

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes  
Dec 3rd, 2024

Present: Jim Rodda, Elisa Kryskow, Alex Kastrinakis, Kayt Turner, Bruce Weiner  
Also Present: Rebecca Phillips (Superintendent/SPED Director), Tanya Rathbun (parent)  
Absent: Jay Merselis (Principal)

1. Call to Order - Kayt called the meeting to order at 6:03pm
2. Public Concerns:
  1. Tanya Rathbun brought up concerns:
    1. School Bus Safety: Many cars that pass the bus when the bus is stopped (lights on) for pickup. Often it's the same unique car; Tanya has tried to contact the police and is discouraged to find that, at worst, it is a \$125 fine. Tanya is wondering if a dash camera is possible. The bus driver, Sarah, is also concerned; she was unable to attend this meeting.
    2. Will discuss separately with Rebecca and Jay about her 4th grade daughter not being challenged enough academically in the classroom.
    3. Wished that communication was faster (and especially communicated to parents before children) regarding Ms. Tremblays' absence.
3. Correspondence: None
4. Alex motioned to approve 11/5/24 minutes. 2nd- Kayt. All in favor.
5. Principal's Report:
  1. Accolades
    1. Community Thanksgiving was a huge success
      1. 40 takeout and about 50 dine-in seniors here at the school.
    2. Student Teacher, Sierra's, last week here. Has been doing a fantastic job.
    3. National Grid renewable energy presentation last week
    4. Reptile Presentation last week - the kids met a bearded dragon, large python, tortoise.
    5. Mobile Dental Clinic was a great service to offer the community. Free (funded by state grants) and 8 students took advantage.
  2. Enrollment:
    1. At 49; added a new Kindergarten student.
  3. Project Updates:
    1. No additional Information re: past projects.
    2. Roof was leaking in PreK-K, John replaced ceiling tiles and found that the insulation was wet and messy. Roof will be re-sealed (although too soon to tell the scope of this project) and it was suggested that there be a mold evaluation.
  4. Upcoming Events/Schedules
    1. Holiday Concert at 5:30 on Thursday 12/11 followed by Community Christmas
    2. Ninja Gym field trip Monday Dec 16.
    3. K-6 Jiminy Peakvski program will continue again this year
      1. Responsible Adult must be present as this is not a School Program
6. Superintendent's Report:
  1. Presented "Hancock School District Cell Phone Use Policy." First read at today's meeting; 2nd read will be at January's meeting with updates per today's discussion.
  2. Impact of ballot question #2 (MCAS)
    1. Passing the MCAS in order to graduate was overturned at the most recent election; Guidance for what's next put out on Nov 6
    2. Competency of Determination will be certified by student's coursework rather than a passing score on the MCAS.
    3. This goes into effect Dec. 5, 2024.
  3. Rural Aid Update
    1. Last year's amount was \$33,696. There was an increase this year to \$42,506. Increase is based on a shift in the town's per-capita income. Last year's amount was based on per capita income of \$37,600 in 2020, which dropped to \$21,000 in 2021 (Pandemic).

- a. Rural Aid funds will be used for the production of Beauty and the Beast and the all day summer program. Exploring other after school enrichment opportunities.
4. Home Run Bill Update
  1. Rebecca is currently requested that our Bill get refiled in January with the next session. It is on the list to be filed and Senator Mark communicated to Rebecca that he will spearhead the Bill.
  2. Rebecca asking the Committee to consider Testifying.
    - a. Date for testimony not determined at this time.
5. FY 26 Budget and Circuit Breaker Information
  1. FY 26 Budget- January will be first draft. Changes will include: costs out of district placement will no longer be necessary. Pre-K tuition income has helped to offset budget; that account is dwindling.
  2. Circuit Breaker for 2025
    - a. Conversations with DESE about how to navigate circuit breaker going forward.
7. SPED Director Report
  1. No additional updates
8. Financial Report - Reviewed
9. New Business: None
10. Alex motioned to adjourn 7:18, Jim - 2nd, all in favor.