

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2016
Hanover High School

Present: John Geary, Kimberly Booker, Libby Corbo (7:05pm-7:40pm) and Leah Miller

Absent: Ruth Lynch

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Thomas Raab, Debbie St. Ives, Joan Woodward, Daniel Birolini, Jane DeGrenier, Matthew Paquette, Michael Oates, Matthew Plummer, Hugh Galligan

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 minutes from September 14, 2016. The motion was seconded by Miller. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of the Superintendent

Events and Updates

- Mr. Ferron thanked everyone that worked so hard on the Center School Building Project and for everyone coming out Monday night to support it. He reminded everyone to vote on Saturday.
- This Sunday, Hanover has a team including town employees that are walking in the Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk. For the first time the town has had a team participate in the event. He reviewed information for anyone interested in donating/supporting the team.
- SNAP Kickoff – Joan Woodward explained what a wonderful event this was and thanked Adriana Mason and Carrie Bellerby for their hard work. They began efforts in January of last year to kick off Hanover SNAP. Athletes and peer mentors from the middle and high schools participated. There was great representation. First game of the season this coming Saturday.
- The High School held a College Fair today. 72 colleges and universities attended along with the US Armed services.
- The 3rd annual Hanover Huddle was this past Friday night. Over 150 people attended. It was a lot of fun, lots of activities and events for everyone. The high school had the most participants and received a gift from Horace Mann who was sponsored the event.
- This Monday night, October 3rd we will be holding “No First Time” and “Hidden in Plain Sight”, which is for family members and community members. Presented by Stephanie and John Greene. A mock bedroom will be created at the high school for the event. Mr. Ferron encouraged the community to come out and become more aware and educated. He stressed how important it is to be informed about opioid abuse.
- Wednesday night, October 5th, there will be a SEPAC roundtable held at the high school. There will be tables to talk to administrators and educators.
- Administration is looking at long-range budget planning and reinforced that the technology department is not capable of meeting the needs of our system today. There are not enough staff resources and they cannot keep up at times. The leadership team agreed it is a necessity to invest in resources. This requires additional training and support and although nothing specific is planned, they would like the Committee to be aware and have it on the radar for September.

Charter School Resolution Update

- This is the third meeting where the Charter School resolution was discussed. The Committee had conversations with legal counsel and they presented a final draft resolution if the School Committee should choose to vote. Mr. Geary asked to take a vote to see if everyone was willing to vote at this time regarding this resolution.

Motion by Booker to approve resolution against lifting the cap on Charter Schools. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The panel was then opened for discussion or comment.

- Ms. Corbo spoke about the proposal of the Charter School bill as written and feels it is excessive. Although she feels that Charter Schools provide valuable service, she cannot support the bill as written.

Motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Geary commented that in addition to the Committee's core responsibilities of evaluating the Superintendent, having to hire/fire the Superintendent, as well as the oversight of the school budget, they are promoting a culture of trust and transparency and accountability and this is a sign of the trust and partnership they have with the administration, teachers and teachers union. He wanted them to know that he appreciates and trusts what they are doing and supports them. Andrew Mahoney spoke briefly to thank the Committee for taking the time and appreciates the partnership with School Committee as well.

Center/Sylvester Building Project Update

- Ms. Corbo thanked everyone involved with the Center/Sylvester Building Project and for all the support they have shown. She stated with great pleasure the overwhelming support the project received at Town Meeting was tremendous. She mentioned the ballots open Saturday and require majority vote.

Report of the Finance Department – presented by Dr. Raab

Donations

- Dr. Raab presented a list of donations totaling \$646.50. In addition to donations mentioned, there was a \$500.00 donation from Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare as a mini grant presented to Mr. Pete Arena for a PE equipment at the Middle School.
- Additional donations received by Randy Galbrecht included a flute, trombone, and trumpet to the Middle School. In addition a 7ft grand piano donated from a Chris Wise, a 1971 graduate, was received for use at the Middle School.

Motion by Booker to approve tonight's donation as written and presented. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The motion carried unanimously.

