

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2017
Hanover High School

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

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Joan Woodward, Thomas Raab, Debbie St. Ives, Matthew Paquette

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

Public Comment: None presented.

Report of the Superintendent Events and Updates:

Events and Updates - Kindergarten registration is starting early this year to allow more time for parents as well as the schools and administration additional time to plan. Registration dates are January 18-20th from 8am-2pm at each applicable school.

Mr. Ferron introduced Mrs. Jane Hackett, who will be working as intern with Dr. Raab as she works towards her Business Manager license. She will be working with Dr. Raab for most of the school year.

The girls basketball team beat Whitman Hanson last night in a hard fought battle. Meghan Raab scored 20 points.

Superintendent Mid-Cycle Progress Report:

Goal 2 – District Improvement Goal - At this time it does not appear absorbing the town and school funding into the FY18 budget will be feasible. The priority remains staffing for instructional and operational technology. There are opportunities to strengthen areas that are currently within the parameters of the budget they are proposing. Mr. Ferron wants to be sure this stays on the Committee's radar. Technology touches everybody every day and it is a critical must do. The full budget report will be given in two weeks, and he anticipates having more information at that time.

Goal 3 - Community Engagement Goal - Mr. Ferron is very pleased with the progress that is being made and the strength of the relationships between the School Committee, SEPAC Leadership Team and District level Administrators. Regular monthly meetings have been scheduled and attended by School Committee liaisons and Administration. They are doing everything they can to support SEPAC and have a nice working relationship with the group.

Goal 4 - Professional Practice Goal – This goal is focused on the planning and approval and funding for the Center School Building Project. The project has been approved. It is a credit to everyone and now the work will continue. For the remainder of this year and into the summer and beyond the work will be starting and continuing. Special thanks to Mrs. Corbo and everyone on the committee and in the community.

Goal 1 – Student Learning Goal – This goal is to explore strategies and options for a potential “academy model” at Hanover High School. Mr. Ferron introduced Mr. Paquette to speak regarding this goal. They are currently exploring where we are and where we need to be. He continued that they are in the planning stages and explained how they are obtaining the information and ideas they have currently received. Meetings have taken place with students in multiple grades and

classes to obtain feedback about what they would like to see and what is important to them. Some ideas brought to the committee's attention from the students overwhelmingly showed they would like to see more highly collaborative and vocal classrooms. There appears to be a definitive need for the students to be educated in personal finance, economics and world economics, as well as more hands on learning. A question that is being researched is how it is possible to have the ability to major in subjects and receive a more college experience. Mr. Paquette explained greater involvement with community that is currently being implemented. There is also a need for more understanding in our world and current events. They are looking at ways to have a new approach to social studies. The goal is to make Hanover High School the best school possible. They are working with innovation team and plan to have more information as to possible changes that may be able to be incorporated next year.

Mr. Ferron reiterated that they are looking at what is possible and are on a very good track. He feels the possible options as well as the implementation and timeline would be presented in February. He hopes to make some beginning changes in the fall. Mr. Geary was happy to hear that all options are being vetted out. He wants to make sure it is not all about the students wants but also their needs. The team must identify what the wants and needs of students 5-10 years from now will be, which will prove to be difficult, but must be considered. He challenged both Mr. Ferron and Mr. Paquette to dig deeper. He feels the actions listed to date are not clear enough to stakeholders of the future. There was discussion concerning the possibility of creating more interesting and engaging core classes. A question was posed by Mrs. Lynch as for the reasons changes are being looked at, seeing that Hanover High School is a good school with a low dropout rate. Mr. Paquette reiterated the statement he made when this plan was initiated and that was they are looking to see "How can we make our school great?" Mrs. St. Ives inputted they are not looking to recreate, but to make small subtle changes to make things better for students. Mr. Ferron continued by saying that it is important that Hanover High School does not become complacent. He feels we have to evolve. Educational institutions are notoriously not good at it; but it is important to do so. He has a good team to take the time to explore the opportunities in front of us; however they are still in the inquiry and discovery stage. The Committee will await more specific information in February and beyond.

Center School Building Project Update - Mrs. Corbo happily stated that all is going well and they are plowing forward. Soil testing hasn't come back with any problems. Fun stuff is starting to happen. Color committee being formed.

Report of the Finance Department Presented by Dr. Raab:

Donations - Donations received from the following companies: Baystate Textiles, Friends of Hanover Music, Hanover Cultural Council Cedar PTA, Mass Cultural Grants, Hanover PTA, and Friends of Hanover Music. Total donations received \$14,712.14.

Motion by Lynch to approve \$14,712.14 as presented this evening. The motion seconded by Booker. The vote carried unanimously.

