

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2016
Hanover High School

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

Absent: Thomas Raab, Debbie St. Ives

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Joan Woodward, Daniel Birolini, Patricia Smith, Matthew Paquette, Matthew Plummer, Sheila Walsh, Hugh Galligan, Aaron DiGaudio

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

Public Comment: None presented.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Booker to approve the Hanover School Committee meeting minutes from September 28, 2016 as written. The motion was seconded by Miller. The motion carried with a majority with abstention by Corbo and Lynch.

Report of the Superintendent

Events and Updates

- Drug policy updates from the Department of Education were presented for review. Mr. Ferron asked that the School Committee look over the information and contact Joan Woodward or himself with any questions. These required changes will need action at the next meeting due to the fact that they need to be approved and reported back to Department of Education by October 28th. Policies will be on the website for review.
- Due to the recent clown scare, Mr. Ferron was happy to report that there have been no clowns sighted in Hanover.
- Mrs. Corbo was excited to report about the success at the polls for the Center/Sylvester Building Project. 79% of the voters voted to move the project forward. She was very happy with the community support and thanked the administrative team. She has met with architects and project manager. They will be moving into design phase. Meetings will be scheduled for the planning board, conservation and health department over the next couple of months.
- Mrs. St. Ives is away with her family and Dr. Raab is absent because he is volunteering his time for the Scouts this evening.

Report of the Finance Department – None Presented

Report on Teaching and Learning

High School Standardized Tests Report

- A PowerPoint presentation was shown and began with the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) and the how the test has changed. The new SAT was administered this past March. Mr. Galligan reviewed the format and rationale and how the focus is on the class of 2017. Most seniors have taken the new format, although some have used the old format as well. The scoring has changed. There is no penalty for incorrect scores. The makeup of the test has changed to condense evidence based reading and writing but math has stayed the same. In

addition, the essay is optional, although many colleges require the essay. The new format is focused more on concentrated on one set of data. It is a more skills based test.

- The review of the scoring showed the following for the Class of 2017. The State measures student achievement against the benchmarks they set and may change year to year. The State benchmark for this year was set at 80 for evidence based reading and writing and 530 for math. 55% of Hanover students met both the evidence based reading and writing and mathematics benchmark for a mean total score of 1096.
 - o State and National averages were compared with the scores from Hanover. Hanover is outperforming the State in reading and writing, but not in mathematics. Hanover is outperforming the Nation in both.
 - o State resulted in 60% of students meeting both benchmarks, 80% meeting the benchmark for evidence based reading and writing and 62% meeting the benchmark for math.
 - o Hanover resulted in 55% of students meeting both benchmarks, 80% meeting the benchmark for evidence based reading and writing and 56% meeting the math benchmark.
 - o The National average was 51% of the students that met both benchmarks 73% meeting the evidence based reading benchmark, and 53% meeting the math benchmark.
- 86 % of the class of 2017 have already taken the SATs. Statewide only 60% and 40% nationally. The result is very promising that we have already had 86% of our seniors take the test.
- Advanced Placement tests are taken in May across the country. The best score you can get is a 5, with the magic number being a 3. It consists of a series of multiple-choice questions, with the second portion being an essay test. Many colleges will grant or waive requirements based on grades with a 3 or higher. It is a National Standardized test for AP classes.
- The high school approach is to ensure increased AP participation as well as to increase performance on AP tests.
- The number of Hanover students that have previously taken AP classes from 2010 was 114, and has increased each year. This year the enrollment for Advanced Placement courses is 234. This is evidence of a growing program at Hanover High School. In 2010 there were 62 students that received a 3 or higher. This number has also increased each year, with over 135 students that had scores of a 3 or higher. Mr. Paquette thinks that although the numbers can be higher, he is confident they are heading in the right direction.
- In Arts there are three different courses and all 21 students received 3+ or higher on their AP exam. English increased number of students 68 to 70 students and last year we had 80% of the students score 3 or higher. Foreign language AP classes are down. There were only 5 students last year participating in these courses, this year 14. Mr. Paquette explained how they have changed the strategy for foreign language AP, which seems to be increasing participation. Social Sciences have shown growth in all areas and performance was very impressive. Mr. Paquette wanted the School Committee to realize that the US History and World History AP exams were taken in the student's sophomore year, which is very impressive. Math AP classes have increased from 15 to 26 students and performance increased from 80% to 84%.
- The Computer Science class is run through the VHS program.
- Mr. Plummer sat in on a webinar today for an AP Computer Science Principles class that is still in the pilot stage, but seems it to be extremely popular and hopes to offer it at HHS.
- Science scores are not where they would like them to be, but the participation and scores are going up. Biology performance went up 12% and Chemistry enrollment tripled.
- The summary results showed that almost a third of the student body are taking AP classes. Although we are moving in the right direction, we have to work to see how to achieve

higher numbers. They have three or four classes they need to focus on. Mr. Paquette agreed there is a continued increase in numbers as well as scoring. They want to achieve more four and five scores.

