Asks the committee for a vote on the Superintendent's contract. Motion by Geary to approve contract of employment for the Hanover School District for Matthew Ferron for 2015-2018 as written on 5-6-2015. The motion was seconded Phillips.

Roll Call Vote: William Marriner- yes, John Geary- yes, Mike Phillips-yes, Ruth Lynch- yes, Kimberly Booker- yes

- Comment by Mr. Ferron – thank you very much. Appreciate the show of confidence and will continue to work very hard to keep our system moving forward.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Geary to approve the meeting minutes (open session) of April 29, 2015 as written. The motion was seconded by Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of Superintendent

- Mr. Ferron turns the meeting over to Mr. Geary.
- Comment by Mr. Geary - We would like to recognize Mr. Marriner for 3 years of excellent, dedicated service to the Hanover School district. We appreciate all you have done for us. Mr. Geary presented Mr. Marriner with a plaque.
- Comment by Mr. Marriner – Thank you. It was with mixed feelings that I leave because of the group of people on the committee. One thing that is most enjoyable

is the continuous, homogenous dedication to improving the education of the children in Hanover. I'm proud of all of you and to know you. Thank you very much.

- Comment by Mr. Phillips – It's been a pleasure working with Mr. Marriner and I view him as a true leader not just for the committee but the district. I've been most impressed with his passion to ensure that every one of the children in this district gets the best education.
- Comment by Mr. Geary – The thing I admire most is his ability to rise above the emotional noise and direct focus towards the district and lead us in the direction of our goals, regardless of personal or emotional reasons. I'm glad you were here to teach us how to do it so we can continue.
- Comment by Ms. Booker – I admire your leadership and vision. You always put the kids first and we appreciate that.
- Comment by Ms. Lynch – I admire your ability to run meetings that are well organized, in control and where a lot is accomplished. We have all felt like we had a voice. You gave us the feeling that what we had to say was important.
- Comment by Mr. Ferron – Mr. Marriner thank you very much. One word I can think of in our relationship is support. You supported us, believed in us and because of that we've been able to accomplish a lot of great things. Thank you to Ms. Marriner for the sacrifices she and the family has had to make and allowing him to give so much time to the district.

Updates and Events:

- Happy Birthday Dr. Raab
- Teacher appreciation week this week. HPTA and parents hosting events, luncheons at all schools. Really supporting our teachers.
- Center-Sylvester Art Show next week for Gr. 3 and Gr. 4
- Center-Sylvester - Mrs. Tavares living wax museum was today – Superintendent had the pleasure of attending. Mr. Phillips son Charlie was portraying John Adams.
- Cedar – Mulan May 15th and 16th at HHS
- Cedar - Earth Dome, funded by HPTA, was at Cedar earlier in the week
- HMS – tomorrow spring band concert, next week is Korus concert
- HHS – Poetry Bash tomorrow night
- HHS – Senior prom Friday, May 8th at Venezia
- HHS – Chorale concert next Thursday

Town Meeting Follow Up:

- Through the support of a very positive and generous community we got the endorsement of our Vision 2020 initiative.
- Ms. St. Ives and our math coaches are engaged with Pearson representatives in negotiations for materials, programs, software, licenses, training etc.
- We will hopefully have an update on Vision 2020 at the next committee meeting that will include a more solid financial plan.
- Technology purchase bids are now open and close May 27th. As soon as they close we will get right to work on technology; getting things ordered, getting installation and training schedules together.
- Comment by Mr. Marriner - would like to thank everybody involved in this initiative - the team, the teachers who piloted and the work Ms. St. Ives did evaluating our math curriculum and leading the charge with all of you bringing this to fruition. I can't wait for students and teachers to be able to fully engage in it. Proud moment for all of you and staff.
- We are also the beneficiary of \$500,000 in funding for special education tuitions

- We are already talking about next year and how we can preserve this funding and scale this back in future years if possible through development of special education stabilization account working with selectmen and the town manager
- We are excited about overall budget being approved for the entire town. The police department was approved for a School Resource Office – inline with our objectives for safety and security.
- We will begin working closely with Chief Sweeney to get the right tasks, responsibilities, schedules, etc. in place.
- Mr. Marriner – perception of an SRO is enforcement official, a policeman and that is not the case. They are there to prevent moments from happening. He is glad to see that this is happening.

