

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2018
Hanover High School

Present: Mrs. Kimberly Booker, Mrs. Libby Corbo and Mrs. Leah Miller

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

Absent: John Geary and Ruth Lynch

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Co-Chairperson Booker.

M.A.S.S. Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence: Nicholas O'Hara was the recipient of this award. Mr. Paquette presented this award to Nicholas. He congratulated Nicholas and shared a brief overview of Nicholas' academic accomplishments, which also included the recipient of multiple honor awards, accolades and scholarships.

Public Comment: None presented

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Corbo to approve the meeting minutes of December 6, 2017 as presented.
The motion was seconded by Miller. The vote carried.

Report of the Superintendent: Presented by Matthew Ferron

Events and Updates – Mr. Ferron congratulated Nick for receiving the Superintendent's Award. He then urged everyone to check the school calendars for the many winter activities that are happening. He continued by thanking the town departments for the tremendous teamwork and collaboration the school department is fortunate to have with them. The collaboration the school department enjoys with all of the town departments is exceptional. These things make a community stronger and emphasize the teamwork that they share.

North River Collaborative Annual Report - Mr. Ferron presented the Committee with NRC Annual Report for their review. This is the first 6 months of the new board structure. Mr. Ferron feels it is going very well and they are working very hard to look at the service needs of the community. Mr. Ferron is happy to have a voice in the process. He urged the Committee to contact him should they have any questions upon review.

Superintendent Mid-Cycle Progress Report - Mr. Ferron reviewed the goals as shown in Appendix A and is confident that most of them are going quite strong and is pleased with the work done so far.

- **Goal 1: District Improvement - (HHS Connect Project)** Mr. Paquette and his team are working diligently with this goal and are trying to determine the best way to align the course redesign with students. Attached in the packet is information on the

collaboration with Massasoit. The first semester just concluded and students are receiving college credits towards the American Sign Language and Philosophy courses offered. Mr. Ferron informed the Committee that the areas of concentration for the Curriculum Pathways to pilot have been narrowed down, but are still a work in progress. He feels this goal is on target and is looking toward a successful implementation next year.

- **Goal 2: District Improvement - (HMS Program of Studies)** The Middle School did an extensive presentation at last meeting. This presentation is attached, however Mr. Ferron feels that Mr. Birolini and his team offered a comprehensive presentation, and if the Committee has any additional questions concerning this goal, he asked that they contact him.
- **Goal 3: District Improvement - (Technology)** The goal to work on a districtwide curriculum on Technology has become more daunting than an initially anticipated. Mr. Ferron is working with Mr. Plummer, and feels this is on target, however, they are continuing to ensure they are within the State and ITSE standards. Mr. Ferron reviewed additional projects, plans and professional development that are scheduled and ongoing which focus on this goal. The Technology Study Committee, adopted in Town Meeting last spring, have met a couple of times and have additional meetings scheduled. Being a town wide technology department, these meetings will be tied into the budget process. The committee is planning its next meeting for January 25th. Mr. Ferron told the Committee that they continue to find areas for improvement in technology integration and are making recommendations for advancement.
- **Goal 4: Community Engagement – (Choose Presence Campaign)** There is an attachment included in the Committee packets, which highlights all the programs that are currently going on in the district. There is a *Choose Presence* Page on the website that is updated regularly. Based on parental feedback, *Screenagers* will be shown again in January. Mr. Ferron is urging parents to bring their children to view this presentation. He also reviewed some of the activities and programs which is focusing on media and choosing presence. In March, Dr. Michael Rich, “aka The Mediatriation” will be speaking. This will focus on media and brain health. Many students’ projects are focused on screen time and media issues. The high school band and chorus performed their first ever Prism Concert, themed for *Choose Presence*. This was an uninterrupted performance, all themed on “being present”. Additionally, Mrs. Smith is working with Dr. Elizabeth Englander to schedule a taped interview surrounding Cyber bullying.
- **Goal 5: Professional Practice – (Professional Personalized Learning)** This goal is focusing on *HHS Connect*. As a team, they are asking questions such as “what motivates the student” and “how can we teach in this way to the students”. Mr. Ferron and Mrs. St. Ives attended a Model Schools Conference over the summer and although they learned a lot, he feels that it was affirmation that Hanover is a leader and have many people on staff that are very talented. There will be a parent event planned for February to answer questions about *HHS Connect*. Plans will also continue to develop the relationship with Massasoit College.

