

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2016
Hanover High School

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

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Thomas Raab, Debbie St. Ives, Joan Woodward, Matthew Paquette, Matt Plummer, Tricia Smith, Elaine Thompson

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

Public Comment: None presented.

Approval of Minutes:

- Mr. Geary questioned why the Executive Session minutes from the last meeting are not on the agenda for approval. Mr. Ferron stated they would be on the next agenda for approval.
- Motion by Lynch to approve the May 25, 2016 general meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of Superintendent - presented by Superintendent Ferron

Field Trip Student Report: Italy 2016

- Mr. Perry introduced students who attended the Italy field trip.
- Lauren Galotti stated that the trip was amazing and that Mr. Perry made it awesome. They started in Venice and traveled to Florence, Sorrento, Capri and Rome.
- Caitlin McGillicuddy stated it was a once in a lifetime trip and that she was very grateful they got had the chance to take this trip.
- Allison Bruce commented that Italy is so beautiful and that everyone became a family and best friends on the trip.
- Caroline Ryan and Cassidy Bodie stated that it was the best experience they have ever had, that they made great friends, and got to know teachers they didn't know before. They commented that they had a great tour manager and thanked Mr. Perry.
- Callie MacDonald commented that she became closer with people, and even though they were long days, it was amazing and she will be going next year.
- Mr. Geary asked if anyone speaks Italian. They answered that everyone in Italy spoke English, and the tour manager provided useful phrases to the group.
- Ms. Lynch asked if they group felt safe? They responded, yes, because of the teachers and tour guide. Italian people were very welcoming and they felt like they belonged.
- Ms. Lynch asked what was the most exciting historical place that they had studied about and were able to visit? Response: The Colosseum and Trevi Fountain and Statue of David in Rome, and Duomo church in Florence.
- Ms. Miller asked if it made them want to study abroad in college. Response: A collective yes.

Events and Updates

- The North River Collaborative is searching for a new Executive Director and partnered with NESDEC to help them with the search.
- Mr. Birolini has reported that the current trip to Washington DC is going great and students are well-behaved and great ambassadors for Hanover Schools.
- The School Committee is allowed to appoint a non-member to the Community Access and Media Committee. We will look for candidates and will table the appointment for tonight.

- Mrs. Lynch stated that Christa Monahan may be a good choice or she may know someone.
- Mrs. Lawrence received a very positive voicemail from Phillip Crosby, Groton-Dunstable assistant middle school track coach, who attended the HMS track meet this past weekend. Mr. Ferron played a portion of the voicemail: Mr. Crosby stated that he asked the Hanover team for some shade and he was greeted with an outpouring of caring and that it was a moment when you are renewed by the humanity and kindness of people. He wanted to let Hanover know how wonderful everyone made him feel.
- Mrs. St. Ives has surveyed the teachers on the V2020 rollout and changing from quarters to trimesters and will have data to the Committee within a couple of weeks. So far the data is showing positive feedback. We will have a discussion in the near future on both topics.
- Ms. Corbo commented that next week is Camp Squanto for 6th graders. She wished the 6th graders the best and hope they have a great time.

Center/Sylvester Building Project Update – presented by Ms. Corbo

- The Building Committee voted a \$32.8 million final project budget, which is \$3 million less than original estimate from the architects.
- The Building Committee challenged the engineer to revise the design and they not only lowered the cost but there were also able to add in public safety items that were not in the original design.
- We are looking at a favorable reimbursement rate of 53-54% from the MSBA. The high school reimbursement rate was just under 48%.
- The Building Committee will have a booth at Hanover Day where the community can see the plans and ask questions about the project.
- The Building Committee will be working on the Project Funding Agreement with MSBA over the next month.

