

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2018
Hanover High School

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

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Thomas Raab, Debbie St. Ives, Joan Woodward, Matthew Paquette, Matthew Plummer, Sheila Walsh and Hugh Galligan

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

Public Comment: None presented

Approval of Minutes:

Mrs. Corbo asked that the approval of minutes be moved to the end of the meeting due to updates that were currently being made to correct errors in the edited version.

Motion by Booker to approve the meeting minutes for January 10, 2018 as recently updated and presented. The motion was seconded by Lynch. The vote carried with abstention from Geary and Lynch.

Report of the Superintendent: Presented by Matthew Ferron

Events and Updates – Mr. Ferron updated the Committee concerning the Circuit Breaker funds. The State Legislature may possibly increase funding in Circuit Breaker funds to seventy-five percent which would result in additional \$80,000 funding in this fiscal year. This would bring more funds into the district this year to prepay tuitions for next year, or possibly the funds would be held for unplanned expenses. Mr. Ferron has assurance with Senator Brady that he is supportive. Additionally Mr. Ferron has a meeting on Friday regarding this topic and will keep the Committee apprised. It was brought to Mr. Ferron's attention that on October 2015, there was a vote for their District Wide Option. The Committee voted for full implementation to take place during the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Ferron will prepare another motion and bring it to the Committee changing the year to the 2019/2020 school year. On January 31st the high school will be hosting an Encore presentation of *Screenagers*. Parents and guardians will be encouraged to bring their children to view this documentary. This is an important component of the Choose Presence Campaign. The North River Collaborative quarterly report is included in packets for the Committee's review. At the February 28th meeting, Bob Murray, Director of Facilities, will give a full presentation of what is going on in the Facilities Department as well as to discuss the Capital Town Meeting Articles that are school related. Mr. Geary asked that Mr. Murray prepare and send the presentation to the Committee prior to the meeting so the Committee can be prepared.

Center School Building Project Update presented Mrs. Corbo – Everything is going on schedule, on time and on budget. Check out the Facebook page for updates and pictures. The sheetrock is up and the classrooms are looking like classrooms. There is nothing more to report, other than the fact the project is on schedule. A furniture expo will be held the second week in February. This will include samples of furniture to help in their purchasing decisions.

Report of Finance Department Presented by Dr. Raab:

- **Donations** - Donations received from the Choose Kind Program totaling \$323.00.

Motion by Booker to accept \$323.00 as presented this evening. The motion was seconded by Lynch. The motion carried unanimously.

- **FY'19 Budget 1.0 Presentation** – Dr. Raab explained in detail, the FY'19 Budget, as was shown in the Power Point Presentation, Appendix A. The budget schedule for 1.0 was reviewed, which includes tonight's initial presentation. The Acting Town Manager, Anthony Marino will have to present the Town Budget to the Selectman on or about February 1, 2018. Budget discussion and preparation will continue during the February 7th and February 28th meetings, and will follow with public budget presentation and a vote on March 14th. This will be the final budget preparation prior to Town Meeting. The budget includes a three percent increase. Chapter 70 has been stable and is driven by enrollment. The budget is based on sixty-five percent of Circuit Breaker funds which represents \$517,000. Should the Legislature approve seventy-five percent, the additional funds would greatly improve and handle any variability in Special Education. Dr. Raab continued to review the spending breakdown. The budget represents a level services budget which supports all needs for FY'19. The anticipated retirements will offer a savings of \$200,000.00, which is already taken into consideration with the budget presented. This budget provides limited flexibility to address programing and staffing. Transportation bids are due February 12, 2018. An increase to substitute pay to \$85.00 per day is included, for a total increase of \$20,000.00 for this line in the budget. \$27,000.00 has been added to professional development to support curriculum initiatives at the middle and high schools. The technology budget includes an increase of \$77,941.00 to the Town Budget. The Technology Article was reviewed which includes a \$65,000 to fund a town wide network. Dr. Raab concluded with an overall budget summary and the highlighted the changes as outlined in the presentation which includes an overall increase to the budget in the amount of \$825,000.00.

Mr. Geary spoke to the audience surrounding slides 12 and 13 and the fact that they were created as an exercise only at the request of the Advisory Committee, surrounding "what ifs". This portion of the presentation highlighted the areas that would be looked at to reduce costs should the need arise and become a requirement. Additionally, Mr. Geary explained how the School Committee is slightly different when dealing with budgets as the entire budget process is transparent from beginning to end. Mrs. Corbo also reminded all that the school department does not have automatic scheduled replacement for items. Discussion, along with questions to Dr. Raab followed the presentation given. Dr. Raab assured the Committee that included with the transportation bid, was the request for various options surrounding time changes and consolidation of bus routes, schedules and times. He assured the Committee that there would, in fact, be a negative impact if the substitute pay should not be increased as the current daily rates are not competitive. Further discussion surrounded the change to transportation fees as well as possible start time changes, and the correlation with current bus schedules. Currently there are 17 buses, with 14 at the middle school, 3 at the high school. All 17 are used for the elementary schools.

