

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2023

Present: Missy Turner, Elisa Kryskow, Alex Kastrinakis, Kayt Turner, Bruce Weiner
Also Present: Rebecca Phillips (Superintendent/SPED Director), Jay Merselis (Principal)

1. Call to Order - Alex called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.
2. Public Concerns: None
3. Correspondence:
 1. Kayt read to and did a craft with 4th/5th grade last week for Read Across America Day.
 2. Recycled Product Procurement Policy
4. Review/Approval of Minutes: Bruce- 1st, Kayt- 2nd, to approve February minutes. All in favor.
5. Principal's Report:
 1. Accolades and Happenings:
 1. Really fun Valentine's Day Party hosted by Ms. T in the Sapphire Room
 2. Field trip to Boys and Girls Club the Friday before February Break was, once again, a huge success.
 3. Ski program has been wonderful for the kids; the last session will be this coming Monday (3/13). A huge thank you to Mrs. Derby for providing her Monday Ski Session Soups for the school.
 4. Brian Spiral completed installation of the last interactive projector. They also helped to hang a white board.
 2. Building Updates:
 1. Bathrooms are nearly completed. One supportive strap needed to be installed on a beam to meet Building Code.
 2. Diversified Construction states that they will be hoping to make significant progress on the Entry Way project during April Break (starting April 17th).
 3. Enrollment remains at 60 students; We lost and gained one student, respectively, in the Ruby Room coincidentally on Monday 3/6.
 4. 2023-2024 Calendar:
 1. Identified changes: Change "Columbus Day" to read "State holiday" and similarly "Community Christmas" will read "Holiday Concert." Elisa to make motion to accept, Missy - 2nd, All in favor.
 5. Building care and updates: Mr. Merselis will get estimates and go to the town for more information regarding whose responsibility these updates are
 1. See last month's minutes for details regarding building specifics
 6. Hancock Library and Town Residents + Students interview project (Oral History Project).
 7. Upcoming Dates:
 1. March 15th - Field Trip to Berkshire Museum (paid in full by Berkshire Museum!)
 2. March 16th - Grades 2-6 invited to Greylock Dress Rehearsal
 3. March 17th - PD half day
 4. March 21- Incoming talk about Appropriate Online Behaviors for grades 2-6.
 5. April 1 - HOPE is hosting a Trivia Night with funds going to a Pavilion that the entire town can enjoy!
6. Superintendent's Report
 1. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan
 1. Bruce to make motion to approve BPIP as Policy, Elisa- 2nd, All in favor.
 2. Tuition Agreement between the Mount Greylock School Committee and the Town of Hancock

1. Per Pupil cost determined as of Oct 1 report so we have a better idea of costs come budget season rather than the state published per pupil cost which is usually not published until much later.
3. Out of District Placement costs increased 14%. Superintendent's Roundtable came together to address the significant and overall impact this kind of increase causes. Some talk of the Circuit Breaker increase — > is there help at the State Level to help fund this increase?
4. Budget presented to the town last week (public hearing in April)
 1. Kayt made a motion to fund the overage in the budget (\$42,284.22) out of School Choice funds. Melissa - 2nd the motion, In favor: Alex Kastrinakis, all opposed (Elisa Kryskow, Bruce Weiner, Kayt Turner, Melissa Turner). Motion does not pass.
5. Chapter 70 funds are earmarked for the school and go to the town. \$114,000 in additional school funds to our district. Hoping some of our costs (eg School Lunch) can be absorbed by these funds.
6. Dog Leash Law: sign will be posted on school property for liability
7. SPED report:
 1. SPED and Civil Rights Audit:
 1. Happened today (3/7)- overall positive feedback. This audit helped us to make adjustments to Bullying Policy and other helpful information to include into the school (IEP parent orientation). Noted a lack of specified space for our needs (i.e. SPED meetings on the stage or in the kitchen). One issue with regard to licensing/certification that is being resolved.
8. Finance Report: Reviewed.
9. New Business:
 1. Sarah and Greg Holland began discussion of starting their own private Elementary School in Hancock. It is up to School Committee to approve or deny this request. Discussion will continue.
10. Missy motioned to adjourn 7:47. Kayt - 2nd, all in favor.