

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
October 3rd, 2023

Present: Jim Rodda, Elisa Kryskow, Alex Kastrinakis, Bruce Weiner, Kayt Turner

Also Present: Rebecca Phillips (Superintendent/SPED Director), Jay Merselis (principal), Jennifer Mills (5th/6th teacher).

1. Call to Order - Alex called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.
2. Public Concerns: None
3. New Staff Meet and Greet - Gretta will come to November meeting.
4. Correspondence:
 1. Open Meeting Law Complaint addressed and finalized via Assistant Attorney General, Division of Open Government.
 2. Rural School Bill follow up from last meeting. Committee members to review and sign this individually.
5. Review/Approval of Minutes: Bruce- 1st, Kayt- 2nd, to approve September 5th, 2023 minutes. All in favor.
6. Principal's Report:
 1. Accolades and Happenings:
 1. Hilltop Orchards Apple Picking field trip was a success.
 2. John Porccino - wants to do a story telling/ writing workshop for the school via a Star's Grant.
 2. Enrollment: remains constant
 3. Building Projects:
 1. Front door lock is not working well. JJ locks were at the school today to address the issue.
 2. A-1 Septic System pump-out scheduled (preventative maintenance).
 4. Upcoming Events/Schedules:
 1. School closed Monday 10/9
 2. Friday 10/13 Grandparent's/ Special Friends Day
 3. Tuesday 10/24 Vaccine Clinic
 4. 10/28 Trunk or Treat
 5. 10/31 Trick or Treating at Sweetwood
 5. Teachers taking on extra professional development in an inspiring and independent way
 1. Ms. Mills (5/6)- Agile teaching - a program emphasizing collaboration with the students
 2. Ms. Lincoln (1/2) - in the process of getting an Administrator's License.
 3. Ms. Cummings (PreK) - BREATHE for Change (yoga for schools)
 4. Mrs. Williams (Para) - Para to Teacher program at MCLA
 6. Food Service Program is going very well
 1. The milk cooler has died, so there are talks about a second refrigerator (potentially donated by Bruce)
7. Superintendent's Report
 1. Discussion: "Reminder Email" from Department of Education re: School Choice and Tuition Agreements. States that schools that accept school choice students are required to allow their school choice students to progress to the next district along with their resident students. This has not been enforced in that past and would have an enormous financial impact (approximately \$75K per school choice child through 12th grade). Dr. Phillips has been in contact with all other Superintendents of rural schools and they have formed a commission to address DESE interpretation of School Choice Statue. Dr. Phillips has been in touch with Senator Paul Mark who may be able to assist Hancock. More to be determined after additional correspondence with him.

2. Benchmark Data
 1. Looked at a full year's worth of Benchmark scores. Seeing some regression (esp 1st grade) from Summer Break. Helping teacher's to identify ways to address gaps and, likewise, assist with extensions of children that are meeting/exceeding benchmarks.
 3. Estimated rate of inflation 4.69% to
8. SPED report
 1. Coordinated Program Review: All approved, no need for further progress reports
 2. SLP via Telehealth has been a great success
9. Financial Report
 1. Reviewed
 2. Began discussion re: longer term plans by which to use School Choice Funds.
10. New Business: None
11. Kayt motioned to adjourn 7:31, Jim - 2nd, all in favor.