

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2017
Hanover High School

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

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Thomas Raab, Joan Woodward, Matthew Paquette, Matthew Plummer, Scott Hutchison, HHS Students Renee Babin, and Emma Buckley

Absent: John Geary, Debbie St. Ives

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

Public Comment:

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Booker to approve the School Committee meeting minutes of March 8, 2017. The motion seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously.

Report of the Superintendent:

- **Events and Updates** - Hanover Boys Basketball Team brought home their first ever State Championship. The Spring Festival Band is tomorrow at 7:00pm. Next Friday is the 4th annual districtwide College Day. It is an opportunity for students and staff to wear College Gear that is meaningful to them. Math Night was held the past two nights at both elementary schools. Over 250 people attended. Twenty staff members worked to support the event, along with three high school students who performed community service at the event. Mrs. Nancy Dutton organized the event. She spent countless hours of work towards this event and it was a great success. Kim Booker and Leah Miller both agreed that it was a great event.
- **Superintendent Summative Evaluation Update** - The Superintendent's evaluation was sent electronically to the members today. The Committee agreed to extend the deadline to submit to Mr. Geary to Monday, March 27th by 6:00pm.
- **Student Report - February Quebec Field Trip** - Mr. Paquette introduced Emma Buckley and Renee Babin to speak about the trip and their experiences. Both girls spoke very highly of the trip and their experiences while visiting Quebec. They both agreed that it was informative as well as fun. They were able to attend the Winter Carnival which was going on while they were visiting. Both felt it was an amazing trip and they learned a lot of the history of Quebec. They saw differences and similarities between French and Canadian culture. Mrs. Lynch thanked the girls for speaking and appreciated hearing about the trip. She feels it is helpful to the Committee to hear about the trips that the Committee approves for the students.
- **Center School Building Project Update** - Mrs. Corbo updated the Committee concerning the project. The Pre-Qualifying Subcommittee met last night and are making their way through the tremendous amount of paperwork involved. There will be a technology update meeting tomorrow at 2:00pm. Next week they will be presenting to the Planning Board. More information can be found on the Center Sylvester Building Project Facebook page.
- **Hanover High School - State of Athletics Update** - Mr. Hutchison presented a power point presentation on the State of Athletics at Hanover High School. He stated that it has been a very busy and successful year. They have had great community support. He continued to review the sports available by season, making mention of any additions and changes made to the program. Last year Hanover High School was the recipient of the Globe Scholastic Award for Division 4.

They had the highest rank in the Division and 3rd in the State. Mr. Hutchison reviewed the many recognitions the athletes received to date. In addition to the recognitions stated, he was happy to announce that every team has earned an MIAA Academic Award. In addition, the Cheerleading squad earned MIAA Education Athletics Achievement Award for Community Service. These achievements are outstanding. The Academic Awards are based on overall GPA of the team. Mr. Hutchison also highlighted individual recognitions as well as National Letters of Intent that have been signed to date included students; Meaghan Raab to Air Force Academy, Abdullah Nassif to Manhattan College and Hayley Wardwell to Drexel. Further recognition of the coaching staff was also provided. He thanked the Community Sponsors, the HPS administrators as well as the Fire and Police Departments, who afforded the basketball team an escort upon their return from their State Championship win. The finances were reviewed for FY16. Projected revenue for FY17 is \$175,250 which is an increase from last year. Gate and donation revenue is currently at \$48,000 and are still collecting. Hanover Boosters donated \$10,000.00 towards a new press box, as well as \$500.00 towards student admission for events. This group offers tremendous support. Mrs. Booker made mention of the Boston Globe's acknowledgement of the Athletics Department in Hanover. It is clear that Hanover and its accomplishments are being recognized outside of the town. Strength and conditioning is one area that Mr. Hutchison will continue to focus on and. Mrs. Lynch congratulated Mr. Hutchison and is impressed how the program has grown and thanked him on behalf of the School Committee.

- **Special Education Subcommittee Update** - Mrs. Booker gave an update on the Subcommittee. The next meeting will be held April 5th at 11:00 am. All meetings are public and all are welcome to attend. At the request of Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Booker further broke down the numbers and percentages of students that receive IEP's, by school for further clarification. Overall there are 452 students who have an IEP out of 2642 students, or 17.01%. Additionally Mrs. Booker spoke of the 8-0 Supreme Court ruling in Endrew v. Douglas County School District that just came out and urged the committee to read the ruling. The ruling states that School districts must give students with disabilities the chance to make meaningful, "appropriately ambitious" progress and "every child should have the chance to meet challenging objective".

