

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 5th, 2021

Present: Bruce Weiner, Missy Turner, Cahill LeBarron, Elisa Kryskow

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

1. Call to Order - Alex called the meeting to order at 6:04pm
2. Public Concerns: None, no public present
3. Correspondence: Town meeting with all eligible departments to submit wishlist re: America Rescue Plan Act / COVID Health and Safety. Funds must spent by 2024 - \$208,000 to total to be used over 2 years.
4. "Glimpse into the Classroom" - Jennifer Mills presenting on reading/writing curriculum ("Becoming a Reader/ Becoming a Writer").
- 5.. Review/ Approval of minutes
  1. Alex noted that Superintendent's Report, line 8, did not need to be approved by committee members.
5. Principal's Report
  1. Teachers are doing an amazing job as the backbone of the school, whether it be Mrs. Buell (K-1 without a full-time teacher at this time) or Donna Beguin (SPED and after school program). Mr. and Mrs Feathers are back into the classrooms doing their drumming.
  2. 56 students enrolled at this time (1 transferred to another school and 2 who decided to be homeschooled). These families remain connected to and involved with the school.
  3. Alan Livermoor hired for Music Teacher position (0.8 Music Teacher at Lanesborough) - perfect addition to 0.2 position here.
  4. Still interviewing for K-1 and nurse positions. (Nurse Kasey Stegner that was hired as of last SC meeting resigned after 3 days due to extenuating family conditions). Both of those searches will hopefully be closed by this weekend with promising applicants.
  5. Pooled testing with glitches a few weeks ago exacerbated by not being able to get the answers that were needed at the time. We did learn, after much advocacy of what Hancock School needed, that we can in fact do the "Test to Stay" program.
    - a. If deemed a close contact, those students can take a rapid test in the morning. If the test is negative, they can stay in school / not miss school unnecessarily.
    - b. Many parents who have not consented to Pooled Testing do wish to have their children as part of the Test and Stay program.
  6. MCAS results from the spring have arrived; results are similar to what would have been expected given the strange nature of the COVID year.
  7. Building upkeep:
    1. \$800-1500 for a descent snowblower with 24" width. Purchase before middle of winter for traffic flow, safety. We need three prices to decide to purchase. Bruce motioned to approve up to \$2500 to be spent on snowblower for the SC. Cahill - 2nd, All in favor.
    2. Jay to see if there is interest in finding folks who would want to help with building a shed for the school. Questions about shed size in conjunction with building permit as well as cost.
    3. Two more bids needed for exterior building paint job
  8. Open house was a success with parents being able to see classrooms that they potentially have never seen.
  9. PD day was devoted to looking at data collected with good conversations and action plans moving forward.
6. Superintendent's Report

1. Unnecessary Idling Bus Notification
2. Waiver applied for: Not having a high school
3. Permit came through for School Zone lights.
  1. Surveying for sidewalks has begun
  2. Holes for lights were dug
  3. Passing lane lines have been changed.
4. Extension of DESE Mask Requirement
  1. no changes to regulations of when and where masks are required. Recommended for ages 3-4, required for 5+
  1. Some changes with regard to close contacts
5. Sick leave bank
  1. Asking a member from the school committee to be on sick leave committee; Bruce Weiner will volunteer to be on committee
6. Pooled testing and CIC health program
  1. Using a CIC agency nurse currently as we are still in the hiring process for the school nurse.
  2. Additional information re: lab glitch from K pooled testing
7. MCAS results
  1. Discussion of those who fell below the benchmark - mostly students who were kindergarten during 2020-2021 school year - children who are new to Hancock and could have been in state last year.
8. Reviewed Grants
7. Director of Special Education's Report - additional information
8. Finance Report: Adding 0 in Budgeted Amounts line for line items that may see a negative balance.
9. New Business
  1. Bruce inquiring about building items
    - a. Project - Alex get a 3rd party
    - ARPA money to pay for bathrooms or entryway - SC to repay town from School Choice funds
  2. Charting the Course - coursework needs to be completed by all SC members except for Missy.
10. No executive session needed
11. Meeting Adjourns at 7:40
  1. 1st - Bruce, Alex Cahill, all in favor