

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2016
Hanover High School

Present: Mr. John Geary, Mrs. Ruth Lynch, Mrs. Kimberly Booker, Mrs. Libby Corbo and Mrs. Leah Miller

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Joan Woodward, Thomas Raab, Debbie St. Ives, Kevin Perry, Matthew Paquette, Matthew Plummer, Emeline Dhomme

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Geary.

Public Comment: None presented.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Lynch to approve the Hanover School Committee meeting minutes from October 12, 2016. The motion seconded by Booker. The vote carried unanimously.

Report of the Superintendent Events and Updates

- There was a minor bus accident this morning. There were no injuries with any of the children on the bus. A passenger from the other vehicle, also a student, was taken to the hospital for observation. No further details or information were given due to privacy, however Mr. Ferron will keep the Committee up to date if there are any updates.
- Homecoming is this weekend. The dance is Saturday night and the football tournament begins Friday night at home vs. Norton. Hanover is the # 1 seed. Everyone is very excited.
- Hanover Middle School Harvest Fest/Harvest Jam is this weekend. It will be a very busy night in Hanover and everyone is looking forward to all the events planned.
- Ms. Corbo updated the Committee on the Center/Sylvester Building Project. They had a meeting regarding the phasing schedule during the construction of the project.

Report of the Finance Department – Presented by Dr. Raab

- FY17 Monthly Budget Update was given. Dr. Raab pointed out the bottom line total budget amount of \$26,215,115 represents the approved Town Meeting budget plus the \$450,000 Annual Town meeting Article for Special Education. He also specifically reviewed the expense lines in the report that showed negative amounts in the Vision 2020 line, as well as the Special Education and Circuit Breaker lines. All variances are explained on the cover sheet supplied with the budget report.
- Mrs. Lynch thanked Dr. Raab for the cover sheet explaining the breakdown of the negative expense amounts. She feels it eliminates questions that would normally arise, but having the explanation is very helpful.
- Dr. Raab reiterated that he is in daily communication with Joan Woodward regarding the education situations concerning Special Education because they have to watch the Circuit Breaker account very closely seeing they do not have the cushion they had last year.

Q1 Revolving Account Update

- Cedar Before and After School Program continues to be very strong. Some of the figures are representative of revenue lagging behind expenses. Most of the revenue has been recovered

due to the fact that they bill two weeks in arrears, so the funds are generally taken in after the expenses are paid out. This will be reflected in the Quarter 2 report.

- The Cedar Full Day Kindergarten is showing there is a lot more money and this is because it has not been fully expensed, but will be adjusted for the second quarter, which will bring the outstanding balance more in line with Center.
- School Store – There has been a lot of purchasing for the holidays and Dr. Raab is confident that the next quarter will show the results of the revenue from the holiday sales. Mr. Geary questioned why there was no money spent on Cedar or Middle school library. Dr. Raab explained that money that came in from Scholastic Book Fair and it is possible there have been no purchases to date from the respective schools.

Report on Teaching and Learning

Update on AP Results

- Mr. Plummer gave an update on the presentation from the last meeting. Mrs. Miller and Mr. Plummer met after the last meeting and she pointed out that some of the slide titles were not clear; therefore he wanted to bring more clarity to specific slides. To clarify slide 5, there were 212 students enrolled in AP and they took a total of 347 exams. Some students took more than 1 exam. 135 of the 212 students scored higher than 3 on at least one of their exams. Mrs. Lynch said that although most high schools require students that take an AP course are required to take the exam. If certain high schools do not require the exams be taken, the percentages in the scores will ultimately appear higher, when in fact they are not. Mr. Ferron is happy with the partnership the administrative team and Committee. He is happy to work in collaboration with the Committee.

Action Items –

Updates to District Substance Use Policies

Motion by Lynch to approve the Drug Policy for Students File JICH-R as presented as Appendix D.

Motion seconded by Booker. The vote carried unanimously.

Motion by Lynch to approve the Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco IHAMA as Appendix D as presented. Motion seconded by Booker. The vote carried unanimously.