HHS Start time Update – presented by Mr. Paquette and Mr. Plummer

- Thank you for the opportunity to explore the idea, it's been eye opening and rewarding. We can all agree that an even later start time will be even more beneficial and we will look at that with new school.
- Mr. Paquette believes that starting 30 minutes later will be benign or beneficial and would love the opportunity to experience the beneficial.
- When asking faculty, they were hesitant at first but as they began speaking about it more and planning, they came around.
- School administration met with each class for 60 minutes and had very positive, respectful, and mature conversations. Students knew that we respect their opinion.
- The Parent Advisory Council is supportive as long as transportation is in place.
- Mr. Geary stated he believes Mr. Paquette has earned his right at a shot. Is this late enough? If we had our way it would be later. What happens if we agree it is not late enough. How do you see getting to the "later enough" goal? Mr. Paquette responded it does not negate that what is being done now is beneficial for the students, and no matter what, he will take full responsibility.
- Ms. Corbo commented that she agrees a later start time is better for the kids - but is 30 minutes enough? She would like to wait a year and push it to 45 minutes or an hour. This would allow time to consider changing HMS and elementary at the same time. Moving in increments is too disruptive.
- Ms. Lynch responded she originally didn't think 30 minutes was enough, but if it were pushed more, the financial implications would be detrimental and it would disrupt other schools. She is willing to make the compromise to not disrupt others.
- Ms. Corbo asked if additional feedback was received from parents? Mr. Paquette responded there are 13 total responses - 1/3 positive, 1/3 hesitant, 1/3 undecided.

- Dr. Raab assured the committee that he would make the \$36,000 for an additional bus work budget-wise.
- Ms. Lynch asked how much impact for an hour? Dr. Raab responded it's twice that amount.
- Ms. Booker commented that many communities have already made the change. It is good for Hanover to be leaders in this and do what is best for students.
- Ms. Corbo stated that the surrounding communities are not her overriding concern. It's the incremental affect on other schools, parents, and students.
- Ms. Booker wants to see students benefit from this between now and 2018.
- Ms. Corbo would like to take a year to put more thought into the decision.
- Ms. Miller commented that her child's elementary bus is 25 minutes different from last year, which is a huge change.

Motion by Lynch to approve the high school start time of 7:55 a.m. for the first day of school 2016-2017. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried with a majority vote 4 to 1, with Corbo opposed.

Finance Department – presented by Dr. Raab

Friends of Hanover Music Annual Donation

- Mary Raab, outgoing President of the Friends of Hanover Music, presented a donation of \$9,000 to be used in the schools to support music programs.
- The 3rd annual mattress fundraiser will be July 30th at the high school.
- Mr. Geary stated how much he appreciates the donation and hard work the Friends of Hanover Music does and it does not go unrecognized by the schools.
- Mr. Ferron congratulated Tom and Mary Raab on their daughter Meaghan's commitment to the US Air Force Academy where she will play basketball. Everyone is very happy for Meaghan and the Raab family.

Donations

- List of Donations was presented.
- Thank you to the HFEE for a very generous \$15,000 in grant donations. The breakdown of the grants is as follows: iPads for Special Education (HS), RotoRazer Saw for Engineering (MS), Print Shop and Sculpture Garden (MS), Flexible Seating (Cedar), Osmos (Cedar, C/S), StickBots and MidiBots (C/S), Top Secret Hands-on Science for Kids (C/S), Museum of Science Starlab visit (C/S), 3 NE Aquarium Sessions (C/S).
- All grants purchases will be completed by the end of summer so we can have everything ready for beginning of the school year.
- \$4,000 from Target from their Take Charge of Education program where 1% of all Red Card purchases is donated to the schools.

Motion by Lynch to accept \$28,897.08 donations, including the Friends of Hanover Music donation. The motion was seconded by Booker. The motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Geary thanked the HFEE for their enormous amount of donations.
- Ms. Lynch asked how the money from the Friends of Hanover Music is allocated. Dr. Raab responded that funds are allocated to each school for music needs such as the purchase for instruments.
- Ms. Corbo thanked Target for their generous donation and commented that it's very easy to sign up for the program and that regular shopping gives back to our schools.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

Wellness Committee Review – presented by Ms. Smith, Coordinator of Health Services

- Ms. Smith presented an update on the wellness initiatives that took place this year and plans for next year's initiatives.

