

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2018
Hanover High School

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

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Thomas Raab, Deborah St. Ives, Keith Guyette, Matthew Paquette, Dan Birolini, Jane DeGrenier and Michael Oates

Absent: Mr. John Geary

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

Public Comment: None presented

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mrs. Booker to approve the meeting minutes from November 14, 2018 as written. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Corbo. The vote carried unanimously.

Report of Finance Department Presented by Dr. Raab:

- **Donations** - Received from The Commonwealth Educators Insurance and Hanover School Families totaling \$381.25. The Middle School won for the most attendance at the Hanover Huddle and the \$250 donation was used for a Thanksgiving Luncheon for staff. HPTA fundraising monies approved at a prior meeting will be detailed at a future meeting on how funds are being spent.

Motion by Booker to approve Donations totaling \$381.25. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously.

Report of the Superintendent presented by Matt Ferron:

- **Events and Updates** – Many things going on over the holiday season. Eighth grade open house at the high school is December 6th. *Little Shop of Horrors* performances are December 13, 14 & 15 with tickets on sale prior and at the door. The Hanover School Store is open for holiday shopping.
- **Master Plan Update** – Presented by Mr. Ferron on behalf of Mr. Geary. The Master Plan Committee met for the first time at the end of November. Mr. Geary was appointed as the Vice Chair of the Committee and will provide regular reports to the School Committee about the work of the Master Plan Committee.
- **Center School Building Project Update** – Presented by Mrs. Corbo. Furniture delivery from December 11th to 13th. Mrs. Corbo invited the Committee for a walk-thru of the school during the week of December 17th. A meeting to discuss the Sylvester School status will be on December 17th at 7:00 pm.

Special Education Subcommittee Update – Presented by Mrs. Booker. Mrs. Booker tendered her position as Chairperson of the Special Education Subcommittee. The following was her resignation:

“Last week, I tendered my resignation as chair of the special education subcommittee. The purpose of the subcommittee was to improve the educational experience of our special education students by a thoughtful discussion regarding budget and policy between the members which include Hanover Public School staff and community members.

Over the summer and into the fall there was a concern about the role of the subcommittee. At the last subcommittee meeting we discussed if the subcommittee should continue. The subcommittee formed a working group lead by Sue Scanlan. The other members included Keith Guyette, Keri Morrison, Michelle Gardner, Jacqueline Porro and me. There was no resolution during the working group.

It is not productive or a good use of time or resources to continue in this manner. Instead of focusing on the special education concerns of the district, over the last few months there have been countless hours utilized to resolve the concern of the subcommittee. Therefore, it is time to step back. There is a lot of work that needs to be completed in the area of special education in Hanover. The subcommittee should complement not distract from this important and vital work—that is simply not happening.

I want to thank the members of the subcommittee including Sue Scanlan, Noreen Riley, Vanessa Sullivan, Lisa Bumbalo, Karen Gill and recently Adriana Mason. I would also like to thank the Hanover Public School members including BJ McNamara, Stacey Bartlett, Chrisann Merrick, Joan Woodward, Keri Morrison and Keith Guyette. In the beginning of the subcommittee formation we agreed that regular attendance was an important feature. Several members rearranged their work schedules to attend. Their dedication to the Hanover community is commendable.

In a short time we made a lot of positive changes! It would not have been possible without their time and dedication to the children of Hanover. This September the SEPAC formed working groups and my hope is that they will be able to continue this important work.

At this time I request that school committee dissolve the Special Education Subcommittee.”

Mrs. Corbo thanked Mrs. Booker and the subcommittee for their dedication to special education.

Motion by Corbo to dissolve the Special Education Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Lynch. The motion carried with a majority vote with an abstention by Booker.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

- **2018 MCAS Results Presentation Grades 3-8** – Presented by the Elementary and Middle School Principals. The evolution of the MCAS testing system is as follows:
 - 1998 - 2014 Legacy MCAS
 - 2015 & 2016 PARCC
 - 2017 Next Generation MCAS
 - 2018 Next Generation MCAS – New Accountability System

Massachusetts’ new accountability system for grades 3 thru 8 is designed to measure how a school or district is doing and what kind of support it may need. The accountability system now labels districts as “Requires Assistance” or “No Need of Assistance”; Hanover falls under “No Need of Assistance”. The accountability considers achievement, student growth, chronic absenteeism and progress towards English language proficiency indicators. The accountability system also uses categories for districts as follows: meeting targets, partially meeting targets, in need of focused/targeted support and in need of broad/comprehensive support. Hanover falls under the partially meeting targets category.

The group reviewed Hanover’s results and discussed how the new accountability system works. They stressed that because this is a baseline year with the new accountability system, the data cannot be compared to last year’s results. Mrs. St. Ives noted that chronic absenteeism is now looked at for all grades in the district when students miss more than 10% of school days. This portion of the accountability scale will affect MCAS results when compared to other districts within the state. Mr. Ferron added that a student’s absence would not be questioned by Administration. Mrs. St. Ives mentioned that the prior year’s MCAS

accountability data was used for the current year's scale. In addition, the testing window has increased due to the changes in the tests.

MCAS reports were mailed to families on October 19, 2018. Achievement levels when compared to other Hanover students and students within the state were noted on the form.

The panel spoke on the two groups who require improvements; multiple year enrolled students and the lowest performing 25% of students based on school population. The state is placing greater accountability on a students MCAS performance. The student's achievement level varies depending on grade and version of MCAS. Hanover students (with and without disabilities) performed above the state's average in all grades and subjects.

Mrs. DeGrenier spoke on MCAS Reflection and Planning. She mentioned that teachers discussed assessment preparation and planning. ELA scores are broken down into reading, writing and language. Students were meeting targets in reading but not as high in writing and language. MCAS writing examples of students work were sent back to the schools in order to address improvements needed. Sustained Student Reading (SSR) has increased in the classroom with hopes to improve a students writing ability.

Mrs. Booker questioned why growth was shown online and not in the MCAS presentation. Mrs. St. Ives noted that the accountability report for each school was presented as an overview of Hanover compared to the state as a whole.

Mrs. Corbo questioned the reason for the low 8th Grade MCAS score for students with disabilities. Mr. Birolini responded that some students took the test for the first time. Also, when comparing the state to the previous year, the overall percentage fell. Mr. Ferron added the Committee needs to be sensitive when discussing this issue as a substantial number of students fall in this category.

Mrs. Lynch noted that the data produced from the newer version of MCAS is difficult to understand. Mr. Oates added that the data comprised is used as a snapshot for improvement due to its infancy. Mrs. St. Ives added that the assessment data is used for revising teaching pace and providing direction.

Mrs. Lynch appreciated the Administration's quick response to the events of December 4, 2018. Mr. Ferron added that the school's relationship with the Hanover Police Department is unwavering. Mrs. Corbo commends the level of communication presented to families.

Action Items:

- **No items at this time.**

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2019 at Hanover High School. Mr. Ferron stated that the topics may vary due to Committee attendance. Expected Agenda Items will be:

- Superintendent Mid-Cycle Progress Report
- READ2700 Update: Needs Assessment Presentation
- FY'20 Budget 1.0 Update

Mrs. Miller wished everyone a great holiday season.

Motion by Booker to adjourn at 8:13 pm. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tara L. Wakefield

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Recording Secretary for the Hanover School Committee

Documents Used:

Donations
2018 MCAS Results Presentation Grades 3-8

Appendix A
Appendix B