- Mrs. Lynch was a bit concerned the last time this policy was reviewed was 10 year ago, and questioned whether policies should be reviewed to ensure they are accurate and up to date. Mr. Geary agreed and suggested that every 5 years would be a good threshold for policy review. Mrs. Corbo added that at the end of Dr. Nash's tenure, there were some policies looked at but may be worth looking at it again. Mr. Ferron feels comfortable that our policies are in are line with the handbooks, but will take it under advisement. Our policies follow MASC organizational structure. He thinks they are in good shape. If question 4 is passed it will take time to revisit and review. He asked the Committee for time to set up a schedule to review all policies and create a goal.

HHS 2017-2018 French Exchange Program

- Ms. Dhommee spoke about the French exchange trip. Last year 20 students visited here from France and stayed with their respective host families. After two weeks, it was amazing to see what the experience taught the students, and what they got from the exchange.
- Ms. Dhommee said she expected the 20 students that came from France, and the 20 that went would have a wonderful experience, but she did not expect that it would affect the entire school community as it did. They visited the middle and elementary schools, and the students were able to learn a different culture. In the spring, the Hanover students went to France, and she was excited to see how the students saw it.

- Renee Babin, Emma Buckley, Chloe Coughlin and Sam Mitchell all spoke about their experiences, both as a host family and the travel to France. The overall feeling is that it was a once in a lifetime experience. They learned so much and it opened their eyes to a different culture.
- Renee spoke about how the students were excited to come to school while the French students were visiting. They still stay in touch with the students from last year. The visit impacted the whole school. They felt that Hanover High gained 20 Indians by the time the students went back to France. Emma said it was the best part of high school.
- Chloe, who went to France, said the biggest thing she took from being in France was to listen in French better. It was interesting to see the differences from our country. She feels that overall we have very limited knowledge about other countries, and it was very interesting to learn a different culture.
- Sam, who also spoke, both hosted a student and went to France. Her favorite part was experiencing how the French lived their daily lives. The food was fabulous. She also talked about having a student stay at their house and how the daily things we do are so much different than what they know. Mr. Geary thanked the students for a wonderful presentation.

Motion by Lynch to approve the French Exchange Program as presented. Seconded by Booker. The vote carried unanimously.

HHS April 2018 Europe Field Trip – Presented by Mr. Perry

- Trip planned for April 2018 that he is looking to have approved is “World War II in Depth”. The trip is connected to the current curriculum. By sophomore year all have studied WWII. The trip is open to 10th -12th grade students. The trip has been very successful in the past and Mr. Perry looks forward to it. Mrs. Corbo commented that based on the trip and what will be visited, it will be a very emotional trip for them, seeing such places as the Holocaust. Mr. Perry agreed that many trips, this included, are emotional, but important trips for the students. Mrs. Corbo has heard rave reviews about these trips in the past and appreciates Mr. Perry for them.

Motion by Lynch to approve the Field Trip Request for Europe for 4/12/18 - 4/21/18 as presented by Mr. Perry Appendix F. Seconded by Booker. The vote carried unanimously.

The next School Committee meeting is tentatively set for Nov. 16th but some members will not be able to attend, therefore there is a possibility it may be rescheduled. Mr. Geary will work with Mr. Ferron and look for an alternative. As of right now November 16th is tentative.

Mrs. Booker commented on Mrs. Foley 8th grade class’ concerns about possible changes they would like to see. They would like to add more strings to the music program as well as a 2nd Physical Education class at the middle school. She is not sure if can ever be implemented, but thought it was very interesting to hear from the students.

Mrs. Lynch inquired as to when the student will be notified that he/she is the recipient of the Superintendents award. Mr. Ferron told the Committee that the student is aware of the award.

Public Comment: None presented.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2016 at 7:00pm at the High School. On the agenda is the M.A.S.S. Superintendent’s Academic Achievement Award, FY18 Budget Development Timeline, MCAS/PARCC Gr. 3-8 Report.

Motion by Lynch to adjourn 7:48 pm. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa V. Keefe

Documents Used:

FY17 Monthly Budget Report
Q1 Revolving Account Update
Update on AP Results
Updates to District Substance Use Policies
HHS 2017-2018 French Exchange Program
HHS April 2018 Europe Field Trip