

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2018  
Hanover High School

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

**Also Present:** Thomas Raab, Debbie St. Ives, Joan Woodward and Matthew Plummer.

**Absent:** Matthew Ferron

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairperson Geary.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Booker to approve the meeting minutes for February 28, 2018 as presented. The motion was seconded by Lynch. The vote carried with abstention from Ruth Lynch.

**Public Hearing on FY 2019 Budget:**

- **Overview-** Dr. Raab presented a brief overview of the FY'19 Budget, which included a summary of all changes from Draft 1.0, as previously presented. The entire presentation was outlined at the February 28<sup>th</sup> School Committee Meeting in detail.
- **Public Comment-** none
- **School Committee Vote on FY 2019 Budget-**

Motion by Booker to approve the Fiscal 2019 Budget totaling \$28,082,846.00 that reflects a 3.38% increase over last year. The motion was seconded by Lynch. Libby Corbo added her appreciation to Dr. Raab and the members involved in the budget process. The level of transparency and thoroughness is always shown and is to be commended. The vote carried unanimously.

**Report of the Superintendent:** Presented by Mrs. St. Ives

- **Events and Updates-** Mr. Ferron is attending the Hanover Boys Hockey Semi -Final hockey game this evening. Mrs. St. Ives presented on behalf of Mr. Ferron. The Division 3 State Semifinal hockey game between Hanover and Swampscott began at 6:00pm and the score is currently 1-0 Hanover in the middle of the second period. The Hanover High School Spring Festival Concert has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade DARE Graduation is tomorrow afternoon. Mrs. St. Ives thanked Officer Mike and congratulated all of the students. Growth Mindset Parent Night is tomorrow at 7:00pm at the High School Auditorium. All are welcome. Hanover educators, Kerrie Capraro and Steve Lovell will help parents better understand growth mindset and give the tools to develop a growth mindset with their child. They are working on rescheduling both the *Mediatrician* and SEPAC Sponsored Sarah Ward presentation. Information on the dates will be sent as soon as it is available.
- *The Superintendent Time Line*, which was previously distributed, was discussed. Mr. Geary is hoping to meet with Committee members on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup> in an Open Meeting, possibly during the day. The rationale for this schedule would be to discuss each Committee member's evaluations to help create a comprehensive *Summative Evaluation*. A vote on the *Superintendent's*

*Evaluation* will be done at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. There was discussion surrounding whether or not recommendations should be included in the *Superintendent's Evaluation*, or would be better suited to have recommendations included with the *Superintendent's Goals*. Mr. Geary is hoping the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will afford time to have dialogue surrounding the evaluations and allow a more efficient process in creating a *Summative Evaluation*. The Committee will follow the schedule distributed at the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Individual evaluations from each committee member will be due prior to April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- **Vote on 2018-2019 District Calendar Draft 2.0-** No changes from Draft 1.0. Good Friday falls during school vacation which is the reason it is not highlighted on calendar.

Motion by Booker to approve Draft 2.0, 2018-2019 Hanover Public School District Calendar as presented as Appendix B this evening. Mrs. Miller voiced her concern about the Professional Day scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup> as opposed to scheduling it in January, as in the past. Her concern is that November is very choppy with time off; however, Mrs. St. Ives explained the rationale as to the changing the Professional Day from January to November, one of which being November 6<sup>th</sup> is a state voting day. The motion was seconded by Lynch. The vote carried unanimously.

**Center School Building Project Update presented Mrs. Corbo-** The construction meeting was scheduled for yesterday, but has been delayed. A walk through was done and everything is on schedule. Acting Town Manager Tony Marino regrettably resigned his position this week to take a position in Ipswich. Tony is the eligible applicant for the project; therefore, he will have to be replaced. Mrs. Corbo also asked if the Committee would like to collaborate in showing their appreciation to Tony for all of his hard work and effort.

**Special Education Subcommittee Update-** The Committee met on March 7<sup>th</sup> at Salmond Building. The goals, as previously outlined, were discussed.

A working group will be looking at the Panarama Ed survey. The potential cost of this survey will be \$1.50 per student. Dr. Raab stated there are funds to cover this cost. The Committee will reach out to the Marshfield and Scituate, who currently offer Animal Therapy. The Committee will look at the policies implemented for this project.

