

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
December 5th, 2022

Present: Missy Turner, Elisa Kryskow, Alex Kastrinakis, Kayt Turner

Absent: Bruce Weiner

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

1. Call to Order - Alex called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.
2. Public Concerns: None
3. Correspondence: None
4. Review/Approval of Minutes: Missy- 1st, Elisa- 2nd, to approve October minutes. All in favor.
5. Principal's Report:
 1. Belated 'thank you' to Mr. Keller; and huge appreciation to Ms. Cummings, Mrs. Lebaron, and our OT teacher to take over PE and Technology responsibilities. Currently interviewing for the position (0.55 time).
 2. Credit to Sherman Derby III for mowing the lawn a few extra times pro bono for us.
 3. Extra thank you to chefs (Alex K., Mrs. Derby, John and Don Quimby) for help with making the Community Thanksgiving a success.
 4. New 5th grade student, school choice, making our total number 60 students
 5. Internet changeover took place. The change to Spectrum seems really positive both in efficiency and cost. Brain Spiral was helpful in this.
 6. Furnace has a part that needs replacing re: heating. Scheduled to come 12/7.
 7. School events: Community Thanksgiving, Holiday Craft Night, upcoming "Get Lit" Literature night, Community Christmas (at school, outside, drop in and see Santa), holiday store from 6th grade, Jiminy Peak Ski Program (no bus this year), homework room and after school program
 8. School Calendar draft on the table for teacher review. Hoping for approval by March.
6. Superintendent's Report
 1. Dr. Phillips asked for a collection for Cheyanne Dempsey's (employee of our district) parents' home that burned down (total loss) this past weekend.
 2. Tiered focused monitoring to be on site week of March 6th
 1. We will review a few policies tonight to prepare for site visit.
 2. Jane Shiya (as retired) is not certified. Hoping she can get emergency certification. Otherwise we will post the position and eventually could make her a long term substitute. This also melds with Tech and PE positions - it may be challenging to fill that spot, thus long term sub is a good option.
 3. Substitute Pay: We currently pay \$75/day (which is not minimum wage). In comparison Farmington= \$110, Richmond= \$115 (teacher), \$95 (para), Pittsfield= up to \$175. Nurse is \$162/day which is fair in comparison to related districts. Dr. Phillips asked to raise the daily substitute amount to \$90/day. We will discuss and vote on this next meeting.
 4. Berkshire County PD day: Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners within the Mathematic Curriculum/Equity and Diversity in Education - teachers, their engagement and the learning was spectacular! More on this topic tomorrow at PD
 5. REAP grant awarded - funds used to pay Cheyanne Dempsey.
 6. Vote to make a motion to make January 2nd (Federal Holiday) an extension of the December Break (school to resume on the 3rd), with that day to be made up throughout the year.
 7. After School and Homework Club discussion: perhaps upping Coordinator's position to \$17.50. Want to be careful that this program isn't losing money (as it is, the original deficit is decreasing).
 8. Handbook Addendum:

1. Motion to include "General Requirements Prior to Suspension" into our Handbook.
Missy - 1st, Kayt - 2nd, all in favor.
9. Restraint Policy:
 1. Was missing 7 important legal requirements including but not limited to: Medical/Mechanical Restraints, Exclusionary Time Out, if a restraint does occur, the student must be assessed by the nurse immediately after. Motion to accept this document as a first read.
Kayt- 1st, Elisa - 2nd. All in Favor.
10. Bully Intervention and Prevention Plan
 1. This draft was passed out to HOPE parents and others for input.
 2. Hopes for implementation into Policy by March meeting (First read in February).
11. January Meeting:
 1. Will present a draft of the budget
 2. Change in meeting time to Tuesday January 10th.
7. SPED report: None.
8. Finance Report: Reviewed.
9. New Business: None
10. Executive Session: None
11. Alex motioned to adjourn 7:33 - Melissa- 1st, Kayt - 2nd, all in favor.