

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2021

Present: Alex Kastrinakis, Patty Bishop, Mark Gaskill
Present via Zoom: Bruce Weiner, Missy Turner
Also Present: Jay Merselis (Hancock Principal), Rebecca Phillips (Superintendent/Sped Director)

1. Call to Order – Alex called the meeting to order at 6:51 pm.
2. Public Concerns
 - a. None
3. Correspondence
 - a. Email from Lydia Cassavaugh (Town Secretary) re: budget – meeting with the Selectmen is not set yet.
 - b. Kim from Dupere Law re: Direct Deposit. Still trying to get direct deposit for teachers and staff (not a negotiated Union item, but came up in negotiations). Kim and the Teachers Union attorney are corresponding and he is expecting regular updates. The union walked away after negotiations with the belief that the Town / School Committee will make a good faith effort to address this, so the Teachers Union will continue to push forward. The committee recognizes and supports the interest in having the ability to do direct deposit; however, it is an issue the Town needs to address. Rebecca will meet with Sherman Derby on Thursday and will bring this issue up again.
4. Review and approval of Minutes of Meeting 12/1/2020
 - a. On a motion from Mark, 2nd from Bruce; the committee approved the modified minutes unanimously
5. Principal's Report
 - a. Accolades and Happenings
 - i. Special thank you to all who really stepped up and filled in during my absence
 - ii. Rebecca came in on a Friday, Erin was a big help with start/stop of the day, Marla as Teacher in Charge (TIC) kept a handle on things, Jen organized the Holiday store, and everybody filled in to cover for me.
 - b. Enrollment is level at 55
 - i. Cricket Cove – 8
 - ii. Kindergarten - 5
 - iii. First - 9
 - iv. Second - 6
 - v. Third - 4
 - vi. Fourth - 8
 - vii. Fifth - 6
 - viii. Sixth - 9
 - ix. Of the 55 enrolled students, 2 are remote but one of the remote learners is coming to school for partial days
 - c. Getting list from town on students ages newborn to 19
 - i. Annual event to try and anticipate enrollment. For example, family moving back to the area on August with two school age children and 2 younger siblings

- ii. Based on the list, I anticipate having approximately 45 students (assuming no new ones or school choice). With current school choice expect open with 51
 - iii. Turned in paperwork for annual town licenses - John arranged the building inspector and fire chief inspections
- 6. Superintendent's report
 - a. The Federal Coronavirus Family Leave Act expired at the end of the year. Options for a Memo of Agreement to be discussed in Executive Session
 - b. Legal retainer for Dupere Law Offices – no increase in cost.
 - c. The deadline for the requirement of all students to receive the flu shot has been extended to February 28th. Still waiting on Department of Public Health to provide guidance
 - d. State is publicly recognizing potential learning gaps, so will be tweaking MCAS for this year (taking away accountability perspective)
- 7. Special Education report
 - a. Looking to shift one para professional position to Special Education
- 8. Finance Report
 - a. Reviewed
- 9. Budget
 - a. Reviewed and discussed. Rebecca to make adjustments and bring to next meeting.
- 10. Executive Session
 - a. At 9:07 a roll call vote occurred to enter Executive session to discuss proposed Memo of Agreement. Present were: Alex, Patty, Mark, Bruce, Missy, Rebecca
 - b. At 9:23 the committee came out of Executive Session
- 11. Other Business
 - a. Pole Barn – Selectmen have still not signed the home harmless certificate
 - b. Both Patty and Mark announced they will not be running for re-election this spring.
- 12. Adjournment – Alex motioned to dissolve the meeting at 9:24, 2nd from Mark. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patty Bishop