

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 6th, 2022

Present: Missy Turner, Elisa Kryskow, Alex Kastrinakis

Absent: Bruce Weiner (arrived at 6:15 via Zoom)

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

1. Call to Order - Alex called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.
2. Public Concerns: Brian Keller, gym teacher, presented Gold Award from Safe Routes to School to Mr. Merselis. Mr. Keller thanks Mr. Merselis, the board and the school community for their support.
3. Correspondence:
  1. Town notified us of Audit happening October 1st.
4. Review/Approval of Minutes: Melissa- 1st, Bruce- 2nd, to approve August minutes as amended. All in favor.
5. Principal's Report:
  1. Accolades:
    1. Donna Beguin and Jennifer Mills for help with assessment for new ELA as well as Math curriculums.
    2. Jane Shiya has been pushing to get the school together (something that was lost during the pandemic). This happened on Tuesday of this week which was rejuvenating.
  2. Opened doors with 59 students, with one new student whom is school choice.
    1. First grade is the smallest class with 4 students.
  3. Faculty returned Monday, August 29 and students Tuesday, August 30
    1. Phasing back into old routines with eating together in the cafeteria, mixing of classes, and whole school meeting.
  4. Parent open house scheduled for next Thursday, September 15th, 5:00pm
  5. Meeting with Hancock Library to integrate between it and the school (oral interviews, for example). Health and safety will remain at the forefront.
  6. Samantha Lincoln as the new Ruby Room teacher. Has adjusted quickly and well!
  7. Building updates:
    1. Storage sheds have been cleaned out. Dumpster will be taken away shortly. Can utilize stage in a more effective manner (not a storage space).
    2. Building upgrades to automatic closers to fire doors in each classroom. All faculty will have a key (re-keyed). Using the individual classroom doors for recess has been helpful.
  8. Met with Brain Spiral; internet is still spotty; will upgrade to Spectrum to meet the school's needs.
  9. HOPE has remained really active and are doing a great job at recruiting new members.
    1. Have bought a new sign which should be completed this week
    2. Bottle Drive this coming Sunday at 9:00
2. Superintendent's Report
  1. COVID money provided funds toward the Summer School Program. Ms. Tremblay came in \$638 under budget. Hancock School serviced a total of 234 kid-hours, K-6. We will have COVID money for one more years' worth of summer programming. In the future we will talk about how the school can support more summertime opportunities.
  2. Hancock School District Mandated Training
    1. Meets State Policy and gives the school time to use PD days in a more hands-on manner.
  3. Hancock Central School Handbook
    1. Added a Health and Wellness section
    2. Defined Pre-School entrance age (2.9, with the understanding that the child will be in Pre-School for 3 years as Kindergarten start age cannot be altered).
    3. Staff Updates

4. Vote to approve: Missy - 1st, Bruce - 2nd, All in favor
4. Local non-profit reached out re: school lunch program
  1. Not cost effective. Infrastructure with Greylock will not be feasible. Working with Corey Nichols to try to coordinate a shared system with another, larger school. We are currently in our 3rd year that all students in MA do not have to pay for school lunch.
  2. Bottom line: we will have to find a solution to this one way or another.
5. Building Projects:
  1. Met with Project manager/ construction supervisor today
  2. Front entry project hoping to start early Dec (waiting for tubing and framing for glass).
  3. Bathrooms: boys' room will be most affected with heavy demolition to be done during nights and weekends. There will be a time when boys room is unusable; we have solutions in place for this. Aiming to start Nov 1.
6. Rebecca began end of the year report for the State.
7. Re: Electric bill overage that was discussed at last meeting
  1. Has been a standing unpaid balance for more than 2+ years. Amy Scott is working to see where this default is coming from.
3. SPED report:
  1. Have hired a Speech and Language Pathologist that will share the position with Richmond. Will be here for 7-8 hours per week, with testing and assessment billed on top of her hours.
  2. Ward Johnson has now agreed to doing 2 of the 3 yearly evaluations we need this year. Appreciative of what he is doing for us. Will also use Syracuse if needed.
  3. Mrs. Mills to come to our next SC meeting to introduce the new math curriculum that we piloted last year. Students will be assessed with NumberSense.
    1. SIPS reading eval, AIMSWEB benchmark data
    2. Hope to integrate a system for the whole school where the students will work with adults to get "What I Need" met. A working group will start structuring how to implement this. Current discussion about Homework Club - monies used to close the learning gap (homework and not targeted learning - could this time be used for targeted needs?)
6. Finance Report: Reviewed.
7. New Business: None
8. No executive session needed
12. Alex motioned to adjourn 7:28 - Melissa- 1st, Elisa - 2nd, all in favor.