

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2023

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

1. Call to Order - Alex called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.
2. Public Concerns: None
3. Correspondence: Budget meeting March 1st at the Hancock Town Hall at 4:30p
4. Review/Approval of Minutes: Bruce- 1st, Kayt- 2nd, to approve January minutes. All in favor.
5. Principal's Report:
 1. Accolades:
 1. Mrs. LeBarron and Ms. Lincoln did a great job running the ski program when Jay was unable to attend.
 2. Ms. Lincoln has arranged for a Poetry Workshop in the Ruby Room running for 8 weeks.
 3. To the community about keeping the school as healthy as possible by following health recommendations
 2. Bathrooms are making great progress! Fixtures are going in this week; no definitive completion date, but as soon as those two bathrooms are finished, the existing girls bathroom will be painted, spruced up, ceilings, etc. The school has done a very good job about sharing the bathrooms (and very rarely the porta-potty)
 3. Enrollment remains at 60 students; 2/3 (40) are from Hancock, 1/3 (20) are from surrounding towns. This is tremendous growth from a total of 38 students in 2017.
 4. Looking for a vote from School Committee to participate in School Choice. In the past we have voted to allow it and then give control to Mr. Merselis and Dr. Phillips depending on numbers. Bruce made a motion for Hancock Central School to participate in School Choice, Missy - 2nd. All in favor.
 5. Hoping to have a vote of approval from the School Committee for the 2023-2024 school year by the April meeting
 1. Question: Columbus Day vs. Indigenous Peoples Day
 6. Building care and updates: Mr. Merselis will get estimates and go to the town for more information regarding whose responsibility these updates are)
 1. Chimney (this is also the exhaust pipe for the propane)
 2. Grading/pitch/gutters to get water away from the building.
 3. A few leaks in the roof (combination of ice dams on flatter parts of roof)
 4. Addressing the trim feels like a priority
 7. Field trip to the Boys and Girls Club the Friday prior to February Break (Feb 17). Break is Feb 20-24.
6. Superintendent's Report
 1. Update on the lunch program, hoping to start in March/April. North Adams Public Schools will take us on as "site" meaning they will do the reimbursements, the paperwork, etc. Not sure about cost, however the feeling is that free lunch will continue state-wide (currently free due to COVID). Costs could be how the meals are transported/delivered to us, which would be minimal but would add up over time (estimating \$13,000/yr).
 2. Behavioral Health Help Line: Connecting families to local resources and supports (emotional support line, crisis, referrals etc.).
 3. Draft Out of State Tuition Policy reviewed last month with the additional specification: "out of state students are not eligible to attend any secondary schools in which the Hancock School District has a tuition agreement." Elisa made a motion to accept the draft Out of State

Tuition Policy. Melissa- 2nd. No discussion, all in favor. Out of State Tuition Policy is now Policy.

4. Bully Prevention and Intervention Plan
 1. Added a portion where IEP/504 meetings address bullying as those students could be more prone to bullying.
 2. Bruce made a motion to accept first read of the BPIP, Kayt- 2nd, All in favor.
5. Winter Benchmarking Data:
 1. Overall a really positive display of academic growth
 2. Interesting data of Numbersense in K/1 room: students did well on the assessment, but teacher finds that it does not translate equally (ie children are not doing as well in class as the assessment shows)
6. Union Budget has been approved; Reviewed second draft of our Budget with highlights of changes. Alex projected out the budget through the 2026-7 school year.
7. SPED report: None.
8. Finance Report: Reviewed. Noted great distribution cost school has through Constellation at \$0.10/kwh
9. New Business: None
10. Executive Session: None
11. Missy motioned to adjourn 8:22. Kayt - 2nd, all in favor.