Mr. Ferron feels confident that some of these goals will be ahead of where they want to be. He also spoke about plans to “turn off the whole district” in March, however, this will generally focused on the elementary level. He is also getting information on National Brian

Awareness Week which is in March. Mr. Ferron knows people in this field and is looking to partner with this and focus on our brains and share resources.

Center School Building Project Update presented Mrs. Corbo - The project is making lots of progress. A lot of the work is now indoors. They will try to get some pictures on line. By the end of next week, it should be sheet rocked. The Building Committee is looking to schedule a meeting for possibly next Thursday at 6pm. The meetings are open to the public and will be posted no later than Friday. Mrs. Corbo urged everyone to check the calendar. The purpose of the meeting will be focused on updates, review color boards and discuss furniture.

Special Education Subcommittee Update presented by Mrs. Booker - The Special Education Subcommittee met today at 11:00am. Mrs. Booker thanked Mrs. St. Ives and Dr. Raab for attending this meeting. The focus was on attendance mandates for membership. Updates on survey planning was also discussed in addition to MCAS scores. The committee is still waiting for Collaboration for Academic Social and Emotional Learning (CASTEL) to release their surveys. There was a robust conversation about multi-sensory reading with a focus on the Wilson Reading System. They are also looking to hiring a consultant to review current reading programs and to make recommendations. The next meeting is February 7th at 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Report of Finance Department Presented by Dr. Raab:

- **Donations** - Donations received from the following: Hanover PTA, Hanover Boosters, anonymous from Lack & Cogan Atty, Hanover School Families and Mr. & Mrs. Baldinelli, totaling \$14,763.22.

Motion by Corbo to accept the donations in the amount of \$14,763.22 as presented this evening. The motion was seconded by Miller. The motion carried.

- **FY'18 Monthly Budget Summary** – Dr. Raab stated that FY'18 is doing really well. He highlighted items as shown in Appendix C. To date, 45.51% of budget has been spent, which is expected at this point in the fiscal year. The Vision 2020 account has \$37,482.80 in available funds. These funds are available to continue buying materials and professional development related to the program. There was discussion surrounding the negative balance of \$100,486.12 in districtwide special education expenses. Mr. Ferron spoke regarding the Circuit Breaker reserve of \$70,000 and that this amount is far below where they are comfortable with. The Legislature is hopefully looking to increase the reimbursement to 65%. There is a hard push from Superintendents to bring the 65 % reimbursement up to the legislated 75% to the elected officials, although he is not sure of the outcome of this.
- **FY'19 Budget 1.0 Update** – Dr. Raab reviewed the preliminary budget which represents a 3% increase from FY'18. He highlighted changes shown in Appendix D. He incorporated eight known retirements this year, which will result in a \$210,000 savings in salaries. The 240 Grant has been level funded the past two years and he anticipates the same next year. He then reviewed the increase in expenses of \$203,291 as well as the proposed increases as shown in Appendix D. The transportation contract will be live to view for bidders on Tuesday and will be due back by February 12th. Dr. Raab informed the committee that he will review all line items during the January 24th meeting. Mrs. Corbo inquired about the reading specialist position at Center School which was

eliminated due to unforeseen circumstances. She was concerned as to whether or not it was being brought back. Mr. Ferron spoke regarding this subject, and based on all the collective discussions with the elementary principals, and administrators, he feels they are solidly resourced right now, and is comfortable with staffing at the elementary level. Discussion continued around the need for services at Center & Sylvester. Mrs. Corbo is happy with their decision if they are confident regarding the staffing. Mr. Ferron reiterated that the possibility of the consultant that may be hired, as mentioned in the Special Education Subcommittee presentation, will be for an assessment only. It will be done for some support. The committee thanked Dr. Raab for his thorough presentation.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

No Report (HHS Assessment Update moved to next meeting)

Action Items: No Items

- **Public Comment:** None presented

The next School Committee Meeting will be January 24, 2018 at Hanover High School: Items currently on the Agenda are High School Assessment Presentation (MCAS/AP/SAT), FY'19 Budget Presentation 1.0, HHS Connect Update.

Motion by Corbo to adjourn at 8:08 pm. The motion was seconded by Miller. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa V. Keefe

Documents Used:

Superintendent Mid-Cycle Progress Report
Donations
FY'18 Monthly Budget Summary
FY'19 Budget 1.0 Update

Appendix A
Appendix B
Appendix C
Appendix D