Report on Teaching and Learning presented by: Matthew Paquette, Daniel Birolini, Jane DeGrenier, Michael Oates, Hugh Galligan, and Matthew Plummer

- Mr. Galligan presented about Goal #1 – To successfully integrate a School Resource Officer (SRO) into all Hanover Public Schools. The goal is focusing on Phase 2. He spoke about the success of having the SRO in buildings to date. The plan stands the same and the SRO will have a rotating schedule with all 4 schools. The officer has become part of the culture of schools. ALICE training will continue and 3 sessions at elementary levels and high school have already been completed. The middle school will be the next focus of training. There will also be an increase on bus, bike and car safety. In addition, Distractology 101 will educate all high school drivers on distracted driving. Goals are similar to last year; the activities are different and are stressing the educational partnership.
- Mr. Plummer presented Goal #4 – To improve student learning through increased teacher training in Technology Integration and digital literacy in the classroom. He stated the rationale has not changed but the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)

standards that are addressed have changed drastically, with the student standards changed in June. Standards released in June are “transformative learning with technology.” He reiterated the need to be able to support and embrace the requirements and standards.

- Mr. Paquette presented Goal #2 for the high school – To embark on a comprehensive exploration of course opportunities to afford future HHS students focused pathways within the selected areas of academic interest. Expectations regarding state requirements have not changed but they would like to explore the way we facilitate the educational experience at the high school. The goals will allow students to have options that would stimulate greater student interest in course offerings and of greater relevance to students. Mr. Paquette spoke of the exploration of what would a freshman academy look like at the high school, should the VHS opportunities be expanded, and how do we expand AP opportunities? These are questions that will be presented to the curriculum task force that will be exploring how to facilitate the educational experience at the high school.
- Mr. Oates presented Goal #2 - To continue to enhance instruction and student learning outcomes in Math and Science. Mr. Oates spoke about how they are implementing the goals and where they are in Year 2 of the enVisions math program. The crux of the goal is enhancing instruction. We are beginning a walk-to-compute model at Cedar, which was piloted at Center/Sylvester last year, as well as implementing Math Diagnostic Intervention Systems (MDIS) for students who may be struggling. Progress is not only being measured at the school and classroom level, but at the student level as well. There is also a focus on literacy to help students improve in math this year. He spoke about teachers learning supplemental apps that support the program and enhancements and dedicated time for analysis of data of formative assessments. Teachers are developing their own goals around improving student outcomes in math and more opportunities for peer observations this year.
- Ms. DeGrenier presented Goal #2 in relation to Science. New science standards were introduced over the last year. The middle school took a deeper look at content-based teaching and they now are incorporating all three domains of science into one class as opposed to individual science levels by grade. A project based learning course was held in summer 2016 and many teachers came back and shared what they learned with their colleagues. This year the new standards will be fully implemented K-8. Teachers will use model curriculum units, which integrate ELA and math in science. Teachers will be provided ongoing support in the implementation of the standards and will be provided PLC time for lesson development.
- Mr. Birolini presented Goal #3 – To continue to improve student learning through the use of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), teacher collaboration time, peer visitation, and professional development. Instructional Rounds and peer visitation will be implemented this year and professional development will remain a focus of the district. The goal at all three levels is to continue the positive work in PLC’s, maintain formal agendas and measurable objectives, and use protocols and norms. We are discussing best practices, the importance of common assessments, and imbedded technology. The overall goal is growth for all students. There has been more in depth conversation with staff as opposed to having only standard staff meetings. He thanked teachers and administrators for making this a priority because what is being done is so important.
- Deb St. Ives commented on Goal #3 - She is very happy that they have the ability to reflect and work together, and to be able to talk about other buildings and what is happening within them. She is very proud to be part of the team and have the administrators be part of the team. She stated they all have worked very hard and it is all geared towards collaboration and teamwork, which is evident watching the team speaking tonight.
- Mr. Geary agreed wholeheartedly to what Mrs. St. Ives said. He also reiterated what Ms. St. Ives spoke about being here and what is being done, talking and collaborating is the new norm. He feels they are establishing something truly unique and exciting from 4-5 years ago.

He complimented the principals on a presentation well done. He also spoke about Mr. Galligan's presentation and how he has risen as a leader and that his skill sets are unique.

