

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2016
Hanover High School

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

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Thomas Raab, Debbie St. Ives, Joan Woodward, Daniel Birolini, and Aaron DiGuadio

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

Public Comment: None presented.

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion by Lynch to approve the January 20, 2016 executive session. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried with a majority vote with abstention by Miller.
- Motion by Lynch to approve the August 24, 2016 general meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried with a majority vote with abstention by Corbo and Miller.

Report of the Superintendent

Events and Updates

- Congratulations to Volleyball Coach Dave Jakub on his 200th career volleyball win.
- The warrant article did not go forward at the Board of Selectmen but we are confident it will be revisited at the May town meeting if we are still in need of funds.
- This will create challenges when planning for FY18, and begin planning with a deficit, but we are comfortable we can plan effectively.
- Family and Community Engagement Enrichment sessions begin next Monday.
- ALICE refresher training has been done at HHS and will continue at all schools over the next month.
- Curriculum Nights: Elementary schools tomorrow, HMS Monday, 9/19 for 5th and 6th and Tuesday, 9/20 for 7th and 8th, and HHS, Thursday, 9/29.
- North River Collaborative is still searching for a new executive director; the potential candidate from the summer fell through.

Middle School Washington DC Student Report

- Paige McKee, Meghan Collett and Abby Daley, were present to report on their experiences on the Washington DC trip in April 2016.
- A video highlighting the trip that Abby created was shown.
- Abby spoke about being part of the band performance in front of the Lincoln Memorial. She recounted there were so many people watching, taking video, and that it was a great way to end 8th grade band.
- The group visited many memorials and monuments and they learned so much from the tour guides that you wouldn't be going with just family.
- Meghan stated even though it was a long bus ride but that it was a very comfortable trip and that stops for breaks, when students needed them, were made.
- They were able to eat breakfast together at the hotel and had box lunches. The final dinner was everyone together where they shared memories with friends.
- Paige spoke about their visits to the Holocaust Museum, the Newsuem and the Earth and Science Museum. The Holocaust Museum was very emotional, hearing people's stories and

seeing artifacts really made you stop and think and pay attention. It was one of the highlights of the trip.

- The Newseum had news that wasn't shown to the public including stories and artifacts from 9/11. It was nothing like text book learning in the classroom.
- The Earth and Science Museum had a space exhibit that allowed you to feel the impact of what it's like to be in space.
- The videos from last year and a tentative itinerary will be posted online for parents to learn about the trip.
- Mr. Geary asked if they were planning to make movie or were required to make a movie. Abby responded she had her GoPro and learned how to edit in Mr. Schumacher's class.
- Ms. Lynch commented she appreciates hearing from students because it supports the Committee's approvals. She enjoys hearing how much fun was had and that students learned more rather than going alone.
- Ms. Corbo asked for feedback on the rooming situations. Paige responded that she had no issues with her room of 5 students but some students felt their rooms were crowded. Friends were made because of rooming situations. If there were any problems students felt they could go to the principals.
- Mr. Birolini stated that the kids did a great job and were very respectful of each other.
- Room assignment is a challenge, and the planning team is thinking of ways to change the process to make it smoother this year. Parent feedback will be taken seriously.
- With the cost of \$890 to attend no one came forward to say his or her child couldn't go because of the cost. However, the team is looking at doing fundraising this year.
- The Committee suggested having a payment plan.
- Mr. Geary asked if this is a worthwhile trip for 8th grade students going forward. The response was unanimous "yes" from the students.

Opening of School Report

- This has been a very smooth opening of schools and any issues have been addressed quickly.

Preliminary Discussion Regarding Charter Schools in Massachusetts

- This is a continuation of the discussion from the last meeting since all members were not present.
- This issue for the School Committee is whether or not make a resolution is support of not lifting the cap on charter schools as posed in the ballot question for November.
- Charter schools exist now, it's not if the Committee believes in them but whether or not to increase the capacity for more charter schools.
- HTA President, Andrew Mahoney asked the Committee to consider making a resolution that supports a no vote on Question 2.
- Based on her research done by Ms. Booker, the Committee can make a resolution based on *Anderson vs. City of Boston*, which gives elected officials the right to act or speak out in support of or against a ballot question.
- It was recommended by several Committee members to have the district's legal counsel review the template resolution.
- Ms. Miller asked if it had to be unanimous vote by the Committee to pass a resolution. Ms. Corbo stated she believes it's just majority vote.
- Mr. Mahoney stated he is not taking a position on charter schools themselves. His position is on lifting the cap, which would increase the number of charter schools by 12 per year and the funding it takes away from Hanover schools.
- If the Committee was to pass a resolution, and the ballot question doesn't pass, money does not go back to the schools. If more schools were to open if the question passes, more money would be leaving Hanover.

