

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes  
December 7th, 2021

Present: Bruce Weiner, Missy Turner, Cahill LeBarron, Elisa Kryskow

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

1. Call to Order - Alex called the meeting to order at 6:14pm
2. Public Concerns: None, no public present
3. Correspondence: None
4. "Glimpse into the Classroom" - Phoebe Chestna, Speech and Language Pathologist and Rachel Mendelowitz, Occupational Therapist
5. Review/Approval of Minutes: Bruce- 1st, Cahill- 2nd, to approve November Minutes. All in favor
6. Principal's Report:
  1. Lisa Buell to take over longer term Sub position in K/1 room as there has not been a good fit to replace Mrs. Dowling as of yet. The job search will continue.
  2. Positive responses to COVID management especially given the uptick in positive cases.
    1. Accolades to all the hard behind the scenes work of the faculty and staff.
  3. Enrollment: 56 students in the school. Inquiries for 2022-2023 Pre K have started.
  4. Ski Program
  5. Hires:
    1. Consistent after school person to assist a staff member
    2. New para (replacement/not new hire)
  6. Snowblower on order; will be here soon. 24" Husqvarna from South Side Sales in NA, ~\$1500
  7. Brainspiral: working with Mitch at this company to assist with:
    1. a 3rd interactive projector for 2/3 room as it has proven to be helpful with new reading curriculum.
    2. New color printer installed, which will allow the printer/fax in the nurse's office to be used exclusively for confidential documents
  8. 6th grade will be hosting their annual, traditional Holiday Store (Dec 20-21).
  9. Early dismissal Thursday 12/9 for First Aid training and certification
  10. Winter Break starts Dec 23; fun activities (COVID compliant) on Dec 22.
  11. New reading and Math program (Eureka Math) -piloting and getting good reviews (also is free!)
    1. Another round of Benchmark testing in January
7. Superintendent's Report
  1. DESE FAQ's re: COVID especially given state's access to vaccinations for 5-11 year olds.
    1. Currently 20% of the state in this age bracket is fully vaccinated
    2. Rebecca took part in a DESE webinar regarding keeping schools open
  2. Rebecca took part in a budget seminar:
    1. 62% of PreK-12 spending is predominately a local enterprise
    2. Determining Chapter 70 State Aid
  3. Enrollment in MA is down 35,000 students
  4. Our enrollment is currently on par as compared to our budget (9 tuitioned in Richmond; Budgeted for 7. 28 Tuitioned in Mt. Greylock; Budgeted for 31).
  5. Long & DiPietro, LLP: Memorandum re: "public records" requests.
    1. Topics can include: Health and Sex Ed, COVID, and staff and student discipline
  6. Grant Updates:
    1. Multi-year money, but will ending in a funding cliff
      1. Will increase adjustment counselor time, robust afterschool/summer tutoring programs, building maintenance re: outdoor sheds, money for curriculum and supplies.
8. SPED report
  1. Tiered focused monitoring:

1. Audit anticipated for 2022-2023 school year: Civil Rights submissions (equity and access).  
Rebecca hopeful for a Dept of Ed liaison meeting
  2. Early Intervention: those transitioning to PreK in the spring
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9. New Business: None
  10. No executive session needed
  12. Alex motion to adjourn 7:36 - Cahill 1st, Melissa 2nd, all in approval.