

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 4th, 2022

Present: Missy Turner, Elisa Kryskow, Alex Kastrinakis, Bruce Weiner (arrived at 6:08)

Also Present: Rebecca Phillips (Superintendent/SPED Director), Jay Merselis (Principal), Kayt Turner (newly nominated, but not sworn in)

1. Call to Order - Alex called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.
2. Public Concerns: None
3. Correspondence: Two letters from The Hancock Association which were addressed in Executive Session.
4. A Glimpse into the Classroom: Math Curriculum from Ms. Mills
5. Review/Approval of Minutes: Bruce- 1st, Melissa- 2nd, to approve both sets of September minutes. All in favor.
6. Principal's Report:
  1. Noting that newly hired paras makes a world of a difference
  2. Enrollment remains steady at 59 students
  3. Upgrading internet to Spectrum, but miscommunication between install team and other associated team. Hoping for switch to be final next week.
  4. Some things returning to prepandemic 'normal': school lunches together and Cape Cod Trip for 6th grade returning. Trunk or Treat 10/29 at 5:00pm, potential for Community Thanksgiving (11/17) as well. Brainstormed idea to see if 60+ Community would be interested/comfortable.
  5. Still looking to hire for an after school care person
  6. PD day this Friday: Simon Holzapfel previously from Darrow School to educate, free of charge, about foundational social emotional development, collaboration, skills to help students become more actively engaged in the learning process. Wants to become a resource for our school and others.
2. Superintendent's Report
  1. Amy wrote and we were awarded a Rural Education (REAP) grant, \$11,916
    1. Priority 1 funding for districts - goes to schools who serve no more than 11 students per square mile. Hancock District serves 2.27 students per square mile (includes secondary level school too!). Monies will be used to off-set a para's salary.
    2. Alex and Rebecca started a tuition agreement conversation with Greylock High School. In the past tuition was based on per pupil rate minus transportation and special ed costs. State's per pupil cost is coming out later which affects budgeting. Everyone seems to be in agreement with the number based upon the end of year business report.
  3. School lunch program:
    1. Greylock does not have the infrastructure
    2. Corey Nicholas in NA (Savoy, Head Start and BART). We will use them as a "vendor" for this year; we will hopefully be considered a "site" next year. More updates expected to happen by next SC meeting.
  4. Commonwealth of MA Operational Services Division
    1. Suggests that there will be a 14% inflation rate next year. This is mostly going to affect out of district placements.
  5. MCAS:
    1. Challenges particularly in light of the pandemic. (Press release from DESE). Hard to look at trends and patterns since testing changed (partial test, for some age ranges, for example) since 2019.

2. Across the state there was a continued decline in ELA reading scores. Math has increased back to pre-pandemic scores. Our school bucked the trend: we were higher in reading than math.
6. Benchmark data:
  1. Previous conversations with teachers about understanding number sense. Implemented a number sense benchmark column.
    1. Ideally everyone is in “blue” (proficient). Seeing that the younger kids, with a different Math curriculum, have benefitted from better number sense.
3. SPED report:
  1. Tiered Focused Monitoring for Special Ed and Civil rights requirements happening throughout the year.
  2. There is a disproportionate risk for the identification for caucasian students with communication disabilities. Will need to gather more information to resolve what this actually means for our population.
7. Finance Report: Reviewed.
8. New Business: None
9. Executive Session: Alex motioned to go into Executive Session due to contract negotiations at 7:30p, Bruce - 2nd. Roll Call Vote to go into Executive Session.
  1. Missy made a motion to exit executive session at 8:04p. Roll Call Vote to leave executive session
  2. Vote in Public session:
    1. Bruce motioned to accrete the nurse’s position into the Hancock Teachers Association. Missy - 2nd. All in favor.
    2. Elisa motioned to allow the chair to sign the Memorandum Of Agreement regarding the accretion of the nurse’s position into the Hancock Teachers Association. Bruce -2nd. All in favor.
12. Alex motioned to adjourn 8:09 - Melissa- 1st, Elisa - 2nd, all in favor.