

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2020

Meeting held via Video

Present: Alex Kastrinakis, Missy Turner, Patty Bishop, Bruce Weiner, Mark Gaskill

Also Present: Jay Merselis (Hancock Principal), Rebecca Phillips (Superintendent/Sped Director)

1. Call to Order – Alex called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.
2. Public Concerns
None
3. Correspondence
 - a. Bruce sent Patty (as secretary) a Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest form. He is supervising a School Psychology Intern at the Hancock Elementary School. The committee agreed there is no conflict and Bruce will continue the process with the Town.
4. Review and approval of Minutes of Meeting 7/28/2020, 8/6/2020, 8/11/2020 and 8/18/2020
 - a. On a motion from Mark, 2nd from Bruce; approved unanimously
5. Principal's Report
 - a. Jay will post past approved minutes on the website
 - b. Enrollment – 56 students:

Cricket Cove: 6	3: 4
K: 5	4: 8
1: 10	5: 5
2: 6	6: 12
 - c. 5 students will be remote; the rest plan to attend in person
 - d. Jay did a few zoom meetings to answer questions about re-opening plan
 - e. Building changes
 - i. Flipped Cricket Cove location with the 6th grade (6th grade will be in the large space with Cricket Cove in the 6th grade room.
 - ii. Dumpster – cleaning out rooms resulted in a lot of stuff being thrown away. Anything worth keeping will be put into the storage unit.
 - iii. Classroom space is good; however, we should consider extra space (specifically private space)
 - f. Staff
 - i. Staff came back on the 24th; Jay was super pleased with the staff (e.g. asking good questions, unphased by tasks, such as restructuring, emptying rooms, planning).
 - ii. Teachers are adjusting classrooms to make them inviting (with COVID restrictions)
 - iii. Hired nurse (former nurse in Pittsfield)
 - iv. Art Teach – last day is September 9th, but she set up entire art program for next year
 - v. Professional – reposted
 - g. Bussing
 - i. Bus can accommodate 23 students so we should be good for Hancock Elementary.

- ii. No beginning of year field trip planned yet, but 23 students per bus gives us an opportunity to do so
 - h. Massachusetts is requiring flu vaccinations by the end of the year (both in person and remote students are required to get the vaccination)
- 6. Superintendent's Report
 - a. Rebecca did a shout to Jay and teachers, echoed Jay's sentiments on the staff.
 - b. Training included: mandatory training (civil rights, bullying, etc. meeting needs of diverse learners, PPE training).
 - c. Jen Smith from the Berkshire Eagle will be coming on Thursday, plus opening day of school
 - d. Grant (approx. \$17,000) will be used for outdoor learning space, extra cleaning, storage. 60 hours of nursing time
 - e. Space
 - i. Rebecca expressed it's a wonderful building, and appreciated the creativity in adjusting for the large 6th grade class.
 - ii. We do need an isolation/quarantine room and Kitchen has been identified as that room (we will be moving the refrigerator, coffee and microwave)
 - a. School Psychologist Intern – supporting the social emotional needs of students, providing consultation to parents and staff, supporting behavioral needs of students within the school, doing assessments and attending IEP meetings (under supervision of Bruce, who is a nationally certified school psychologist (retired) and a licensed educational psychologist in Massachusetts
 - b. Teacher's Union attorney reached out to Rebecca regarding direct deposit for the teacher and staff pay
 - iii. Alex said it was not in the contract to do so; however, the commitment was to get to direct deposit. This is dependent on the Select board and the Town Treasurer.
- 7. Director of Special Education's Report
 - a. Rebecca had an opportunity to overlap with Jenevra and separate meetings.
 - b. Met with several families have students with IEPs and we are able to meet their needs.
- 8. Finance Report
 - a. There were a couple of problems and Alex will work with Amy
 - b. Rebecca let us know the hearing screening machine is broken and will be about \$1,300 to replace.
- 9. New Business (too late to include on agenda in conformity with MGL c. 39 § 23B)
 - a. Update on pole barn – We need "hold harmless" approval from the Select board. Alex attended a meeting and dropped of information. He will be attending the meeting on Wednesday
 - b. Union Meeting is on September 9, 2020 at 5:45 (at Hancock School)
- 10. Executive Session
 - a. Not needed
- 11. Adjournment – Bruce motioned to dissolve the meeting at 7:44, 2nd from Mark. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patty Bishop