Dr. King is in the process of doing an evaluation on Multi-Sensory Reading. The Committee will await the results of her findings. Two Reading Programs are currently being used in the district; Center School uses the *Wilson Reading System* and Cedar School uses *The Orton Gillingham System*. The Committee wants to ensure that the reading programs are meeting the needs of all students. The reason there are multiple programs in the district is that specific qualifications and certifications are required in order to teach a reading program.

Dr. Raab presented an update on the results of the Flexible Furniture Expo.

There was additional discussion surrounding American Sign Language, and the possibility of being offered as a Foreign Language requirement. Mrs. Lynch voiced her concern about finding a certified teacher to teach an ASL class. Further discussion continued regarding the reading programs.

A brief discussion regarding discipline in the form of taking away recess, at Cedar School, being a potential concern. Mr. Geary would like the issue to be brought to the Committee if it is determined that this is a Cedar population issue, and not specifically a Special Education issue.

Mrs. Corbo voiced a concern she received from a high school parent, concerning the turnaround time of grading for Special Needs students. Currently, there is no time frame set for the posting of grades. Mr. Geary feels this issue should be handled in a matter of protocol, beginning with the teacher, principal, and Superintendent if so necessary.

He further reiterated that a parent should have no fear to go to Administration with any issues, questions or concerns they may have concerning their child. The next meeting of the Special Educational Subcommittee is April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Report of Finance Department Presented by Dr. Raab:**

- **Donations** - Donations received from the Hanover PTA and Bay State Textiles totaling \$2,990.25.

Motion by Booker to approve donations of \$2,990.25 as presented. The motion was seconded by Lynch. The motion carried unanimously.

**FY 2019 Regular Education Transportation Contract:** Dr. Raab asked the Committee to vote for the FY19 Transportation Bid. This would allow him the time necessary to prepare a comprehensive Bid Proposal. Mr. Geary asked Dr. Raab to post Appendix D so that it is available for anyone interested in reviewing.

Motion by Lynch to approve and accept the year five Fiscal 2019 Option presented by our current transportation provider when our contract was awarded in FY 2014. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The motion carried with a majority vote with opposition by Booker.

**Report on Teaching and Learning:**

- **Brain Awareness Week Update-** Mrs. St. Ives presented an update on Brain Awareness Week. This is a global campaign to increase peoples' awareness on current brain research. This campaign fits nicely with the district wide initiatives; *Choose Presence* and the *Growth Mindset* work. Kerrie Capraro and Steve Lovell will be doing an interesting presentation to go over a lot of this information. Mrs. St. Ives thanked Kerrie Capraro and Steve Lovell for all of the time and effort they have put into this work.
- **Pi Day Challenge-** Matthew Plummer offered a Happy Pi Day to all. All schools in the district participate and celebrate Pi Day, which includes decorated t shirts, cupcakes and more. The high school participates in the Pi Day Challenge, which was initiated by Mr. Plummer. There are currently 6,000 people trying to solve a series of puzzles. He suggested the Committee visit a math classroom tomorrow to see the exciting and fun things going on to celebrate Pi Day.

**Action Items:** Annual District School Choice Vote- This is an annual vote required to determine whether or not to adopt School Choice. Dr. Raab stated that enrollment is high, classrooms are full, and it would be difficult in the current budget structure to approve the School Choice Program.

Motion by Booker, pursuant to MGL Ch. 76 Section 12B for the Hanover School Committee to choose not to participate in the School Choice Program for the 2018-2019 school year, due to high enrollment and class size limitations. The motion was seconded by Lynch. The vote carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None presented

The next School Committee Meeting will be March 28, 2018 at Hanover High School: Items currently on the Agenda are: FY'19 Budget Update 4.0, HHS Program of Studies, HHS Quebec Field Trip Student Report, Town meeting Warrant Article Update.

Motion by Booker to adjourn at 8:14pm. The motion was seconded by Lynch. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa V. Keefe

Documents Used:

FY 2019 Budget Overview

2018-2019 District Calendar Draft 2.0

Donations

FY'19 Regular Education Transportation Contract

Appendix A

Appendix B

Appendix C

Appendix D