

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2017
Hanover High School

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

Absent: Thomas Raab

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Debbie St. Ives, and Joan Woodward

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

Recognition of Tori Miller: Mr. Galligan introduced Tori Miller, winner of a National Medal for the 2017 Scholastic Art and Writing Award. Her work was recognized as the most accomplished in the nation. Tori spoke to the Committee and explained in detail about the piece that won her the award. Mr. Ferron and Mr. Galligan presented Tori with an award from the Hanover Public Schools in recognition of her accomplishment.

- **Student Report: April Field Trips -** Meaghan Raab, Hunter Coogan and Caroline McDonald spoke about the trip they took to Europe. Meghan first spoke about the educational experience and the opportunity to be able to visit the places they have learned about over the years. She felt that the trip was a great experience to be able to connect with a lot of the history that they had previously learned only in classrooms. Caroline McDonald went on to speak about the people involved with the trip. She specifically thanked Mr. Perry and Mr. Brown. The students realize that although the trip is fun, Caroline acknowledged that it is also a difficult task for the teachers to act as friend, mentor, and to ensure fun, safety, as well as act as the disciplinarian for the students throughout the trip. Hunter Coogan proceeded to speak about the cultural aspects of the trip. The students were able to experience Easter and the traditions the countries have, and how they differ from our traditions.

Tom Clinton and Ben Goslin both spoke about the choral and band trip to Disney. They were able to perform in a clinic and to see music in a different light. Ben spoke about the importance of the trips. He explained that band and chorus is like family, and trips similar to this help them to bond as group and build connections that last a lifetime. Ben thanked the Committee for allowing them to go on these trips, and appreciated the opportunities it affords them.

After the students spoke, Mr. Ferron presented the Committee with a short video of the trip and the band's presentation.

Public Comment: None Presented

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Lynch to approve the School Committee minutes of April 26, 2017 as written. The motion seconded by Booker. The vote carried unanimously with abstention from Mrs. Miller.

Report of the Superintendent: Events and Updates: Mr. Ferron informed the Committee that former Hanover Middle School teacher, Cathy Coccimiglio passed away this morning. The district, students and staff are mourning her loss and he extended his sympathy and thoughts to the family and school community affected by her loss. This week is Teacher Appreciation Week. Inclusive Schools Week is next week. It is a great time to learn all of the great things the students are doing. Next year this will be held in October. There is a publication in the packets this evening for the Committee's review. The article is a fantastic piece on Mr. Harden and Mr. Ferron encourages the members to read the article. It is very well deserved and Mr. Harden is making a huge difference in the lives of the kids. The High School Pops Concert is tomorrow night at 7:00 pm. Senior week activities begin next week. Junior Luke Smigliani and Sophomore Steven Manolakis are competing in the Jr. Olympic National Championship this year. Mr. Ferron is very proud of them and looks forward to hearing how they did. The Full Circle Art Show is at the Frame Center. The art is on display until the 24th, but tonight was the special showing. He thanked everyone involved. Tomorrow at Cedar School the 4 grade outreach team is hosting a Step for Vets Walk-a-thon. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the Warrior Bonfire Program. Mr. Ferron also updated the Committee on technology and the per student devices. This reiterates the need in technology and stated he is very proud of our tech team. There are many other things going on this time of year. Please check the calendar or website for a full listing of events.

- **Special Education Subcommittee Update** – Mr. Geary informed the Committee this update will be pushed until next meeting. Mr. Geary met with the new Executive Director, Stephen Donovan today. He feels that Mr. Donovan will lead North River Collaboration in the right direction.
- **Center School Building Project Update** – Mrs. Corbo stated there is nothing new to report at this time. The project is on schedule and on budget.

Report of Finance Department Presented by Mr. Ferron:

- **Donations** - Donations totaling \$6,370.00 were reviewed and itemized.

Motion by Lynch to approve \$6,370.00 as presented this evening. The motion was seconded by Booker. The vote was carried unanimously.

FY17 Monthly Budget Update – To date almost 74% of budget has been spent, which is right where we should be. The Town Meeting Article 5 that passed for \$140,635.00 has been put into the budget and immediately applied to Special Education tuitions. Mr. Ferron reviewed and explained negative items shown on the budget report. Dr. Raab was notified that Hanover will qualify for extraordinary relief funds, and The Department of Education has given a preliminary approval of \$237,000 in relief funds. He thanked Tom Raab and Joan Woodward for their hard work. They will know definitively by the end of May what the final approved amount will be, and remain cautiously optimistic.

Q3 Revolving Account Update – Mr. Ferron reviewed Appendix C, FY 17 Quarter 3 Revolving Account Summary. Tom is working with the Town and Kelly Lawrence towards and an All Funds Account for the next fiscal year.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

2017-2018 Student Handbooks - Mr. Ferron explained that the majority of the changes in the handbooks this year are mostly administrative changes. Mr. Galligan highlighted a few of the changes to the High School Handbook. He also thanked the Committee, and more importantly, Mrs. Lynch in particular for the help and guidance she has given in this process. Mr. Birolini presented to the Committee regarding the Middle School changes, which only included date changes. Mrs. Miller complimented the homework guidelines in the Middle School Handbook and thought that it would benefit the elementary schools to follow. The Middle School Program of Studies is a project that has begun and hopes to complete before the start of the next school year. Mr. Geary spoke to the public and reiterated this has been an ongoing process and the Committee has been in touch with Administration. They have had ample time to review the changes which is why the process is moving as quickly and efficiently as it is. Mr. Oates and Mrs. DeGrenier presented the Committee with the Elementary School Handbooks, with only minor changes to their handbooks. Mrs. Lynch recognized and thanked Rachael O'Callaghan for the tremendous job she has done and the work that she has put in to make the documents as they are now.

The Committee formally endorsed the student handbooks for 2017-2018 school year for the Elementary, Middle and High School.

Mrs. Corbo had a question concerning the Technology Sub Committee that was discussed at the Town Meeting, and wanted to know if any further specific information or instruction has been given. Mr. Ferron has not received any information to date but will follow up regarding this. Mr. Geary has not confirmed with the Town Moderator as of yet, but does plan to speak with him regarding the specifics of this Sub Committee. Mrs. Corbo recommended that this be put on the next School Committee Agenda for next meeting.

Action Items: None

• **Public Comment:**

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2017 at Hanover High School. Expected agenda items will be: Hanover High School Committee Reorganization, Wellness Committee Update, Vote on Substance Use Screening Policy, Summer Meeting Schedule.

Motion by Lynch to adjourn at 7:52 pm. The motion was seconded by Booker. The vote carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa V. Keefe

Documents Used:

Donations:

FY17 Monthly Budget Update :

Q3 Revolving Account Update :

2017-2018 Student Handbooks:

Appendix A

Appendix B

Appendix C

Appendix D