

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
June 6th, 2023

Present: Elisa Kryskow, Bruce Weiner, Alex Kastrinakis, Kayt Turner, Jim Rodda (tardy)
Also Present: Rebecca Phillips (Superintendent/SPED Director), Jay Merselis (Principal)
Public: Will Dowdy

1. Call to Order - Rebecca called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm
2. Reorganization:
 1. Bruce nominated Alex to be Chairperson, Katy - 2nd. All in favor.
 2. Rebecca officially turned the meeting over to Alex.
 3. Kayt nominated Bruce to be Vice Chairperson, Elisa - 2nd. All in favor.
 4. Kayt nominated Elisa to be Secretary, Alex -2nd. All in favor.
3. Public Concerns: None
4. Correspondence: Email from Sarah and Greg Holland regarding their withdrawal from the idea of starting a Private School.
5. Kayt motioned to move Agenda items #6 (Executive Session) and #7 (Vote: Teacher Contract) to the end of meeting. Bruce - 2nd. All in favor.
6. Review and approval of minutes from 5/16/23
 1. Kayt made a motion to approve minutes, Bruce - 2nd. Discussion: Kayt Turner should have been listed as "Absent" at meeting. Vote to approve amended minutes - all in favor.
7. Principal's Report
 1. Accolades:
 1. Simon Holzapfel, a great resource for us: strengthening the collaborative process.
 1. Discussion from Bruce related to wanting data gathering.
 2. 2/3 grade Tea Party was a huge success with wonderful lessons for life implications
 2. Enrollment:
 1. current enrollment is at 60 students; 2023-24 academic year opening with around 55 students. No new families as of yet; incomers will be mostly be siblings of current students. Pre-K has a positive word of mouth referral, especially out of state students (with the understanding that they cannot School Choice from out of state). Very little room this coming year for School Choice students.
 3. Project Updates:
 1. Entryway is moving along nicely. Glass portion is complete. Electrician's job is as complete as can be at this point. It looks great! Question raised for safety barrier pole to prevent a car from hitting entryway. Jay will look into this.
 2. Two trees that need attention for safety issues.
 4. Upcoming Events:
 1. Thursday 6/8: 6th graders to Berkshire East for zip lining
 2. Tuesday 6/13: Jiminy Peak pool party; rain date for 6/20
 3. Thursday 6/15, 4pm, 6th grade graduation
 4. Friday 6/16: Pre-K recognition at 10:30
 5. Monday 6/19: Juneteenth, Federal Holiday, school closed
 6. Last day of school Wednesday 6/21, dismissal at 11:30
 5. Miscellaneous:
 1. Inquiry into having a therapy dog on campus.
 2. Dumpster to help clean out classrooms at the end of the school year.
8. Superintendent's Report
 1. Jim motioned to second read and vote into policy the Private School Approval Policy. Kate - 2nd. All in favor. Document approved as Policy.

2. Review of: Math Benchmarking Data and its interaction with Number Sense. Review of Reading Benchmarking Data
3. Lunch program update: Our contact is Corbett Nicolas, Food Service Director of North Adams. Lunch will be starting on the first day of school (8/30/23). Because 39% of our population are directly accepted into the State's free/reduced lunch program, our school will also be required to provide breakfast.
 1. At this point we do not have cost information; however this will not be cost prohibitive.
 2. The program will provide condiments and cutlery; we are trying to be as environmentally conscious as possible.
 3. Logistics of picking up the food from NA will be ironed out in the first few weeks; we hope to be able to pick up food from Greylock HS eventually.
4. Suzor IT: looking to pilot training tech trainings as Professional Development (i.e. cyber security with a focus for schools). Could be rolled out into a podcast form versus a video form. Overall goal of implementing more technology into the school (especially at no cost as this opportunity would be).
9. SPED
 1. Update on Staffing
 1. Close to hiring someone for SLP who would split their time with Richmond.
 2. School Psychologist, also close to hiring
 3. OT: some good applicants.
10. Scholarship Recipients:
 1. Mary Ellen Donna: \$100 to Haley Williams
 2. Nellie Cameron: \$50 to Tyler Woodbury
11. Financial Report: Reviewed
12. Executive Session: Jim motioned to move the meeting to Executive Session, Kayt - 2nd. All in favor. Each member role called in.
 1. Back in session at 8:18. Roll called back in. Jim made motion to accept the Settlement Agreement by and between the Hancock School Committee and the Hancock Education Association, Kayt - 2nd. All in favor.
13. New Business: None
14. Adjournment: Jim made a motion to adjourn at 8:19pm. Bruce - 2nd. All in favor.