- District-wide initiatives include: CPR Training; Life Threatening Allergy and Epinephrine Training; Opioid Awareness/Narcan Training; All high school students took CPR for Schools, and many went on to get certified; Mass General Hospital, Benson-Henry Resilient Schools Training which is a stress reduction training was given to all staff.
- Center/Sylvester initiatives include:
 - Students are receiving stress reduction/relaxation instruction in the classroom.
 - Heart Health Education for students and staff.
 - Dental Health was taught by a local dentist.
 - Sylvester Nurse, Maureen Shea co-taught all safety trainings.
- Cedar initiatives include:
 - PTA and HFEE funding allowed for stress reduction curriculum to be developed for all students. Cedar Nurse, Maura Dowling and Cedar School Psychologist, Sarah Kelser are developing these lessons.
 - Heart Math program was purchased which allows for visualization of seeing your heart rate decrease while practicing stress reduction.
- High School initiatives include:
 - Suicide prevention training, "Signs of Suicide", will be given next year through the Makayla Fund. This includes professional development for all teachers in fall 2016, student curriculum will then be developed.
 - Substance Abuse Curriculum/Screening
 - SBIRT is a new law requiring us to screen students for the potential of being "at risk" for substance abuse in middle school and again in high school. We are just in the learning stages and more information will be brought to the Committee next year.
- Office of Family & Community Engagement initiatives include:
 - IMPACT testing to develop baseline tests for students 11 and older. This proves useful for assessing recovery after a concussion and is mandatory for all students participating in school sports.
- Middle School - Life Threatening Allergy Initiative developed by Nurse, Joelle Casey
 - The goals for developing this optional curriculum are to teach safety, confidence, independence and inclusion for students with a life threatening allergy.
 - Parents along with the nurse develop individualized health care plan for student.
 - Lessons are differentiated for each grade at the middle school.
 - Grade 5 – discuss the meaning of anaphylaxis, safety at lunch, events, field trips and school parties, and how to talk to friends about allergies.
 - Grade 6 – teach students how to recognize signs of anaphylaxis, when to use an EpiPen, when to get help, and the importance of planning ahead.
 - Grade 7 – discuss different allergens, how to read food labels, how to handle social events, and the nurse demonstrates how to use an EpiPen.
 - Grade 8 – students learn how to use an EpiPen and what to do after injection, how to talk to friends about allergy, and they sign off on their care plan and independent use of EpiPen.
 - This curriculum helps students become more independent living with their allergy.
 - Staff training includes learning the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, certification in use of EpiPen for those who demonstrate competency.
 - Ms. Geary commented that in future presentations, he would like to see what is required by the state and what initiatives we are doing in addition to what is required along with the cost associated to each of the additional curriculums.
 - Mr. Geary asked that when a student is diagnosed with life threatening allergy, if their physician goes through this information with them? Ms. Smith stated that it's very individualized. We like to provide more information and training to students

and this is meant to augment what they are getting from doctors and parents. We are seeing gaps in what students know.

- Mr. Geary asked what is being offered to students so they can help their friends? Ms. Smith responded that this is where the whole grade lesson in 7th grade comes in with the nutrition project and the EpiPen demonstration. We recommend parents help educate your child's friends.
- Mr. Geary asked if IMPACT testing is being done at HMS? Ms. Smith responded that there is testing at HMS for track, but families may opt out. It is mandatory at HHS per the MIAA. It's beneficial for all students over 11 years, even if they participate in sports outside of school.
- Ms. Lynch asked who approves curriculum once it's written? Ms. St. Ives responded that the nurses worked with Tricia and Joan but there is no formal approval.
- Ms. Corbo asked if a notice would be sent to parents letting them know about the suicide prevention training? Ms. Smith responded, yes. After staff training in the fall they will begin planning how to rollout to students.
- Ms. Booker asked if bus drivers were EpiPen trained? Ms. Smith responded yes, and that she personally trained all bus drivers.
- Mr. Ferron commented that Ms. Smith has done an amazing job and this is a reflection on what she does to keep students and staff safe. This is critical for our district, as critical as ALICE, fire drills and has more of a chance to happen. The HMS curriculum is innovative and Joelle Casey is on the cutting edge.