- Mr. Ferron commented about the effectiveness and efficiency of the ALICE programs; they are intense and scary, but becoming part of our culture. Teachers are getting really well trained. The Committee can be reassured, as well as parents, that this is being taken very seriously in all four schools. We are very well prepared and the police department support is truly amazing. It takes a unique level of conditioning and to implement that conditioning is an enormous task and Mr. Galligan is to be commended for his work.
- Libby Corbo requested permission to step out of meeting for remainder of evening.
- Mr. Geary asked Mr. Paquette about where he wants to take the Academy Model exploration and when he saw his explorations moving into the next steps and when he felt they would be taking action. Mr. Paquette responded that he would like to be sitting in front of Committee in January with proposals, with action as early as next September.
- Mr. Geary' asked if whether or not we, as adults, are able to catch up to the students, and where they are technologically. Mr. Plummer responded that what we can do as educators is understand where students are and understand that we have to let them go.
- The Committee asked that this goal be monitored closely and communicated regularly. They want to be sure capital is being spent accordingly and if the goal is not followed as laid out we need to stay transparent and communicate often, and realign if necessary.
- Ms. Booker thanked the leadership team for the presentations; she felt it was very well done and showed they worked as a team. She is very excited about opportunities students will have in the next few years. She had questions about standardized tests and technology and wanted to know the plans for this year. Mrs. St. Ives stated that it is mandated that the fourth and eighth graders must take the test using technology and that they are planning on taking next generation MCAS this year. Ms. DeGrenier explained that math component can be read aloud or wear headphones with PARCC testing, which allows the students to focus on the math portion and not have reading become an issue with the testing.
- Deb St. Ives answered questions Ms. Booker had regarding the status report Goal #2 with Cedar vs Center Schools and whether or not the goals could be aligned. Mrs. St. Ives explained that there are a lot of moving components regarding schedules, which would be a reason that would make Cedar a step behind in an initiative, which Mike Oates worked very hard to overcome over the summer. The challenges are different at each school.
- Ms. Booker also questioned implementation of the three sciences at the 8th grade level. Mr. Birolini stated they made the change already so they wouldn't have to wait 2 years and will fill in gaps as necessary. Mr. Plummer reiterated that Hanover was in the minority teaching 3 separate sciences.
- Ms. Miller stated she has concerns about the students' exploration within technology and parental consent. Mr. Plummer reassured her that the parents are completely involved, but it is taken seriously and monitored by teachers. Communication with the teachers and parents is very important and the challenge to appropriately and safely use technology.
- Ms. Miller also questioned Goal #2 and whether or not the math homework that is sent home is appropriate and is it enhancing student learning. It seems to be creating math anxiety in children. Ms. St. Ives responded that math homework with this program is supposed to be a tool for teachers. A task force has been put together to look at the value of homework and ask some tough questions as to whether or not it is a benefit and what the value is and what it is doing.
- All School Improvement Plans, along with the 2015-2016 Status Updates are posted online.

Motion by Booker to approve the Cedar School Improvement Plan for 2016-2018 as presented this evening. The motion was seconded by Miller. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Booker to approve the Center Sylvester Elementary School Improvement Plan for 2016-2018 as presented this evening. The motion was seconded by Miller. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Booker to approve the Hanover Middle School Improvement Plan for 2016-2018 as presented this evening. The motion was seconded by Miller. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Booker to approve the High School Improvement Plan for 2016-2018 as presented this evening. The motion was seconded by Miller. The motion carried unanimously.

Home School Request - presented by Debbie St. Ives

- A recommendation was made to approve a home school request for two students.

Motion by Booker to approve the Home School Request that was presented on the evening of September 28th as presented by Mrs. St. Ives. The motion was seconded by Miller. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

- Mr. Ferron made note that the Massachusetts Association of Superintendents Academic Award will be presented at the next meeting.
- Mr. Geary thanked Deb St. Ives for her work with the improvement plans. He stated that it was due to her leadership that it has been successful.
- Ms. Booker reminded everyone that the polls would be open October 1st from 8am – 6pm at the High School and urged everyone to vote for the Center/Sylvester Project.
- Public Comment: None Presented

Motion by Booker to adjourn at 8:33 pm. The motion was seconded by Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2016 at 7:00pm at the High School.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa V. Keefe

Documents Used:

Donations

Charter School Resolution

School Improvement Plans

Home School Request