

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
March 5th, 2024

Present: Jim Rodda, 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 6:17pm.
2. Public Concerns: None
3. Correspondence:
 1. Emails from the town re: deadlines for town report, school committee report, and financials for Finance Committee
 2. Email from Linda Burdick re: not having February draft minutes per 10 day open meeting policy
 1. Secretary missed last meeting and stand-in secretary was unaware of deadline.
 3. Upcoming: March 6th, 4:30, Budget meeting
4. Review/Approval of Minutes:
 1. Jim made a motion to approve 2/6/24 minutes. Elisa - 2nd. All in favor.
5. Principal's Report
 1. Review of 24-25 school year calendar options; will vote next month
 2. Accolades and Happenings
 1. Storyteller John Porcino here 1-2 days per week with STAR grant. A public performance with the kids will be held on a future date.
 2. Ski program was successful despite a somewhat shortened season due to conditions
 3. Boys and Girls Club field trip was a success, despite not having access to the rink
 3. Enrollment:
 1. Has remained constant at 59 students, will no longer accept school choice students for the remainder of this school year.
 2. We will decide by June 1st if we will continue School Choice for next school year
 4. Project Updates:
 1. In process of getting 3 quotes of the pre-made 12x20 shed to replace two storage containers. Items in the storage units will need to be held in the school while the platform for the new shed is constructed, therefore waiting until end of school year to begin project.
 5. Upcoming Events/Schedules
 1. March 14 -Spaghetti Supper as fundraiser for 6th grade Cape Cod trip.
 2. March 24 - HOPE's Easter Egg Hunt
 3. April 6 - HOPE's Trivia Night
 4. April 30 - Spring Concert
 6. Miscellaneous
 1. Collaboration between Pre-K and K if these classes were to become smaller based on school choice pre-K enrollment (or lack thereof).
 2. Grace Lilly was hired to work in the front office for 15 hours per week
 3. Advertised for someone to run our full day, 4 week summer program
6. Superintendent's Report:
 1. FY 25 Budget Draft that includes visual information to be used at Town Meeting (i.e. 53% of the budget does not run this building, School Costs versus District Costs, etc.)
 2. School Choice/Tuition discussion
 1. A bill was filed Wednesday 2/28 by Senator Mark's office; joint filed with Rep John Barrett, III and has a docket number (to be exempt from subsection K)
 1. Waiting for more information re: Home Run Bill - being held harmless for the rest of this year
 3. Grants/Special Funds Update

1. School Choice will be discontinued for non-resident pre-K students
2. Account status as of October 2023: \$570,000 in School Choice account, Preschool account \$~43,000 (revolving account funded totally by incoming tuitions).
4. Summer School Planning
5. Rural Aid money to be used for full day summer program.
 1. Inquiring about providing meals for the program as well
 2. Pre School money will offset salary for next year
6. Miscellaneous
 1. Union budget passed.
7. SPED report
 1. Hired SLP part time, in-person, for next year; she's retiring from full-time at Hoosic Valley
8. Financial Report - Reviewed
9. New Business: None
10. Jim motioned to adjourn 7:27, Kayt - 2nd, all in favor.