

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
November 7th, 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), Gretta Faccheti (PE teacher)

1. Call to Order - Alex called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.
2. Public Concerns: None
3. New Staff Meet and Greet - Gretta Faccheti, PE teacher, introduced herself
4. Correspondence:
 1. Addendum to Letter Sent to Committees Dates September 14, 2023
 1. Open meeting law requires minutes (approved or unapproved) to be sent to the Town within 10 days of the meeting.
 2. School Choice and Tuition Agreements follow up
 1. Received letter from the Selectboard regarding Alex and Dr. Phillips' meeting with them regarding what was discussed in said meeting re: Tuition Agreements for School Choice students.
 2. Reviewed response letter from the Committee answering Selectboard's request for updates from Senator Mark's office and clarifying the number of school choice students Hancock Elementary has *that would fall under the statute*.
5. Review/Approval of Minutes:
 1. Kayt- 1st, Jim- 2nd, to approve October 3rd, 2023 minutes. All in favor.
 2. Jim- 1st, Bruce- 2nd, to approve October 6th, 2023 minutes. All in favor.
6. Superintendent's Report
 1. Early Childhood Data and Assessment
 1. This is in addition to AIMSWEB. Similar to DIBLES. State required. Grades K-3.
 2. Standard based report cards (Jen Mills)
 1. Introducing a new "grading" system that uses 1-4 scaling to determine if the child is partially meeting/meeting/or exceeding grade level expectations. Areas for teacher comments to accommodate additional Social/Emotional characteristics.
 3. Update on School Choice and Tuition
 1. Update from Senator Mark's office after they received clarification from DESE's Legal Department and Senate Counsel. There is indeed a gray area in the statute; that gray area/gap is what DESE wants schools to cover. To clarify that gap, legislature would need to create law; until then DESE's position stands. Senator Mark will be meeting with the Commissioner of Education and School Finance to see if there is a solution.
 4. Update on Hancock Students who are enrolled at Receiving Schools as of Oct 1
 5. Grant Updates
 1. \$33,693 in Rural Aid
 1. We fall under Priority 1 because we meet Rural Aid by density (2.4 students/sq mi) and income level (~\$37k per person/per year, 2020). Rural Aid money must be used by the end of the school year.
 2. REAP grant: \$25,860
 1. Earmarked for full day summer academy. Asked for teacher proposals for enrichment for after school hours. This money must be spent by next September.
 6. Principal's Report:
 1. Accolades and Happenings:
 1. Sweetwood for Halloween Trick Or Treating. A very good collaboration
 2. Applied for STARS grant for storyteller (at school from Feb-Apr if we get this grant)

1. Applied for two additional smaller grants with the Mass Cultural Counsel
 3. Ms. T brought in a Hot Air Balloon which was a great school and community event
 4. Upcoming play at Community Thanksgiving with 3/4 classroom (Ms. Lincoln)
 5. Notable credit to our paras who are an instrumental in our learning. We are seeing day to day helpfulness especially with split class levels.
2. Enrollment:
 1. One additional student: Hancock preschooler
 3. Building Projects:
 1. Front door lock has been fixed. Martino Glass kindly paid the invoice.
 2. Wondering what to do with leftover building material from entryway project.
 3. A-1 pumped the Septic Tank; we will remain on a yearly schedule with them.
 4. Estimate for tinting high windows in main room as light can be blinding in the afternoon
 5. Trim in louvers and around chimney needs to be addressed - Jay will speak with Town.
 6. Milk cooler has been fixed; no immediate need for an additional refrigerator
 7. Question about cleaning high ceilings/fan in main room of school.
 4. Upcoming Events/Schedules:
 1. Community Thanksgiving November 16th
 2. School closed Nov 22-24 for Thanksgiving Break
 3. Term ends at the end of Nov
7. SPED report
 1. SLP via telehealth has been working very well. Our current person has resigned, however Dr. Phillips has interviewed another virtual SLP who will changeover at the beginning of December from the same company: Vocovision.
 8. HOPE Outdoor Structure Discussion
 1. Introduced the need for a shaded outdoor learning space. Alex did a great deal of groundwork on this project in 2021 and will pass along estimates as well as information from a structural engineer regarding a "lift calculation" due to the wind in an open structure.
 9. Financial Report - Reviewed
 10. New Business: None
 11. Jim motioned to adjourn 7:49, Bruce - 2nd, all in favor.