

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2015
Hanover High School

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

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Thomas Raab, Deb St. Ives, Beverly Shea, Matthew Paquette, Brian Cicollo, Jane DeGrenier, Adam Colantouni, Hugh Galligan

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by 7:00 pm by Chairman Marriner

Public Comments: None presented.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Lynch to approve the minutes of December 3, 2014. Motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried with a majority vote with abstentions by Phillips and Marriner.

Motion by Phillips to approve the minutes of January 7, 2015. Motion was seconded by Lynch. The motion carried with a majority vote with an abstention by Geary.

Report of Superintendent:

Updates and Events:

- NAO Robot made a short presentation
- 8th grade open house was well attended. There were about 500 people that attended.
- Winter Jam at Middle School was a great event and was well attended by students and their families

Finance Department

Donations

- Thank you to the Hanover PTA for fundraising for chrome books for the Middle School
- Donations total \$21,588.20
- Motion by Geary to approve the donations as amended in the amount of \$21,588.20. The motion was seconded by Phillips. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

HMS Fundraiser

- This was tabled for a later meeting

FY16 Budget Presentation

The Budget approval schedule is as follows:

- A budget subcommittee meeting will be held on January 29, 2015
- On February 2, 2015- Town Manager submits FY16 budget to Board of Selectmen
- School Committee Meetings will be held on February 4, February 25 and March 4
- Public Hearing on the budget will be March 11, 2015

Variables impacting budget development:

- Time- Six months remain in school year
- Town's annual financial capacity
- HTA collective bargaining process

- Variability of state aid, Circuit Breaker, federal and state grants
- Unknown obligations, such as special education tuitions and transportation

FY15 Spending Breakdown:

- FY15 approved operating budget balance on July 1, 2014: \$24,092,579
- FY15 Town Article in \$500,000
- Total Grants/Revolving funding- about \$1,000,000
- Circuit Breaker: FY14 carryover and FY15 allocation \$427,216
- Circuit Breaker carryover to FY16 will be \$176,071, which will support FY16 out of district tuitions

Supporting Strategic Objectives:

- Strategic need: Vision 2020-Math curriculum aligned with common core and technology initiative
- Budget impact is a one time funding through special town article for \$600,000
- Mr. Cicollo described the interactive projectors that are critical to the success of the math vision 2020- Epson projector uses your finger and not a special pen. Also it can be mounted close to the wall. This will help the curriculum overall
- Question by Lynch- what will we do with current projectors? Response by Mr. Cicollo said he could use some and equip conference and meeting rooms and try to trade some in for value
- Question by Marriner- how does this translate into humanities? Response by Ms. St. Ives- that there are different activities that can be done to support humanities and there are books that can be read aloud through the projector
- Question by Mr. Marriner- What is the longevity for this equipment? Response by Mr. Cicollo that the lifespan is 5-7 years which is inline with most technology
- Comment by Mr. Geary that he would like to see the advantages discussed of using such technology not just its features
- Comment by Mr. Geary that he would like a certain percentage of teachers to be trained and to use this technology. We know it wont be 100%, but the majority of teachers need to be able to use this
- Question by Mr. Phillips- if we went to a 1-1 initiative for devices for each student- would the projectors be compatible? Response by Mr. Cicollo that they would be compatible with ipads and chrome books
- Question by Ms. Booker- can you explain the assessments that are taken on computers? Response by Ms. St. Ives that some teachers use it periodically because it gives faster results but an interactive projector wouldn't change that because its done more in a computer lab setting
- Strategic need is to reach a new collective bargaining agreement with HTA for FY16-18
- This will have a budget impact of \$500,00-\$700,00
- Strategic needs: to increase access to extracurricular activities and athletics- Dr. Raab would like to move all of the athletic directors salary into the operating budget- that allows us to reduce the athletic user fees by 25% and maintain a family cap
- This will be an increase in the operating budget of about \$68,000
- Strategic Need: to support the needs of all learns and meet state requirements- Add pre-school teacher (.5 FTE), add ELL instructor (.5 FTE) and increase math coach (.4 FTE)
- Question by Marriner- Will adding a pre-school teacher to give children services early help with a long-term special ed cost and education plan? Response by Ms.

- Shea that it will help with their education plan to receive services earlier and it will help to reduce out of district placements, which would cost \$60,000 for one student
- Question by Ms. Booker- do we need the extra ELL teacher now? Response by Ms. Shea that the state gives you a time period to remedy such problems and we have until September to make changes and get into compliance on this issue
 - This will be an increase in the operating budget of \$74,000
 - Strategic Need: to increase support for emotional and mental health challenges- Ms. Shea has been able to support this with grants and speakers for students and parents- This is budget neutral item
 - Question by Ms. Lynch- do we have adequate support at the high school for students returning from hospitalization or rehab? Response by Ms. Shea that we do have support that allows students to transition back into the building and they can utilize alternative high school. However, there is more room for improvement and we are bringing in an independent person to evaluate this need
 - Strategic Need: To increase access to music education at HMS and to support and increase wellness education- This is a budget neutral item
 - Strategic Need: Support the addition of a school resource officer- partner with HPD to increase safety and implement critical supports for students- This is budget neutral; Proposed funding in HPD budget
 - Question by Mr. Marriner -How do you feel an SRO would overlap with other needs at middle school and high school? Response by Mr. Galligan- this person could help support students with mental health issues or need support with other issues and could help educationally with preventative programs
- Primary Budget Drivers: Personnel:
- HTA contractual increases \$500,000-700,000
 - AFSCME and non- union salary increase (1.5%)- \$144,000
 - Pre-school teachers (.5) \$15,000
 - ELL teacher \$35,000
 - Increase math coach (.4) \$24,000
 - Total investment in technology this year is \$350,226.35- the FY16 Budget request has a technology increase of \$103,816.98
 - Systemwide Transportation will be an increase of \$20,127.20 (in the transportation contract- contract was made for 2 years)
 - Systemwide Sped Tuitions will be an increase of \$48,342.52 (this is to keep things status quo with leeway for minimal increases)

FY16 Budget Summary:

- Operating Budget projected change from FY15 to FY16 is \$955,467
- Operating Budget: Expense Budget projected change is \$43,000 increase- going to look if it can be cut down so it will be level service
- This is a 4% increase
- Additional required funding will be grants around \$1,000,000 and Circuit Breaker funding in the amount of \$400,000
- Comment by Mr. Marriner that his job is to be fiscally responsible but also he needs to be educationally responsible and if we aren't increasing the budget then we are taking steps backwards educationally
- Comment by Ms. Lynch that the presentation was well done and very clear and hopes that public understands it as well
- Comment by Ms. Lynch- she would like the information of class sizes to look at because it directly affects the budget

Securing Sustainability:

- Need Local Funding and Chapter 70, Special Town Articles, Grants/User Fees and State Reimbursement
- Comment by Mr. Geary- This is us collectively setting the stage for the next six weeks and would like the community to understand it and get behind it. He would like the community to be aware of the meeting dates and would like an email sent to all parents that comes from the principals of each school so the parents may be more inclined to read it

Report on Teaching & Learning: None

Action Items: None

Public Comments: None presented.

Motion by Geary to adjourn the meeting of January 21, 2015 at 9:13pm. The motion was seconded by Phillips. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Andrea Holmes

Documents Used:

Minutes 12-3- 14

Minutes 1-7-15

Donations 1-21-15

FY16 Budget Presentation