Joan Port Farwell approached the Committee, on behalf of the Advisory Committee. She proceeded to thank the School Committee and administration for their cooperation and realizes the request made by the Committee were not easy. The Advisory Committee appreciates their time and efforts.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

- **HHS Assessment Presentation (MCAS/AP/SAT)** Mr. Paquette, Mr. Galligan, Dr. Walsh and Mr. Plummer were the presenters. Mr. Galligan began the presentation with the Power Point Presentation, Appendix C. He began with a review of the MCAS results. This test is a State mandated test, which all students must take and pass in order to fulfill graduation requirements. Mr. Plummer explained the data as well as the color representation throughout the graphs being presented. Eighty- nine percent of the students scored in the advanced/proficient bracket. This exceeded the state by fourteen percent. There were no failures in science this year. Mr.

Plummer proceeded to review students that receive the Special Education services. Fifty-three percent were in advanced/proficient level, which is also a fourteen percent increase over the State percentages. He continued the presentation following a cohort of students. Mrs. Lynch wanted to affirm that zero students were unable to graduate due to failing these tests. Mr. Galligan then reviewed the math portion of the overall MCAS results. Hanover outperformed the state and had fewer students with fails. For student that did not achieve a passing score in math, he reviewed the steps taken to help those students, which includes extra help in math class, additional study groups, as well as after school tutoring. Sheila Walsh continued with the five year trend in English Language Arts. Dr. Walsh was happy to report that there were no failures in ELA. The five-year trend shows ninety eight percent of the students placed in the advanced/proficient bracket, which was seven percent above the State average. There were no failures in the Special Education cohort, with eighty-nine percent of the students achieving advance/proficient. Mr. Geary asked the presenters if they think that the middle school age is a challenging time for the students to be taking these tests, and how can the schools adjust to and work with the students to help them advance. Further discussion surrounded what is done to help the students that are scoring in the proficient category and what can be done to help them advance to the next level. This goal is just as important as it is to help those that are either in the failing and/or needs improvement categories. Mrs. Corbo asked the presenters if the high school is aware of the number of students that leave HPS for private schools between grades 8-9, and would like to have discussion at a later meeting to discuss this number, and how many of these students may be returning.

- **Advanced Placement** – This is a national exam, however not a national curriculum, for those students enrolled in AP classes. The tests are highly individualized. They are all taken at the same time. Students must receive a 3 in order to potentially receive college credits. Mr. Paquette confirmed that there are 232 students enrolled in AP classes, with a total of 400 AP exams administered last year in Hanover. This is an extremely impressive number. A total of 138 students received a 3 or higher in the exams taken. Grades and averages were then reviewed, by department, showing a breakdown of the percentage of those students who earned a 3 or higher. Mr. Paquette concluded with a summary of AP exams, scores and enrollment. Discussion continued with questions from the Committee to the presenters.
- **SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)** – Ninety-four percent of the seniors have already taken the SAT this year. Total scoring for this test is 1600, with 800 points in Reading and Writing and 800 points in Math. Mr. Galligan reviewed the SAT benchmarks for the Class of 2017. This represented ninety percent of the students taking this test, which is extremely impressive. Fifty-six percent of the students met both benchmarks with a Mean Total Score of 1100. The Class of 2018 shows sixty-nine percent of the students have already met the benchmark and have outscored both the state and nation scoring.
- At the conclusion of the presentation Mr. Geary questioned whether or not scoring information is given to the eighth graders that visit the school. Mr. Paquette confirmed that this is the primary focus during the presentation given to the incoming 9th graders. He feels this information is vital. Mr. Geary also suggested that a proactive approach be taken and this information be also presented to the 7th graders and their parents. Mrs. Lynch feels that the administration has proved that if a student attends Hanover High School, works hard all four years, they will be successful and have the opportunity to attend almost any college. Mrs. Corbo thanked and congratulated the administrators for the work that is being done with the HHS students. Having ninety-four percent of the students that have taken the SAT is phenomenal, and is a testament to the staff and what is being done.
- **HHS Connect Update** – presented by Mr. Paquette. *HHS Connect* is the central point of focus of professional development this year and is what is being done currently at the high school. The overall objective has been to look at the curriculum and potential of that curriculum to provide

students with a greater choice and voice. Four pathways have been determined as areas of focus for interested students. The pathways are Fine and Performing Arts, Business and Entrepreneurship, Technology and Engineering and Health and Human Services. Four committees have been created, each dedicated to the pathways mentioned. These committees will continue to research the current courses offered that are aligned with these pathways, as well as courses that would potentially fit into the pathways. They are on target to present this *Program of Studies* in March. Mr. Plummer added how this has fostered collaboration amongst the staff. Mrs. St. Ives concluded by explaining how teachers are collaborating and supporting *HHS Connect*. This has been evident throughout the district and is very exciting to see.

Action Items: No Items

Public Comment: None presented

The next School Committee Meeting will be February 7, 2018 at Hanover High School: Items currently on the Agenda are Q2 Revolving Account Update, FY'19 Budget 2.0 Preview.

Motion by Booker to adjourn at 9:13 pm. The motion was seconded by Lynch. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa V. Keefe

Documents Used:

Donations
FY'19 Budget 1.0 Presentation
HHS Assessment Presentation

Appendix A
Appendix B
Appendix C