There was a brief discussion about the pilot program for standing desks that are being implemented in some classrooms, which were included in a portion of the donations listed. Mrs. Corbo mentioned that she visited Mr. Lovell's classroom and spoke to the students about the desks and Mr. Lovell plans to come to speak with the Committee regarding the success of this program.

FY17 Monthly Budget Summary – Not many changes from previous meeting. Currently they are at 43% of the overall budget which is where they should be given where we are in the school year. Special Education expenses are continuing to be watched carefully. The negative amount of

\$360,307.40 in Special Education is the amount currently needed from FY17 Circuit Breaker, as well as potential relief funds from Chapter 70 that they are hopeful to receive at Town Meeting in May. Additionally any and all avenues to apply for relief funds through the Department of Education to offset the additional to Special Education expenses this year will be sought.

FY 18 Budget 1.0 Update – Brief update given. There have not been any changes from the November 30th meeting. By contract teachers must give notice by December 31st on their intent to retire. This information will provide a significant offset from the figures presented. The technology article will be put into special article. They will have a solid presentation on Jan. 18th. Mr. Ferron spoke to the Town Manager and he assured him that he would present this information to Town Council and he also agreed that \$1,000,000.00 is a reasonable amount to ask for. We will have our number committed to once free cash is certified. Mr. Clarkson will endorse and support an article for Special Education, the Technology article, as well as this current fiscal year, and will release the current Chapter 70 funds for the Special Education deficit. Mr. Ferron stated they are continuing to work and will have information next week to allow the Committee time to review prior to the next meeting. He will also keep in close contact with Mrs. Miller throughout.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

Update on Instructional Rounds – Mrs. St. Ives supplied a brief summary regarding instructional rounds. The goal is to collect objective evidence, data and determine how instructional improvement efforts are being implemented schoolwide. She recently had an opportunity to attend Harvard University to conduct rounds at a school in Newton. It was an extremely exciting day. She and Mr. Galligan walked away with ideas as to what they can enhance based on what they are already doing. She feels that they are doing an exceptional job at what they are currently doing in Hanover. Final instructional round visits are February 9th. Her plan is to come back with a formal presentation once complete. Mrs. Corbo understands this must be difficult for the teachers to have the observation conducted in their classroom and is very impressed with the collaboration amongst them.

Action Items:

Authorization of Special Education Subcommittee - Mr. Ferron recapped that he has conducted meetings with Mrs. Booker, as well as staff and parents regarding the opportunity and need for a Special Education Subcommittee that would enable them to explore Special Education issues. If approved, the plan is to start meetings in February and have a formal update for the Committee in the spring. In addition to approval of Subcommittee, the request for Mrs. Booker to become chairperson for said Subcommittee is also being requested. Mrs. Booker then added that they had a great meeting and they want to look at what resources we have and how to utilize these resources. The Subcommittee will include Ms. Woodward, building level special education personnel, as well as one other individual outside of special education to supply input, in addition to leaders in SEPAC. Additionally, Mr. Ferron has spoken to some parents that would also be willing to be a part of the group and he feels they would do a wonderful job. If approved, a request for a six month review of the Subcommittee be conducted for reauthorization by the School Committee.

Motion by Lynch to approve the Special Education Subcommittee as presented this evening January 4th as noted in bullets in 1, 2, and 3 as presented, to be reviewed and possibly reauthorized in summer 2017. The motion seconded by Booker. The vote carried unanimously.

Motion by Lynch to appoint Mrs. Booker to be the Chairperson of our Special Education Subcommittee. The motion seconded by Corbo. The vote carried with a majority with abstention by Booker.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Lynch to approve the meeting minutes as written on November 30, 2016. The motion seconded by Booker. The vote carried unanimously.

Public Comment: None presented.

The next School Committee meeting is set for January 18, 2017 at the High School. Expected Agenda items include FY18 Budget 1.0 Presentation, HHS Later Start Update, FY18 North River Collaborative Budget Update. Mr. Ferron added that he is trying to get the Captains and Coaches from the State Championship football team to celebrate and present them with a banner and once a date is feasible he will let the Committee know. Any additional agenda items will be added as they come up. Mrs. Lynch inquired as to additional information that, based on the minutes from the November 30th meeting, were to be submitted by Mr. Ferron regarding the Puerto Rico trip. He informed the Committee he had received some information, but requested additional questions be answered. If and when this will be brought back to the Committee, he will be certain they have ample time to review the information prior to whatever meeting it will be presented.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa V. Keefe

Documents Used:

Superintendent Mid-Cycle Report

Donations

FY'17 Monthly Budget Summary

Authorization of Special Education Subcommittee

Appendix A

Appendix B

Appendix C

Appendix D