

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 20, 2018  
Hanover High School

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

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

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Geary. Due to a family emergency, Mrs. Lynch will be late to the meeting.

**Public Comment:** Resident and parent, Christopher Laroe addressed the Committee. He explained that his son recently graduated from South Shore Vo-tech and although they are extremely proud, he feels that his son “fell through the cracks” in the district. He continued by saying the reason he was speaking to the Committee is because he does not want this to happen to other students and families. He feels as though the state and district cannot offer the services students with needs require, and basic fundamentals were not taught to his son. Mr. Geary thanked Mr. Laroe for speaking and welcomed him to come back and share deeper parts of his family’s experience. He would be happy to arrange a meeting to discuss this further. Mr. Laroe assured the Committee that he was not looking for anything, but speaking only to make the Committee aware, and wanted to ensure that this does not happen to anyone else. The Committee members collectively agreed that it was admirable coming to speak the Committee this evening and assured him the School Committee’s doors are always open. They are confident they will continue to work to find solutions in the future. Mrs. Corbo added that they have worked to make changes with the administration in the past four years. She continued by saying she was happy his son is doing well, and grateful that he came and spoke tonight. Mrs. Booker welcomed him to attend the SEPAC meetings and share his view and experiences.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Booker to approve the minutes of May 16, 2018 as presented. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously.

Motion by Booker to approve the meeting minutes of June 6, 2018 as presented. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously.

**Report of the Superintendent:**

- **Committee Reorganization** - Mr. Ferron facilitated the annual reorganization portion of the meeting.
  - **School Committee Chairperson**-Motion by Booker to nominate Leah Miller as Chairperson of the Committee. The motion was seconded by Geary. Libby Corbo publicly thanked John for the past three years as Chairperson. Mr. Geary spoke briefly and said it was a pleasure to serve, but time for him to step aside in this role.

Roll Call Vote: Kim Booker, Aye, John Geary, Aye, Libby Corbo Aye, and Leah Miller Aye. The vote carried unanimously.

- **School Committee Vice Chair**-Motion by Corbo to nominate Kim Booker as Vice Chair. John Geary seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: John Geary, Aye, Libby Corbo, Aye, Leah Miller Aye and Kim Booker Aye. The vote carried unanimously.

- **Budget Sub Committee Reauthorization**-Motion by Booker to reauthorize the Budget Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously.
  - **Special Education Subcommittee Reauthorization**- Motion by Booker to reauthorize the Special Education Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously. Kim Booker appreciates the committee and administration for the support of this committee.
  - **Representative to the North River Collaborative Reauthorization**- Motion by Booker to reauthorize Matt Ferron as Representative. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously.
  - **School Committee Representative for Sick Leave Bank**- Motion by Booker to nominate Ruth Lynch as representative. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously
  - **Committee Access and Media Board** – Motion by Booker to nominate Steve Ryerson. The motion was seconded by Corbo. Libby Corbo spoke very highly of Steve Ryerson and his tireless efforts. The vote carried unanimously.
  - **Budget Subcommittee Chairperson** – Leah Miller, as Chairperson, will serve as exofficio member. Second member of committee is required. Motion by Booker to nominate John Geary. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously.
  - **Representative for the Center Sylvester Building committee**- Motion by Corbo to nominate Kim Booker. The motion was seconded by Geary. The vote carried unanimously.
  - **Special Education Subcommittee Chairperson**- Motion by Corbo to nominate Kim Booker. The motion was seconded by Miller. The vote carried unanimously.
- **State of Athletics Update** – presented by Scott Hutchison, who began the presentation by reviewing the sports offered within the Athletics program, as shown in Appendix A. The Rugby team will be playing for State Title Saturday at 12:00pm. He offered thanks to Mr. Galligan for initiating this program. Mr. Hutchison then continued to review participation numbers, which continue to increase. Team and individual recognitions were mentioned. Student athletes continue to achieve in the classroom as well as the field. He thanked the HHS Boosters for their tremendous continued support. Hanover High School awarded the HHS Boosters with the *HHS Legacy Award*. Community partners were thanked and recognized for their continued support. The revenue increased 12% from FY17 to FY18, which is due to the increase in participation. Mr. Hutchison also reviewed upcoming goals, which included participation rate, community engagement and overall athletic conditioning of athletes. Libby Corbo stated she is very impressed with where Ath-

letics is today and how it has grown. Mr. Hutchison thanked the Committee and Administration for the support his department receives. Mr. Geary thanked Scott for his presentation. He then shared that his daughter attended a lacrosse practice that the student athletes participated in, and she home with a new passion for lacrosse. Additionally, he feels high school Friday night football is thriving and is thanks to Mr. Hutchison and his staff, and what they have done for the program. He suggested a capital funding plan for a turf field. Mr. Hutchison confirmed that he has been speaking with Bob Murray and Matt Ferron regarding this project and are beyond the initial stages. User fees were then discussed. The current user fees are \$200 or \$260 per athlete, depending on the sport with a family cap of \$1000 per school year. Discussion surrounded areas to generate revenue in order to continue to stay sustainable user fees. Kim Booker asked if any sports are offered with no tryouts. Cross Country, Indoor Track, Swimming, Outdoor Track and Field are all no cut sports. Further discussion continued from Mrs. Lynch regarding Mr. Hutchison's intent on increasing participation beyond the current 70 percent, which she feels is very high. He hopes to increase participation to 75 percent. The committee thanked Mr. Hutchison for his presentation.