Update on District Drama Program (Ms. Lawrence)

- It has been a busy and productive year with “Mulan” being the 6th production.
- Provided over 300 students, grades 1-12, with opportunities to experience dramatic arts behind the scenes and on the stage.
- Collectively 5,000 guests enjoyed the shows. Response has been tremendous.
- We are grateful for the support of the administration, the district, the school committee, families, students and the community.
- We are very fortunate to have received generous donations from the Hanover Cultural Council. They have been instrumental in helping us develop this program.
- Looking to next year we will really begin to work on a comprehensive district wide drama program and will be branding the program with logo and official name.
- We are planning 8 productions next year and we will offer trainings this summer for students in the technical aspects like lighting and sound.
- Opportunities are endless for the students and this program isn’t just for the performer; it’s for everyone
- Appreciate the support of everyone in every building. Mr. Paquette is so generous for use of auditorium all the time
- Comment by Mr. Marriner – His wife and daughter went to “Sound of Music” and they were mesmerized. The talents of the students, the crew and your staff are amazing. Thank you for your efforts.
- Question by Ms. Lynch – you oversee all drama productions in the district? Is there a drama club at HHS? Response by Ms. Lawrence - This district wide drama program will oversee them yes. There is a drama class at HHS but the FACE office can help support the infrastructure of organization from handling ticket sales, securing rights of productions, scenery, and costumes which allows directors, music directors, choreographers to focus on the students.
- Question by Ms. Lynch - was the “Sound of Music” coming from the drama class or your office? Response by Ms. Lawrence – it was the first musical production at HHS in many years. This was an introductory year for us to come support the high school. FACE plans to produce the HS shows and will support in terms of providing the infrastructure of support.
- Comment by Mr. Marriner – trying to clarify that production is support with funds, management etc., allowing the class to focus on the art of drama and music.
- Comment by Mr. Ferron – We have a drama club at HHS. There is a director, music directors etc. Ms. Lynch - Students who participate try out after school, it’s not coming out of the drama class? Mr. Ferron - Yes. It’s exciting that the FACE office is essentially the producer of the shows. They acquire the scripts, figure out costs,

royalties, and costumes etc. As we evolve, if there is a show that needs ensemble we can pull students from different schools.

- Question Ms. Lynch – do students compete in yearly one-act plays? Comment by Mr. Paquette – they plan on it as this program picks up momentum. Drama Club went to the festival this year to learn what it entails and will take part in the future.
- Comment by Ms. Booker– her son was in Beauty and the Beast and I got to see Middle School students came in to help backstage. Seeing the collaboration is wonderful. Letting HMS students become leaders is important
- Question by Ms. Booker - Cedar had it's own funding for theater, will it now be streamlined? Mr. Raab– each school will have their own revolving account so we can keep track of each school's financial situation.
- Comment by Mr. Ferron – Having district drama program will allow us, if we are to embark in fundraising, to support the program.
- Comment by Ms. Lawrence – The mentoring opportunities are very beneficial for older students as well as younger students. Older students have been able to share their passion with younger students. Thank you for recognizing that.

Finance Department

Donations

-Total amount of donations for this week is \$1,657.98. Motion by Geary to accept the donations totaling \$1,657.98 as listed. The motion was seconded by Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

- Dr. Raab would like to thank the HPTA for their donation of 2 buddy benches for Center/Sylvester School. They will be installed in about 4 weeks.

Report on Teaching and Learning

College Pride Day 2015

- Second annual College Pride Day was held May 1st where we invited staff to dress in their college gear. Many teachers participated and spoke about their experiences and encouraged learning beyond HHS.
- Shared a brief video with photos that highlight the day, thanks to Steve Ryerson

Senior Humanities Gallery Night 2015 (Mr. Paquette)

- Shared a video with photos of the gallery night
- Thank you for putting this slideshow of pictures together. I feel like a proud father.
- As Humanities Director we took a look at how seniors have been taking classes that have been in place for 20 years.
- Curriculum of the humanities course has evolved. Practicing communication skills, presentation skills, staying engaged term after term. Term 4, lets see how you utilize the skills you learned. Keep a budget, work with others, build a product, build presentation, collaborate etc.
- They present to their peers in the auditorium. It's a graduation requirement that keeps them engaged through the month of May.
- Gallery night embodies the spirit of the entire course.
- Some students stopped mid project to create a new project when the earthquake hit to raise funds for the victims.
- We want to expand this experience to other academic areas; we are just getting started.
- Comment by Mr. Plummer – our science and math teachers are asking how they can do something like this. There may be places we can expand this.

- Comment by Mr. Phillips – didn't realize it was a graduation requirement. Mr. Paquette - If they take this course it is. There are 18 students in AP course that could not double enroll. There about 170 kids enrolled in the course each year.
- Mr. Marriner – This is a testament to your passion. This is what education should be; the culmination senior year of everything you brought to the table over 12 years.
- Question by Ms. Lynch –this is your response to NEASC when they ask how do you know that your students know what do your students know and are able to do. How do you know your kids can do that? Listening to you that you nailed this. I know you aren't just doing this for NEASC after listening to your passion. I commend you. Mr. Paquette – going back and reading the report it states we are achieving the requirement.

Action Items:

- Mr. Ferron requests the committee to approve attendance of non-resident student next year due to extenuating circumstances.
- Motion by Geary to approve attendance of 2 non-resident students as described by Mr. Ferron for the upcoming school year 2015-2016. The motion was seconded by Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: None presented.

Motion by Geary to adjourn general session at 8:16PM. The motion was seconded by Phillips. Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted

Rachael O'Callaghan

Documents Used:

Minutes 4/29/15 (open session)

Donations 5/6/15