

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
May 2nd, 2022

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

1. Call to Order - Alex called the School Committee meeting to order at 6:10pm.
2. Public Concerns: No public present
3. Correspondence: None
4. Review/Approval of Minutes: Cahill- 1st, Bruce- 2nd, to approve April minutes. All in favor
5. Principal's Report:
 1. Accolades to SC for Budget Approval at Town Meeting (May 1, 2022)
 2. Hartford Science Museum field trip for grades 2-6 last week — great success!
 3. Thank you to HOPE for Teacher Appreciation week lunch and teacher responsibilities today. Breakfast buffet on Thursday to continue to show appreciation for teachers.
 4. Hancock Shaker Village field trip for Pre-K, K, 1 for Baby Animals this Thursday May 5.
 5. Enrollment remains steady, 56 students. Positive influx of students for next school year. Pre-K interest remains high in particular. Some school choice availability in K/1 and potentially 4/5.
 6. Will post positions for next school year early so we are fully staffed when school begins.
 7. Fenced background area: 35'x40' between kitchen and back door. Likely will use vinyl as a material = little maintenance. Have outreached Berkshire Fence for quote. Pricing is approximately \$4,000.
 8. Monday May 9th - Town Election at school from 12pm - 6pm. Will have 1/2 day for students that day. Already scheduled 1/2 day for Wednesday May 11th.
 9. Wednesday May 25th - Allen Livermoor (Music Teacher) Lanesboro Concert
 10. Great Escape for 6th grade end of year celebration/trip.
 11. 6th grade graduation - Wednesday June 8th at 4:00pm
 12. Thursday June 9th - Cricket Cove graduation
 13. Tuesday June 14th - last day of school for students; June 15th - last day for teachers
 14. ELA MCAS: went well, kids seemed well prepared and timing was on par.
 15. More MCAS testing to be done for Math grades 3-6. Benchmark testing will happen before end of year as well (giving us good data from a full school year).
 16. Alex motioned that Ryan Goss, Jamie Rhinemiller and Cameron Turner each receive \$50 from the Nellie Cameron and Mary Ellen Donna Scholarship. Bruce - 1st, Cahill - 2nd, all in favor. Melissa Turner abstained from the vote.
6. Superintendent's Report
 1. Board of Selectmen thanked Rebecca for allowing the Town Meeting to be held at the school.
 2. Open House retirement party for Jan Derby. The teachers have stepped up to organize and host. Sunday June 12th 1-4pm. Open to everyone (students, parents, community members). Scrapbook is being made and cards can be signed at the open house. Donations for a gift would be greatly appreciated.
 3. Non-member district tuition has been confirmed at 5%
 4. In March Jay attended Safety Cares training to learn de-escalation and physical restraints. Jay will be training teachers at Hancock School after the end of the school year.
 5. 3.8 FTE paras currently employed out of a budgeted 5.8FTE. Committee will be updated as we continue to hire and assess needs.
 6. Met with teachers for Math Curriculum Committee - looked at Engage New York Math (free version of Eureka Math). Rebecca and teachers are exploring the paid version as well. Curriculum's focus is on the process (rather than simply getting the answer) and expanding upon the fundamental skills for analysis and problem solving

7. SPED report:
 1. No additional information
8. Finance Report: Reviewed
9. New Business
 1. Bruce gave accolades to Rebecca and Alex and their guidance in fostering positive relationships with the Board of Selectmen.
 2. School Committee will begin to post a zoom meeting ID on the agenda for each month's meeting in hopes that the public may be more apt to engage from a digital platform.
10. No executive session needed
12. Alex motion to adjourn 7:11 - Cahill 1st, Bruce 2nd, all in favor.