

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 12th, 2022

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

1. Public Hearing for FY23 School Budget
  1. Call to Order: 6:00pm opened the floor for the budget hearing.
  2. Adjournment: 6:10 closed the floor; no public present.
2. Call to Order - Alex called the School Committee meeting to order at 6:10pm.
3. Public Concerns: No public present
4. Correspondence: None
5. Review/Approval of Minutes: Bruce- 1st, Cahill- 2nd, to approve 2 sets of March minutes. All in favor
6. Principal's Report:
  1. Staffing:
    1. Thank you to staff who are here!
    2. Short staffed as two paras have left recently.
    3. Hired a part-time hourly person to meet current needs.
    4. Mrs. Dowling will return to K-1 room on Monday April 25th; Lisa Buell will resume para position.
    5. Phoebe Chestna, SLP has organized monthly staff and faculty gatherings.
  2. Enrollment
    1. Remains constant; a new pre-K student who is here two mornings per week = 56 students
  3. School Calendar
    1. Thursday April 28th - Grades 2-6 field trip to Hartford Science Museum
    2. School closed for April break 18-22
    3. Monday May 9th - Town Election at school from 12pm - 6pm. Will likely have 1/2 day for students that day.
    4. Wednesday May 25th - Allen Livermoor (Music Teacher) Lanesboro Concert
    5. Wednesday June 8th - tentative date for 6th grade graduation
    6. Thursday June 9th - Cricket Cove graduation
    7. Tuesday June 14th - last day of school for students; June 15th - last day for teachers
    8. September 6th - Primary Elections. School will be used for voting from 7am - 8pm. Motion to discuss (and then a motion to amend school calendar) Bruce - 1st, Elisa - 2nd, All in favor. Make Tuesday Sept 6th (Election Day) a PD day and we will make up that school day by starting the school year one day sooner, Tuesday August 30th.
    9. ELA MCAS testing currently happening at the school for grades 3-6.
7. Superintendent's Report
  1. Switched to masking choice on March 14th; all pooled testing has remained negative.
  2. Rebecca is part of Pre-K - 12 Educational Staffing Focus Group which gained feedback from teachers both pre- and post- pandemic about their choices to stay/leave the profession, their decisions to live in the Berkshires, the salary comparisons throughout the state, housing cost of living, etc. Excited to get back to us with information.
  3. Long-term tracking for students with benchmarking and MCAS scores. Also useful in seeing how curriculum changes are affecting students overtime.
  4. Fenced space (using the back of the school as one side of the area) 40'x80' along with more outdoor play equipment. ARPA funds will be used for this upgrade.
  5. Budget:
    1. 0% increase by accessing more of our school choice funds. 2 new high school students (Greylock and McCann) that will be using tuition from the budget (already planned for this).

2. Will be hiring a 1:1 para for a student at Greylock; 3 year old student that is likely to come to school this fall will need additional services as well.
8. SPED report:
  1. Response To Intervention: Initiative to identify students before they fail - preemptive rather than reactive.
    1. Pre-K/K/1 - 6 targeted students. 3 are being dismissed (2 of whom were ready to be dismissed after 4 weeks of intervention!).
    2. Jen Mills has been wonderful in assisting with RTI. Mary Talbot has been helping with RTI as well.
9. Finance Report: Reviewed
10. New Business
  1. Bruce inquired about 3 building projects. Rebecca spoke with the architect re: the front entry way - bids are ready to go out. Seems that bathrooms are happening on the same timeline as the front entry.
  2. Side of building needs to be cleaned up (i.e. rebar from old foundation was dangerous)
11. No executive session needed
12. Alex motion to adjourn 7:21 - Cahill 1st, Melissa 2nd, all in favor.