

Hanover School Committee Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2019
Hanover High School

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

Also Present: Matthew Ferron, Thomas Raab, Deborah St. Ives, Keith Guyette, Mr. Emmanuel Dockter and Mrs. Joan Port-Farwell

Absent: Mrs. Kimberly M. Booker

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Mrs. Miller

Public Comment: None presented

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Geary to approve the December 5, 2018 School Committee minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote was carried unanimously.

The January 9, 2019 minutes were tabled as Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Corbo were not present at the last meeting therefore a quorum to vote the minutes was not present.

Report of the Superintendent presented by Matt Ferron:

- **Events and Updates** – The Hanover High School Symphonic Band has been selected to play at the Massachusetts Music Educators Association All-State Conference March 1, 2019 at the Seaport in Boston. They have been invited by Dr. Timothy Anderson, director of the UMass Minuteman Marching Band and Charles Peltz, director of Wind Studies at the New England Conservatory. Students will have an opportunity to perform and participate in a clinic for music educators from across the Commonwealth. Additionally, Dr. Peltz will be coming to a rehearsal at HHS to meet the students and work with them.

Mrs. Lynch mentioned that she has attended this event in the past and the invite is quite an honor.

- **Fundraising Policies** – The proposed changes center around *GBEBC Staff Gifts and Solicitations*, which puts at \$50.00 cap on teacher received gifts. These anticipated changes will be an ongoing revision throughout the school year.

Mrs. Corbo questioned whether other superintendents/school districts are struggling with the same fundraising policies. Mr. Ferron has reached out to other superintendents for their input.

- **Master Plan Implementation Committee** – Presented by Mr. Geary. The Committee has been formed and meetings took place on November 20th and January 10th. The first meeting involved member introductions within the town and the election of a chair (from Board of Selectmen) and vice-chair. The second meeting heard questions on HHS Connect and future plans for the Sylvester School. The committee or “working panel” was designed to discuss issues/projects among all the departments within the town.
- **Center School Building Project Update** - Presented by Mrs. Corbo. Third and fourth graders are both present in the Center school. The school’s dedication is scheduled for February 12th at 5:00 pm and is open to all members of the community. The Auditorium will be completed by the end of January.

- **Town Meeting: Sylvester School Article(s)** – Presented by Mr. Emanuel Dockter, Chairperson of the Board of Selectmen. Two articles will be presented: (1) *Transfer Control of Property from School to Town* and (2) *Implementation of Twenty-nine Housing/Rental Units*. If at May's Town Meeting there is no approval, both Articles will be pushed back for further commentary at next year's Town Meeting. A two-thirds approval will be needed for either Article to move forward. In addition, he mentioned that the Board of Selectmen is seeking commentary from all town Boards.

Mrs. Corbo questioned if the information would be posted prior to town meeting. Mr. Dockter replied that the details will be published as soon as possible once the Board meets. The Board is hoping for a formal agreement among all necessary committees prior to Town Meeting.

Mrs. Miller questioned the reason for only two Articles. Mr. Dockter replied that the removal of the third Article was due to possible confusion with the presentation of multiple Articles. In addition, potential cash flow needed for project completion is still in question and whether the building would be used for housing or town means.

Mrs. Corbo questioned whether the Advisory Committee has relayed the necessary funds required to implement the developers option. Mr. Dockter replied that they have not but have expressed their fiscal concerns.

Mrs. Miller added that the idea of moving the District's Administration Building to the Sylvester School property has been removed from discussion. Mr. Dockter added that this proposal did not work because of financial concerns and other reasons.

Mrs. Lynch questioned whether the Selectmen are endorsing the housing option as a source of revenue. Mr. Dockter replied that extensive meetings were conducted related to the possible options for the property, whether for housing or public use.

Mrs. Corbo appreciated the Board's efforts in finding the best use for the Sylvester School property, allowing enough time for residents to make informed decisions. Mr. Dockter added that the longer the property remains dormant the possibility of additional unforeseen costs may accrue.

Mr. Geary questioned that if the housing option is not approved, further studies would not permit a sooner than later decision. Mr. Dockter replied that a clear, single option is the most prudent way to move forward and a new study focusing on additional uses for the property would resume. Mrs. Corbo added that immense discussion would occur at Town Meeting due to this. Mr. Geary added that the result of the upcoming Town Meeting will put a timeframe on all decisions moving forward, whether an approval of a current article or to establish a new article that would be put in place for the following year's Town Meeting. Mr. Dockter replied that he has stated Board and personal opinions.

Mrs. Corbo questioned the date for the public's submission of petition Articles. Mr. Dockter stated that January 25, 2019 was the deadline for submission of additional articles to the warrant. The Board's goal has been to be as transparent as possible and exercise all ideas due to the sensitivity of this issue.

Mrs. Joan Port-Farwell, Liaison for the Advisory Committee, stated this Town Meeting was crucial for property tax assessment maintenance. She adds that this project cannot go above it's 5% or the town will lose it's bond rating.

