

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2020

Present: Alex Kastrinakis, Missy Turner, Patty Bishop, Mark Gaskill

Present via Zoom: Bruce Weiner

Also Present: Jay Merselis (Hancock Principal), Rebecca Phillips (Superintendent/Sped Director)

1. Call to Order – Alex called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.
2. Public Concerns
 - a. None
3. Correspondence
 - a. AIC – Doctoral Candidate meeting with School Committee members re: superintendents. Motion called to have School committee members speak with Doctoral candidate Stephen Hale regarding effective Superintendents & leadership practices. On a motion by Bruce, second by Mark, vote was unanimous.
4. Review and approval of Minutes of Meeting 11/10/2020
 - a. On a motion from Missy, 2nd from Alex; approved unanimously
5. Principal's Report
 - a. Accolades and Happenings
 - i. All the teachers and students stepped up to write to all the seniors; the school sent out about 200 cards in lieu of Community Thanksgiving
 - b. Faculty and staff continue to do a great job
 - i. IBerkshires article about Mrs. T's distance belts
 - c. Enrollment is up by one for a total of 55 (2 are remote)
 - i. Cricket Cove – 6
 - ii. Kindergarten - 5
 - iii. First - 9
 - iv. Second - 7
 - v. Third - 4
 - vi. Fourth - 9
 - vii. Fifth - 6
 - viii. Sixth - 9
 - ix. There are at least 4 students being homeschooled now that could attend grades 7 or 8 next year
 - d. Getting list from town on students ages newborn to 19
 - i. Annual event to try and anticipate enrollment. For example, family moving back to the area on August with two school age children and 2 younger siblings
 - e. Parents and larger community continue to do a wonderful job putting the community needs over their own interests
 - i. Keeping kids home when sick
 - ii. Picking up sick children quickly
 - iii. Minimal complaining about getting tested and staying out until results come back
 - iv. Teachers are supplying work when students are absent
 - f. Plan for remote learning, if needed:

- i. If building is safe, keep PreK in person, offer sped services in person, allow the neediest students/families to be present at school
 - ii. Teachers will not be required to teach from school, but if building is safe, will have the option. Jay will plan to be in person daily as he was in the spring, again, depending on why we closed
 - g. PD day on Wednesday, December 9; school closed for students
 - h. Jay is Serve Safe Certified
 - i. MCLA reached out to have a student teacher in 2/3 or 4/5 grade in Spring Semester. Jay will consider if we can keep students/school safe
- 6. Superintendent's report
 - a. Met with Mass School Building Authority regarding expanding learning space
 - i. Core project expects 50-year life expectancy, we could go through ARP program but not for roof or boiler (because the ARP program was used in 2010 for this reason). Reimbursement rates change every year.
 - ii. Statement of Interest project – Jan/Feb timeframe. Building based needs
 - b. Family on South side wants transportation to Richmond School and New Lebanon. Rebecca will speak to attorney to determine our obligation
 - c. Rebecca will do a needs assessment survey with parents, staff and School Committee re: physical plant, teaching and learning
 - d. Rebecca acknowledged everyone is doing a really good job and is pleased everyone is still in school. Teachers and students are adhering well to protocols.
- 7. Special Education report
 - a. Memo of agreement for Ward Johnson needs to be signed (Alex will sign)
- 8. Finance Report
 - a. Reviewed
- 9. Executive Session
 - a. Not needed.
- 10. Other Business
 - a. K-1 sink leaks – Jay is trying to get a plumber
- 11. Adjournment – Patty motioned to dissolve the meeting at 7:58, 2nd from Missy. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patty Bishop