

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
August 8th, 2023

Present: Jim Rodda, Elisa Kryskow, Alex Kastrinakis, Bruce Weiner

Absent: Kayt Turner

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
3. Correspondence: None
4. Review/Approval of Minutes: Elisa- 1st, Jim- 2nd, to approve June 6th, 2023 minutes. All in favor.
5. Principal's Report:
 1. Accolades and Happenings:
 1. Final week of Summer Program which has been going well.
 2. Formal 'thank you' to Mr. Livermoor and Ms. Thurston who have found other positions.
 1. Contracts have been offered for both positions.
 2. Enrollment:
 1. Starting the school year with 57 students. 28% of K-6 population is School Choice, no room for more school choice this year.
 3. Building Projects:
 1. Entryway and doors have been preliminarily approved by Building and Fire Inspector.
 2. Floors have been waxed and are ready for the new year
 4. Upcoming Events/Schedules:
 1. Bottle Drive scheduled for Tuesday Aug 22, 4pm.
 2. Staff back Friday Aug 25th
 3. First Day is Aug 29 for K-6, and Aug 31st for Pre-K.
 5. NA Public Schools re: lunch program. Meals will be offered to all students for free. Staff can order lunch but will be required to pay. This will start the first day of school!
 6. Continued discussion about dogs on school property (must be leashed, allowed outside of school hours?)
 7. Still pursuing Therapy Dog for the Elementary School
6. Superintendent's Report
 1. 2023- 2024 Handbook: Review and Vote
 1. Jim votes to accept the handbook as written (with the caveat of changes for formatting as needed). Bruce - 2nd. All in favor.
 2. Coordinated Program Review: Progress report to be submitted should be fully compliant.
 1. 1) Added updates to handbook, 2) Employee's certification has been remedied.
 3. FY23 budget
 1. Committee will return approximately \$90k to the Town. Unencumbered balance did not include Summer salaries, Richmond tuition payment, etc.
 4. Special Accounts Activity and Balance (as of June 1st)
 1. \$73,689 in the Pre School Account. Earmarked ~\$63k to come out.
 2. School Choice balance is at approximately \$560k, \$30k of which is earmarked.
 3. Afterschool is \$-7k, but was \$-12k when Dr. Phillips started, so we are gradually moving in the right direction.
 5. Robust trainings for the first three days of school (for staff): CPR, Handbook review, etc
 6. SC will sign memorandum for school lunch. Main menu + alternative menu (re allergies and health concerns). Brainstorming ways to be sustainable with waste (composting for local pigs, share bin for snacks, etc).

7. Approval for a waiver to not have a grades 7-12 school building in the town.
8. Residency Confirmation: tightening up that process on both ends (Hancock kids at different schools as well as out of town kids coming here to Hancock).
7. SPED report
 1. Staffing: have offered a contract to take Cheyanne Dempsey's (SPED director at Richmond) place. Will split her salary 50/50 with Richmond, similarly with OT. Unfortunately we have not had any interest for the SLP position.
 2. Principal will also serve as the superintendent at Richmond (Beth Choquett, no longer Peter Dillon).
8. Current January School Committee meeting is Jan 2. Will be moved to Tuesday Jan 9th.
9. Financial Report
 1. Reviewed
10. New Business: None
11. Jim motioned to adjourn 7:07. Bruce - 2nd, all in favor.