- **Events and Updates-** Mr. Ferron attended a public hearing today for Hanover Community Television with HTTV. It was very well attended and he feels the partnership with them is valuable. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade dinner dance is tonight, and the cookout is tomorrow. The promotion ceremony is Friday at 11:15 am. Cedar Talent Show is tomorrow at 7pm. Last day of school is Monday June 25<sup>th</sup>, with an early dismissal. No lunch will be served. Mr. Ferron informed the Committee with information obtained regarding the family that had a relative from Columbia hoping to attend Hanover High School. An F Visa would be required. This would require the student to pay tuition. Additionally, Hanover would need to sign off with Homeland Security, as well as provide regular updates to them. At this time the family has not re-approached the school department; however, Mr. Ferron assured Mrs. Lynch that administration will contact the family to see if this is something they wish to pursue.
- **Title Change for the Business Manager –** Mr. Ferron requested to the Committee to promote Dr. Raab, Business Manager, to Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance. Dr. Raab is not asking for anything additional beyond a title change. Mr. Ferron informed the Committee that this title change would afford him to get his Superintendent professional license, which he currently holds an initial license. He would also be afforded membership of Massachusetts Superintendents, which offers a multitude of benefits both personal as well as professional, now and in the future. This request does require a vote.

Motion by Booker to change Dr. Raab's title to Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance. The vote was seconded by Lynch. Mrs. Corbo continued by saying that Dr. Raab has brought so much professionalism to this position, and by doing so has made the committee's job easier. Leah Miller agreed that the transparency he offers is phenomenal. All members agreed. Additionally, as stated by Mrs. Lynch, he is a great citizen of the town; an honorable and honest man. The vote carried unanimously.

- **Center School Building Project Update** – presented by Libby Corbo. There are so many wonderful things happening. They had Open House on Monday. 480 people came through. Everyone was very excited. The Mariner did a great article on the project. She cannot say enough about Brait Builder and the Project Managers, P3. They are ahead of schedule and will be moving teachers in their spaces in two weeks. Everything is state of the art. She thanked the Committee, as well as Kim for starting the process of this project. The work that has gone on has been amazing, including all of the behind the scene worked that allowed this project to be as successful as it is. Mr. Ferron thanked Libby Corbo for all her efforts. She explained the transitioning schedule, with full completion being done by December.
- **2018-2019 Superintendent Goals Draft 1.0** – Mr. Ferron began his presentation with an explanation to the Committee that he would like to take this presentation out of order.
  - **Goal 2: District Improvement** – To successfully phase, plan and support the new grade level configuration of Center/Sylvester and Cedar Elementary Schools. This will be under the leadership of Dr. Raab. The strategic objectives of this Goal are Sustainable Funding, Human Capital, Community Engagement, and Safety and Security, Mr. Geary suggested that they reach out to a district that has gone through a similar project, to talk about the growing pains and be able to gauge the issues of being “a new school”, and possibly include someone from another district to help with the challenges and concerns. Mr. Ferron feels they will be very well prepared.
  - **Goal 3: Professional Practice/Community Engagement.** To develop and implement the use of Podcasts to increase HPS community awareness regarding student accomplishments, district initiatives, and to address any current events that may have an impact on our district. Steve Ryerson is excited about working on this project.
  - **Goal 1: Read 2700: Strategy for Literacy 2018-2023** -The Hanover School System aspires to exceed our current capacity to deliver research based, impactful, effectively aligned, comprehensive literacy skills and strategies for students of all abilities; pre-kindergarten through graduation. This will work to improve literacy districtwide, especially in the elementary level. Debbie St. Ives will lead this project, with full support from Matt, Tom and the Administrative team. Mrs. St. Ives continued the presentation, as shown in a power point presentation distributed. The number “2700” signifies the 2700 students that are included in the Hanover Schools. The focus areas of the goal were itemized, which include reading instruction as well as targeted professional development. The presentation continued with a review of the current conditions, strategic outcomes, estimated timeline as well as financial considerations. Mrs. Miller thanked Mrs. St. Ives and fees that the approach they are looking to take is very effective. Libby Corbo also agreed and is excited about this approach with reading. She is confident that you cannot be successful with math until you can read and appreciates all the hard work put into this goal. Mrs. Lynch is excited that Debbie St. Ives is leading this goal, seeing the success she has had with the math program. There was a review regarding assessments and the comparison at the

state level. Mr. Ferron assured the Committee they will provide a more refined, dynamic plan in the fall with Draft 2.0. There is no formal plan as to how this information will be shared at this point, but it will be presented to the Committee and with the community once a determination has been made.

