

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 1st, 2022

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 6:03pm
2. Public Concerns: None, no public present
3. Correspondence:
  1. Give advance notice of meetings that are in addition to regularly scheduled.
  2. Superintendent and SC have to give a report to the Town due 2/16
4. "Glimpse into the Classroom" - Katie Cummings, Pre-K. Time in her classroom as a student would focus on Social Emotional learning with mindfulness/yoga.
5. Review/Approval of Minutes: Bruce- 1st, Melissa- 2nd, to approve January Minutes. All in favor
6. Principal's Report:
  1. 2/3 Ruby room hosted a Native American "Museum". Wonderful effort on all involved.
  2. Enrollment: Remains constant with 55 students in the school. 2 students left, and a previous student returned.
  3. Hiring/Staffing:
    1. 2/3 para hired (Casey) - good fit as she is interested in learning more about teaching and pursuing a career in teaching. She is excited to work with younger children. She will help out with Afterschool Program as well.
    2. Mrs. Babcock-Adams returned to the Afterschool Program
    3. Will be posting a job position for someone to host/coordinate a summer learning program. Also will be reposting the K/1 teacher position again (tough when our previous advertisement was early in the school year).
    4. Draft of next year's school calendar. Will vote to approve at March meeting if possible.
    5. Toilets are backing up - likely the septic system. Will go to a once-every-two-years pump.
    6. Vote to participate in school choice: Motion: Cahill 1st, Bruce 2nd, all in favor.
    7. March 2nd: Read Across America day - emphasis on increasing literacy.
    8. COVID-19 testing:
      1. Pool testing has been negative this week, although still some positives in the school circumstantially. Trend is coming off a peak.
      2. Test-and-stay has been going well.
    9. Working on a trip to Boys and Girls Club on Friday before Feb vacation (Fri. Feb 18). Logistics TBD re: bussing, swimming, etc.
  7. Superintendent's Report
    1. Budget adjustments coming off last month and funds to offset operating budget
      1. Toured McCann: was very impressed with the culture of the school and what they have to offer (essential career skills). Two children slated into the budget
      2. Kept the identified para position in the budget to err on the side of caution if a child with needs were to come in.
      3. Propane cost adjusted up a bit given projected costs based on last year's usage.
      4. Added a postage line to budget
      5. Textbook line (decreased) versus pupil service funds (increased)
    2. School choice fund at \$409,000 with more ~\$50,000 coming in.
    3. Pre-K fund is \$-6,000, but Rebecca is helping to rectify this by using income from after school tutoring (current balance \$111,000 / last year \$99,000; \$14,000 in and \$27,000 pulled out in teachers' salary).
    4. Alex re-addressed and proposed allocating a part of school choice funds to offset budget.
    5. Discussion at next meeting re: planning for 70% reimbursement from circuit breaker monies.

6. COVID testing will remain the same with test-and-stay tests happening at school
7. Winter benchmarking re: AIMSWEB. Rebecca usually sees a trend for decreased scores in the winter, but not for our school! Teachers were really pleased with the new reading curriculum and feel as though the scores are reflective of this. A few examples where students went from Progress NOT MET in the fall to EXCEEDS for winter. Wow!
8. Budget Review / Changes / DRAFT
9. SPED report
  1. Email re: Maintenance of Effort from 2020 budget to 2021. State needs justification as to why you have not spent as much as you did before. Cognizant in the future of money coming out of grants that may be reflective of the decrease in spending.
  2. Need to have access to interpreters. Rebecca signed a contract for an as needed service.
10. Finance Report: additional money going to transportation, substitute salaries are up given previously discussed circumstances.
11. New Business: April meeting date to be moved to April 12th (HOPE meeting will remain at its usual time).
12. No executive session needed
12. Alex motion to adjourn 7:38 - Bruce 1st, Melissa 2nd, all in favor.