

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
September 7th, 2021

Present: Bruce Weiner, Missy Turner, Cahill LeBarron, Elisa Kryskow
Also Present: Rebecca Phillips (Superintendent/SPED Director), Jay Merselis (Principal)

1. Call to Order - Rebecca called the meeting to order at 6:12pm
2. Public Concerns: None, no public present
3. Correspondence: None
4. Review/ Approval of minutes
 1. 1st - Cahill, 2nd- Missy, all in favor.
5. Principal's Report
 1. Off to a great start at school - we are lucky to have staff, students, parents and community that all come together.
 2. 59 students enrolled, 74.6% are from Hancock. 2 families/ 3 students have been included from school choice
 3. All positions have been filled (including 2 new full time paras and one 80% para).
 4. Nurse Erin Tullock found another position. However, Casey Stegner, RN, will be taking the position. There will be one week of overlap and the transition will occur Monday
- 9/20.
class
5. Reconfigured indoor space; Cricket Cove has a great space while still leaving ample room for additional needs. Noise hasn't been a problem thus far; this may change when gym moves indoors.
6. Quote for exterior paint for school; \$6283.78. SC will reach out to Sherman Derby to include town in decision.
 1. Missy made motion to approve exterior paint quote. Cahill - 2nd. All in favor.
7. Building upkeep:
 1. Sheds have been removed; discussion of how to replace these and make them functional (housing sports equipment and also, perhaps, a snowblower).
 2. Gravel path perimeter of the building to serve to clean up and define the edges of schools while also being very useful for entrances and exits of classrooms.
 3. Monthly cost of two sheds that are currently being rented
 4. Jay to price out cost of snowblower
8. State has to issue a permit for School Zone lights. State will not pay for the lights —> this is a town cost. Money will come from town COVID grants. State will shrink zones as well as install sidewalks and crosswalk from Rathbun road past the passing school as a "School Zone" (money is already approved from the state; project (sidewalks and crosswalk) to begin in the spring.
9. Field trips to be reinstated.
 1. Hancock Shaker Village for some students as it ties into the curriculum. (No charge for this; only cost is bus)
 2. Apple picking (likely two days so as to split numbers on the bus).
 3. Ioka Farm
10. Upcoming School Events
 1. Parents to be included in Open House, 9/16
 2. Professional Development day 9/27
6. Superintendent's Report
 1. Implementation of DESE Mask Requirement
 2. Continuing state funded pooled testing; new vendor with implementation challenges
 1. Starting school year with two step pooled testing

3. MCAS testing last year with an adjusted exam. Data from that year/test cannot be compared to previous years.
 4. Department of Ed will not approve home learning on Snow Days.
 1. Primarily because of SPED students that will be missing services throughout the days. Also an issue of equality with regard to internet services.
 5. Great start to school year with Professional Development for CPR, AED, curriculum, etc.
 6. Proposals for propane bid and mowing.
 1. Will pay propane all at once to benefit from discounted rate
 7. Correspondence from Andrew Beckwith, Esq requesting records, policy documents, and resources related to sexual education for students.
 8. Rebecca completed road work permit for "School Zone"
 1. Waiver for many of the documents that were needed. Still need "Town Traffic Management Plan"
 2. Lights will be bought from town (approx \$10k each) using COVID grant money (blinking lights above and below with your speed in the middle)
 9. Finances:
 1. Preschool account \$116k, \$58k is earmarked for preschool teacher's salary,
 2. After School account \$1094
 3. School Choice funds: \$350k (money for bathroom, portico, possibly painting).
 10. Updated Handbook, cleaned up language around corporal punishment and restraints. Cahill motioned to approve handbook, Elisa -2nd. Approved by all members.
7. Director of Special Education's Report:
1. Ward Johnson in the building with students.
 2. Percentage of students on IEP decreased this year; 20% of population is on an IEP.
 - a. Bruce asked about RTI. Difficult to implement given allotment of time for SPED teacher and paras, but hopefully will be able to dedicate some time to this on Wednes- days.
 - b. Bruce asked about Social Emotional Learning. Jane Shaya started with adults in the building (self care, benefits of mindfulness); her hours have increased to ac- commo- date this curriculum. Jay: School owns "Second Step" (also a Social/Emotional skill building program) which allows for some flexibility in how it is administered.
 3. Still need 8:15 to noon, 3 days/wk Paraprofessional position for a student in the Richmond School.
8. Finance Report
9. New Business: None
10. No executive session needed
11. Meeting Adjourned at 7:41
1. 1st - Cahill, 2nd - Melissa, all in favor