- MCAS scores were reviewed by Dr. Walsh. Grade 10 over 87% scored Advanced or Proficient in Math with the state at 78%. She is very happy with the scores.
- Special Education Math 47% scored Advanced or Proficient with the state average at 39%. The group represented 30 students.
- 90% of students for the Science MCAS scored Advanced or Proficient with zero students failing. The overall trend has been an increase in Advanced and Proficient.
- Special Education Science - 66% scored Advanced or Proficient. Outperforming state average of 39%.
- ELA - 99% of the students placed at Advanced or Proficient, which is 7 points ahead of state, with no failures for over four years.
- Special Education ELA results show that 97% of the students placed Advanced or Proficient which is 38% over the state. All are very happy to report all MCAS scores at this time.
- Mr. Geary commented on how the scores are not from the same cohort of students. He feels it is important to capture the information on the same group of students and thinks it is important to state this information when reviewing statistics.
- Mr. Geary was trying to understand the AP data, and whether or not one student can take a particular test twice, to which the answer was no, there is no duplication of students in the class from one year to the next.
- Mrs. Corbo feels it's important that if a student is taking an AP class, they be required to take the test, which Mr. Paquette reassured her that this was the case in Hanover. Mrs. Corbo also asked how low enrollment classes are taught. They are typically taught through VHS (Virtual High School).
- Mrs. Lynch complimented the depth of the presentation and commends their philosophy. She was unhappy to hear that there are 26 AP chemistry students in one class, and was unsure how the teacher handles that many students. It was explained that they broke the lab in half in order to accommodate the students accordingly to allow them to learn and be taught.
- The dedication that the students and teachers have over the summer months concerning the AP program is incredible.
- Mrs. Booker appreciated the presentation and is very excited about AP offerings and the amount of students in the classes. She asked if all of the students in the Needs Improvement or Failed categories for MCAS were the special education students. The number of special education students has remained fairly consistent over the last several years.
- Mrs. Miller is very impressed with the AP program. She asked if the reason there is no SAT data is because it was the new test that was administered and not wanting to compare different data. Mr. Galligan answered that yes, in fact that was the reason. It was also confirmed that AP was a national curriculum and test, however each individual teaches the classes a little different. Mr. Geary thanked the group for their presentations.

High School Academy Model Update

- Mr. Paquette began with an explanation about an academy model update and the fact that the task force has been renamed to the Innovation Team. They currently have 18 members, with representation from almost all disciplines and from the middle school. The team has met initially to establish objectives and set meeting dates and time.
- Objectives are to explore ideas around curriculum and instruction to stimulate student interest in courses at the high school or that could create relevance to career and college goals.

- The team will be meeting 10 times, which will be twice a month, ending February 15th with the intent to present findings to School Committee. In addition, they would like to periodically update the School Committee in the interim. The process is being started with administrative and teaching staff with the plan to branch out to parents and students. Mrs. Lynch commented that she was disappointed that they are moving away from the term "Academy". She loves the name and sound of it, and hopes they revisit the term.

Action Items

Health Policy Update

- Mrs. Smith reviewed the current and new policies regarding the administering of medication and processes that go along with it. The new section in the policy is a new regulation for schools to carry Nasal Naloxone in the event of an opiate overdose. It is recommended by the Department of Public Health and National Association of School Nurses and is becoming common practice across the state.
- Mrs. Corbo asked if there is there an age where the student can administer and self- carry medication on their own. Mrs. Smith explained that generally speaking the elementary students do not self-carry, high school students do carry EpiPens and inhalers on their own, and middle school is the gray area that they monitor based on the student. The goal is to allow students to carry by the end of 8th grade. Should a parent request their child carry on their own, the nurse would then assess and make the final decision as to whether or not it would be allowed.

Motion by Mrs. Lynch to approve Health Policy titled Update the Administration of Medicine in Schools, Appendix B, as presented on October 12, 2016. The motion was seconded by Booker. The vote carried unanimously.

HMS Washington DC Field Trip Approval

- Mr. Birolini thanked the School Committee for meeting with them regarding the Washington DC trip. They had an opportunity to meet with the parents to review the trip and answer questions. There was an overwhelmingly positive response from parents to allow this opportunity again this year. Mrs. Corbo commended them on creating such a successful program for the students in the school. Children in the younger grades are already talking about taking the trip because of the positive reputation it has in the school.

Motion by Lynch for the final approval for the Hanover Middle School Washington DC trip as presented October 12th. Motion seconded by Booker. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None presented.

- Mrs. Corbo reminded everyone that the Center/Sylvester Building Committee meets tomorrow night at 7pm at the high school. All are invited to attend. Dates and times are posted on town calendar.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2016 at 7:00pm at the High School. On the agenda will be the monthly budget update as well as the French exchange program request. Mr. Ferron stated that the required drug policies will require Action as well.

Motion by Lynch to adjourn at 8:20 pm. The motion was seconded by Booker. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa V. Keefe

Documents Used:

Hanover High School Standardized Testing (Appendix A)

Health Policy Update (Appendix B)

HMS Washington DC Field Trip Memorandum (Appendix C)