- Resolutions are a way to show voters how many school Committees are speaking out against the ballot question; it's a more unified effort.
- Ms. Booker stated her only concern is it could possibly block the opening of charter schools for a specific subset of students, with different needs as they have in other states. If there are specialty schools the district could potentially save money vs. out of district placements. Mr. Mahoney commented that if the money were to stay in the public school it could be used to improve our services, which would allow us to service those students in house.
- Charter schools would be opened with no school committee, no oversight, and there have been several incidents of fraud in other states.
- In FY17 the cost to the district will be \$327,000. A district receives more reimbursement for a student's first year in a charter school and no reimbursement after their 5th year.
- A resolution was not made so further research can be done by the Committee and this topic will be on an upcoming meeting agenda for possible action.
- Legal counsel will be asked to review the resolution and how to word a motion should the Committee make a resolution.

Center/Sylvester Building Project Update

- There has been a lot of work educating the community about the project over the last several weeks, including several informational sessions.
- The website and Facebook page have been updated with Q & A videos and a PowerPoint to answer frequently asked questions.
- The community is encouraged to reach out to Libby Corbo, Building Committee Chair if you have any questions.
- Special Town Meeting will be held on September 26th where a 2/3 favorable vote is needed to move the project forward.
- Ballot vote will be held on Saturday, October 1st if the vote passes on September 26th.
- Parents have questioned if the reconfiguration will go through even if the school is not approved. As it stands now, the reconfiguration to town-wide schools will move forward and 4th grade would attend Sylvester School.

Finance Department – presented by Dr. Raab

Donations

- Dr. Raab presented a list of donations.

Motion by Lynch to accept \$5,069.00 in donations. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

FY17 Budget Transfer Requests

- Dr. Raab presented the line item detail of FY17 budget transfers.
- Amounts being transferred include: \$65,000 Kindergarten revolving, \$20,000 from Special Education revolving, \$12,000 from the Office of Family and Community Engagement, and \$50,000 from supplies and expenses.
- The entire reserve of \$247,000 Circuit Breaker funds are being used.
- There are additional out of district placements and additional teachers and paraprofessionals for approximately \$695,000 that need to be covered.
- The entire remaining reserve for the year is \$70,000.
- There are now 10 sections of kindergarten and only 9 were budgeted. The additional class is being covered by kindergarten revolving rollover as well as revenue from increased enrollment in full day kindergarten.
- Three new positions were not filled: a reading teacher at Center/Sylvester, a special education teacher at Cedar, and a technology technician.
- The bottom line of the budget remains at \$25,765,115.
- PreK revolving was used to fund a 5th PreK session that was added.

- Revolving accounts are not highlighted in this line item detail.
- Ms. Corbo stated has never seen an unanticipated expense like this hit the budget and was surprised the warrant article didn't pass. Unfunded mandates in special education make budget planning difficult for schools. Having three positions not filled that could be covered by the warrant article is disheartening.

Motion by Lynch to approve the FY17 budget transfer requests as presented. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

FY16 Q4 Revolving Account Update

- The Food Service Director was credited on running an efficient food service department and ending FY16 with a \$49,000 balance.
- There was a recommendation from the Fire Chief to replace the oven and stove at Sylvester as the current stove has recurring issues and will cost approximately \$3,500.
- Athletics ended with a \$35,000 balance. This revenue will be used to fund athletic supplies, equipment, transportation, and officials.
- The Office of Family and Community Engagement ended the year with a \$155,811 balance across all of their accounts. They have expanded their drama program, added adult education, and have grown all programs throughout the year. This money has been reinvested back into their summer programs, which will be reflected on the next report.
- The middle school extended day program began the year \$10,000 in the red and ended the year \$3,000 in the black.
- Kindergarten revolving ended the year with \$186,000.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

- No report

Action Items:

FACE Ocean State Invitational Field Trip Request

- Mr. Ferron presented the FACE field trip request for the middle school cross country team to attend the Ocean State Invitational to compete against other middle schools.

Motion by Lynch to approve the FACE Ocean State Invitational field trip request. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

HMS 8th Grade Washington DC Field Trip Request for Spring 2017

- This request is for initial approval so the middle school can move forward with planning for parent sessions, plan with the tour company and, have discussions about payment plans.
- The planning team will hold a parent session, put together an itinerary, plan fundraising, and prepare final costs and will come back to the Committee in October.

Motion by Lynch to grant preliminary approval for the 8th Grade Washington DC field trip request. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

HMS 5th Grade Museum of Science Field Trip Request for Spring 2017

- Mr. Ferron presented the annual 5th grade overnight at the Museum of Science.

Motion by Lynch to approve the 5th Grade Museum of Science field trip request. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Corbo reminded everyone about the Special Town Meeting on Monday, September 26, 2016 to move the Center/Sylvester Building Project forward. A two-thirds vote is required to move it to the ballot for vote on October 1, 2016.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the High School.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. by Lynch. The motion was seconded by Booker. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Rachael O'Callaghan

Documents Used:

Donations

FY17 Budget Transfer Request Memo and Line Item Detail

FY16 Q4 Revolving Account Memo and Detail

FACE Ocean State Invitational Field Trip Request Form

HMS 8th Grade Washington DC Field Trip Request Form

HMS 5th Grade Museum of Science Field Trip Request Form