Mrs. Lynch questioned the historical significance of the school that was found by the Advisory Committee. Mrs. Port-Farwell replied that the school was built in 1927 and is located in the center of town with a long standing tradition. In addition, Mrs. Lynch questioned the proximity of the playground next to an age restricted housing complex. Mrs. Port-Farwell added that a CORI check will be performed and that no preference to residents has been noted.

Mr. Geary questioned the potential revenue and use of resources from twenty-nine units. Mrs. Port-Farwell replied that revenue and resource usage is based on the number of residents. Mr. Dockter added

that senior housing does not affect town resource usage as much as a 4+ family residence with children. This issue will be an important Board issue.

- **Town Meeting: Capital Budget Articles** – Presented by Dr. Raab. These Articles were discussed on December 5, 2018 along with the Facilities Engineering Manager and the Town Manager.

Mrs. Corbo noted that a representative was present at both meetings. Dr. Raab added that the Articles will move forward regardless of School Committee approval.

Mr. Geary questioned the necessity of the Articles. Dr. Raab replied that there has been an Advisory Committee for the Cedar School. Mrs. Port-Farwell added that additional maintenance will be needed over the next few years. Mr. Geary stressed the fiscal responsibility when discussing what is needed at the property. Mrs. Corbo stated that the funds need to be spent immediately on the security at the Cedar School. Mrs. Port-Farwell extended an invitation to all for discussion. Mr. Geary replied that it is not Advisory Committees's mission to relay their opinion on what funds are spent on. (*Following the meeting, Mr. Geary received corrected information and will comment on this at the February 6, 2019 meeting.*)

Article XX, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General laws the sum of \$130,000, or another sum, to renovate bathrooms at the Cedar School, said renovation to be done at the direction of the Town Manager, or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion by Geary to endorse Article XX, the Cedar School Bathroom Renovation. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote was carried unanimously.

Article XX, to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, appropriate from available funds and/or borrow in accordance with Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General laws the sum of \$300,000, or another sum, to install physical security upgrades at the Cedar School, said installation to be done at the direction of the Town Manager, or take any other action relative thereto.

Motion by Geary to endorse Article XX, the Cedar School Security Upgrade. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote was carried unanimously.

Report of Finance Department Presented by Dr. Raab:

- **Budget Line Transfer Request** – Dr. Raab requested a budget line transfer as indicated in Appendix B from Cedar School Salary line to Special Education Expense lines. He stated that he is currently evaluating all of the budget lines looking for any opportunities to fund needs that were unanticipated in September.

Motion by Geary to approve the Housekeeping Line Transfer Request as presented. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote was carried unanimously.

- **FY'20 Budget Presentation 1.0** – Presented by Dr. Raab as shown in Appendix C. All documents are available online, including the budget memo and detail for each line item. The bulleted items are as follows:
 - *Schedule for upcoming meeting*
 - *Identify budget development variable*
 - *Budget sustainability*
 - *Review of FY'19 spending*
 - *Enrollment*
 - *Supporting strategic objectives*
 - *Technology Capital Plan*

- *Technology Budget*
- *Budget 1.0 Summary*

Mr. Geary requested to be made aware of any changes in capital expenditures over the next couple weeks. Mr. Ferron added that a Subcommittee meeting will take place.

Mrs. Lynch appreciated the clear and concise presentation and enjoyed seeing the enrollment by grade.

Report on Teaching and Learning:

- No report at this time.

Action Items:

- **Vote to Approve the Therapy Dog Policy** – as shown in Appendix D, the Committee is required to vote on the recommended Therapy Dog Policy.

Motion by Geary to approve the Therapy Dog Policy as written. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote was carried unanimously.

- **Vote on Amended North River Collaborative Agreement** –This agreement, as outlined in Appendix E, replaces the Collaborative Agreement dated July 1, 2017. The Board at North River Collaborative has agreed to accept Holbrook as one of its member districts effective July 1, 2019. Mr. Ferron recommended the Committee vote to accept the amended agreement.

Motion by Geary to approve the Amended North River Collaborative Agreement as written. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote was carried unanimously.

The next School Committee Meeting will be on February 6, 2019.

Expected Agenda Items will be:

- HHS Assessment Presentation (MCAS/AP/SAT)
- Fundraising Policy Updates
- FY'19 Budget Update
- FY'20 Budget 2.0

The Open House and building dedication of Center School will be February 12th from 5 pm-7 pm. Everyone is welcome. It will begin with a presentation in new auditorium followed by tours of the new building.

Motion by Geary to adjourn at 8:43 pm. The motion was seconded by Corbo. The vote carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tara L. Wakefield

Tara L. Wakefield

Recording Secretary for the Hanover School Committee

Documents Used:

Fundraising Policies	Appendix A
Budget Line Transfer Request	Appendix B
FY'20 Budget Presentation 1.0	Appendix C
Vote to Approve the Therapy Dog Policy	Appendix D
Vote on Amended North River Collaborative Agreement	Appendix E