Report of Finance Department Presented by Dr. Raab:

- **Town Meeting Warrant Articles - Funding Update** presented by Dr. Raab. Conversation was had regarding whether or not to have Mr. Edward Hickey be present and available for discussion. Mr. Hickey is the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and was present to answer any potential questions. It was determined that it would benefit having him available to answer questions. Dr. Raab began with review of Special Town Meeting Articles. Article 1 was added to pay for prior year expenditures. It was determined that the pediatrician for the School Department had not been paid accordingly, which resulted in this Special Article. Additionally, Article 5 of Special Town Meeting is to appropriate the \$140,635 additional Chapter 70 funds. Discussion began with Mrs. Corbo regarding Article 14 which is the \$500,000 Special Education Town Meeting Article. Mr. Hickey explained The Advisory Board is trying to determine whether or not to remove Article 14 and include the funds into the operating budget, although this has not been voted on as of yet. These funds come have come out of free cash, and cannot continue to do so and they feel this would be the course of action that needs to happen. He reiterated there is full support from the Advisory Board in regards to the Special Education department and ensuring the school department receives the funds they need. Mr. Hickey commended Mr. Ferron and Dr. Raab and the budget presentation they gave to the Advisory Board. Mr. Ferron feels they have a strong relationships across the board and wants to be sure it continues. Mrs. Corbo further explained the history of how the Special Warrant originated. With the current administration and relationships, she feels it makes much more sense to add the funds to the operating budget. Mr. Hickey reiterated that the Advisory Committee will play the same role in evaluating the Special

Education funding goal that they currently have, whether or not the funds are put into the operating budget or not. Discussion transitioned into the Municipal Modernization Act. This is a new Law that was passed in November which streamlined functions of town government. It allows the creation of a reserve fund for unforeseen Special Education funds. Hanover already has a stabilization fund, however Town Meeting must approve the funds. If Town Meeting and School Committee accepts this new Law, the Town can appropriate funds into this fund. This bill focuses on unforeseen and unbudgeted funds. The School Committee could petition the Selectman to vote to release the funds as opposed to having to go through a Town Warrant. This would be similar to the Advisory Committee's Reserve for extraordinary and unforeseen costs that they currently have. Mrs. Booker does have a concern with the privacy issue that would surround these potential issues. Time should be allocated regarding confidentiality if this should happen. Mr. Ferron will speak with Mr. Geary and this matter possibly be put into the next School Committee meeting for a vote. Mrs. Lynch thanked Mr. Hickey for being available and speaking this evening.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

- **HHS Program of Studies** - Mr. Paquette and Mr. Plummer spoke regarding the 2017-2018 Program of Studies. The changes are minimal but are positive changes. They just recently completed their 5 year progress report with NEASC which will be discussed at a future meeting. Changes are highlighted and explained as shown in Appendix A. Mr. Paquette reviewed the updates and changes throughout. He recognized and thanked the FACE department for taking on the Community Service Program for the students' graduation requirements. In addition, colleges have requested that schools report GPA based on 4.0 College Preparatory scale, therefore changes are noted in the Program of Studies to reflect this. Additionally, minimum 2 year attendance guidelines have been added, along with GPA requirements, in order to be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian. This will also be included in the Student Handbook. Beginning with the incoming freshmen, class rank will be shown as a percentile as opposed to precise class rank number. Developmental Psychology will be introduced as a new course next year as well as Freshman Seminar Curriculum. The remainder of the changes were discussed and reviewed, which questions and comments from the Committee at the conclusion of the presentation.

Action Items:

Field Trip Request: HHS NYC May 2017- As noted in Appendix B. Due to lack of student interest, the trip has been cancelled. No presentation will be given, no Action Required.

Public Comment: None presented.

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2017 at Hanover High School. Expected Agenda Items will be the Superintendent Evaluation 1.0, School Choice Vote, HHS Accreditation (NEASC) Report.

Mrs. Corbo gave an update on Rumor, the guide dog in training that visited last School Committee Meeting. Rumor did great on his IFT test and because he did so well, he will be evaluated to become Guiding Eyes Breeding Dog Program.

Motion by Booker to adjourn at 8:46 pm. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa V. Keefe

Documents Used:

HHS Program of Studies :

Field Trip Request: HHS NYC May 2017 :

Appendix A

Appendix B