Class of 2016 College and Career Update – presented by Mr. Paquette

- 202 students graduated at the first evening graduation, under a beautiful sunset.
- 167 students will be attending 4-year colleges, 18 students a 2-year college.
- 108 seniors applied for 85 scholarships and \$145,000 was awarded to 99 students.
- The range and diversity in colleges are from Ivy League to state schools in 25 different states throughout country.
- 2 students have joined the Navy, 1 joined the Air Force and 6 will attend Mass Maritime.
- It was a great year and we are very proud of this tremendous group of individuals.
- Mr. Geary commented that they are an impressive class, and that it was great to watch and see the relationship that Mr. Paquette had with the students at graduation.

Action Items:

HHS Dance Team Proposal – presented by Ms. Thompson

- Ms. Thompson presented a proposal for a dance team at the high school.
- It would be winter sport so as to not conflict with cheerleading in the fall.
- A pilot season was run this school year with 10 students committing to the pilot team.
- There would be a user fee of \$200, performances at halftime at basketball games, practice 3 days a week and compete locally at MSSAA competitions.
- The team ran a fundraiser clinic with younger students who were allowed to perform with the high school team at a basketball game. It was a huge success.
- The team would run clinics for younger students once a month going forward, which is a great fundraiser for the high school team and great for younger students to be involved, making it all inclusive.
- MSSAA requires 24 team members with 4 alternates. No rules regarding boys and girls; boys can join if they choose.
- Budget: MSSAA fee \$80, busses for competitions \$720x3 which is an over estimate and based on full day rental, Coach stipend \$3,356, uniform \$1,440 max.
- Revenue: clinic in 2015-2016 raised \$400, projected \$1,500 from 3 clinics, user fees \$4,800.
- Expenses for students: uniforms and warm ups, which total \$235 per student.

- Ms. Thompson is in the process of becoming MIAA coach certified and is CPR certified.
- Ms. Booker questioned that if the budget is based on 24 students but there were only 10 this year, will there be 24 members? Ms. Thompson replied, yes. Some had already committed to a winter sport for the pilot program and it does not include incoming freshman.
- Ms. Corbo asked if there was a budget impact for the school? Dr. Raab stated it is budget neutral and is already covered by the Town insurance.
- Ms. Lynch asked if during the trial last year, the kids were insured through schools? Dr. Raab responded that they were.
- Community member, Jae Picard, suggested the dance team be introduced to non-athletes to get more students interested and that having different aspects such as hip-hop may be helpful. Ms. Thompson replied that the competition does have hip-hop and the intention is to be inclusive and that anyone can tryout. Picard asked if this would be a varsity sport? Geary responded yes.
- Ms. Miller commented that this is great for kids going on to college because if there is no opportunity in high school, it's harder to get on the team in college.

Motion by Lynch to approve the proposal for a high school dance team beginning in 2016-2017. The motion was seconded by Booker. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Geary commented on the culture and passion for students, from all staff at the high school. The emotion, level of detail, and passion for all initiatives from all high school staff is very appreciated as a community member, parent and Committee member.

Ms. Lynch commented that Dr. Raab laid the foundation of the building itself and gave his blood sweat and tears to the school, which would not have been able to grow without him.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the High School.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. by Lynch. The motion was seconded by Booker. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Rachael O'Callaghan

Documents Used:

Donations

Wellness Committee Review Presentation

Dance Team Proposal Presentation