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

- **Donations** - Received from Comm. Educators Insurance, Hanover PTA, Friends of Hanover Music and Tri Town Rotary Club totaling \$16,586.50.

Motion by Booker to approve \$16,586.50 as presented this evening. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote was carried unanimously.

- **FY 2018 Budget Closeout Report** - FY2018 has been challenging, due to unanticipated long term substitutes as well as Special Education tuition costs. Dr. Raab stated that although it was a difficult year, they were able to get things done. Circuit Breaker will remain with only \$45,658 at this point, which is very low. There is potential for an additional Circuit Breaker payment of \$55,426 that would bring the potential rollover to \$101,084.
- **HHS New Student Activity Account Authorization** - Hanover High School has formed the *HHS Interact Club*, which is a new club and will be included in next year's *Program of Studies*. Approval is required to add the Interact Club as well as the account to the High School Student Activities Account.

Motion by Booker to authorize the *HHS Interact Club*. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously.

#### **Report on Teaching and Learning:**

- **PanoramaEd Survey Recommendation**- presented by BJ McNamara. Although Mr. McNamara is the Special Education coordinator for the middle school, he began the presentation informing the Committee that this is a general education initiative. The presentation was explained in detail and shown in Appendix F. This is a social and emotional standards assessment tool that can be used districtwide. He reviewed the intended outcomes of the program which includes the assessment of the Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) skills of all students K-12, identify areas for growth as well as identify students for specific interventions. The cost is broken down as a per student cost based on grade, totaling \$8,700.00 per year. The survey may be used as many times per year as you deem necessary, however it is typically recommended to do it three times a year. Grades K-12 would have a family engagement survey as well as teacher and staff survey. Grades 5-12 would include two additional surveys. Mr. McNamara explained in detail how information from the survey could be used and broken down, as well as the response percentages. He reviewed and highlighted samples of questions as well as the teacher views of the surveys. Additionally, there is also a family survey which they would want to be included. This includes open response questions. The software will look at patterns and synonyms of responses. Mrs. Miller thanked Mr. McNamara for the presentation. Questions were posed regarding specifics of the surveys and implementation. Mrs. Corbo questioned the accuracy of the surveys and whether or not Mr. McNamara feels the surveys will be accurate if the student knows the teachers

will see the results, in which Mr. McNamara informed the Committee the survey allowed for specific questions to be asked and tailored. Further question surrounded whether or not the survey could be posed to students and families of students that have graduated to see students that have gone through the HPS. Mr Geary suggested the questions be posed in a positive aspect as, opposed to a negative one. There was discussion as to the necessity of including the survey for grades 9-12, which would be a discussion to have with administration. Communication with the parents would be necessary regarding the survey and whether or not it would be mandatory. After continued discussion, there was concern among some members of the Committee and Mrs. Lynch feels that much more information and research should be done prior to a request for funding. She felt as though if this is something that will be sought, there must be a follow up plan based on the results. Mrs. Booker explained that this survey discussion began with special education, but after continued discussion, it was determined that the survey may be included in general education. Further discussion continued surrounding whether or not this should in fact be geared towards Special Education or a general education survey. A long-range plan is needed, and Mrs. Lynch also feels the timing is not the best to be requesting these funds. Mrs. Corbo spoke concerning this and feels that this is not a lot of money for the importance of this survey. She continued by stating they have never taken a look at social and emotional learning, and it is important to do so. Mr. Ferron addressed the Committee and assured them they will take the information after tonight's discussion and will work further to get more information and plans compiled. If this is going to be done, it should be done right. Mr. McNamara agreed to continue to work on this and come back to the Committee with additional information.

#### **Action Items:**

**Vote to Ratify Superintendent's Contract Extension-** Mr. Geary explained that during Executive Session on June 6<sup>th</sup> there was discussion about extending Superintendent Ferron's contract to include FY2021. This would extend his contract one year, which will give him a current three year contract. After every exemplary performance, the Committee feels it appropriate to keep Mr. Ferron in another three year contract. They will meet in FY19 to determine what his salary will be for this year. This is an act of good faith and confidence in Mr. Ferron. Mr. Ferron thanked the Committee and his administration. He stated he could not do what he does without everyone at the table.

Motion by Booker to approve the contract extension for Mr. Ferron for a fiscal year through FY 2012. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously.

- **Public Comment:** None presented.

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for August 29, 2018 at Hanover High School. Expected Agenda Items include 2018-2019 Superintendent's Goals 2.0, District Strategic Objectives, 2018-2019 Home School Approvals, Q4 Revolving Account Update, FY19 Budget Update, FY19 Student Activity Account Reauthorization

Motion by Booker to adjourn at 10:05pm. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa V. Keefe

Documents Used:

State of Athletics Update

2018-2019 Superintendent Goals Draft 1.0:

Donations:

FY 2018 Budget Closeout Report

HHS New Student Activity Account Authorization:

PanoramaEd Survey Recommendation :

Appendix A

Appendix B

Appendix C

Appendix D

Appendix E

Appendix F