

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
April 2nd, 2024

Present: Jim Rodda, 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 6:03pm.
2. Public Concerns: None
3. Correspondence:
 1. Budget meeting on 4/16/24 at Hancock School - informed that posting requirements were not met initially.
 2. MASC Division VI Virtual Legislative Forum April 11 at 5:30
4. Review/Approval of Minutes:
 1. Jim made a motion to approve 3/5/24 minutes. Kayt - 2nd. All in favor, Bruce abstained as he was not at last meeting
5. Principal's Report
 1. Review of 24-25 school year calendar options
 1. Kayt makes a motion to vote on "Side B" of the Calendar options. Bruce - 2nd. All in favor.
 1. Side B has students back to school on Jan 2, 2025
 2. Accolades and Happenings
 1. Spaghetti supper - huge success. Close to 100 take out orders, which could emphasize the take out option for the future.
 2. Wizard of Oz play is quite exciting! Over 40 Hancock students are involved. 2 showings on May 3 and 4, with an additional Friday daytime performance for the community.
 3. Grace Lilly at the front desk has been helpful with incoming Kindergarten paperwork being sent to town members.
 3. Enrollment:
 1. Has remained constant at 59 students; looking at 55 students next year.
 4. Project Updates:
 1. We will be able to secure a shed over the summer to complete the outdoor storage project using Rural Aid funds
 5. Upcoming Events/Schedules
 1. MCAS week of April 8
 2. School Vacation week of April 15
 3. May 21 -Spring Concert
6. Superintendent's Report:
 1. School Choice/Tuition discussion
 1. Rebecca had meeting with DESE re: being held harmless for the rest of this year as we await the bill being attached to and passed re: School Choice Tuition
 2. To put on May 1 agenda: Vote for School Choice by June 1st.
 2. Reviewed FY 25 Budget Draft presentation that includes visual information to be used at Town Meeting
 3. Budget meeting with Select Board and Finance Committee - discussion was focused on '26 budget.
 4. Staffing:
 1. Positions open for Technology teacher, 4day/week Pre-K teacher, Spec Ed - Donna Beguin is retiring, School Nurse - Nurse Maureen retiring.
 5. Summer School Planning
 1. 16 sessions (4 days per week, 4 weeks) run by Mrs. Dowling. Full day program (morning academic/afternoon activities) using Rural Aid Money.
 1. Will likely be able to serve both breakfast and lunch

2. The goal is retention of skills and hopefully we can track that to some degree in Fall Benchmarking
6. Superintendent Round Table meeting at Berkshire Innovation Center
 1. Discussing challenges specific to the Berkshires: what our asks are (special education funding, transportation, closing inflation gap, Chapter 70 monies to increase by \$100 per pupil, etc). Additional discussion around new Discipline Bill which would be hard to follow without additional funds.
7. SPED report
 1. 3 additional children began receiving services from our school since February
8. Financial Report - Reviewed
9. New Business: None
10. Bruce motioned to adjourn 7:45, Elisa - 2nd, all in favor.