

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 1st, 2024

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

Also Present: Rebecca Phillips (Superintendent/SPED Director), Jay Merselis (Principal), Sam Lincoln (1st/2nd grade), Sierra (student teacher), Cornelia Alden (incoming Special Ed teacher)

1. Call to Order - Kayt called the meeting to order at 6:04pm
2. Public Concerns: None
3. Correspondence: Scheduling the Union Meeting
4. Alex motioned to approve 9/3/24 minutes. 2nd- Jim . All in favor.
5. Meet New Staff Members
  1. Sam Lincoln to introduce student teacher (Sierra) from MCLA and the benefits of this addition to the school as whole.
    1. Ms. Lincoln updated the classroom on many of the creative and exciting things her classroom did this past school year.
    2. Sierra discussed current exciting lessons in the classrooms with a STEM emphasis.
  2. Cornelia Alden: M. Ed in Washington State. Coming to us from Pine Cobble. Donna Beguin (current SPED teacher) will continue to consult with Cornelia.
6. Principal's Report:
  1. Accolades and Happenings
    1. Accolades to School Committee for the raise we gave to the Para's. It's not just about the money but rather the value of they do on a day-to-day basis
    2. Amy Anderton is now running the after school program which has been very successful these first few weeks of school.
  2. Enrollment:
    1. Remains current at 49. One child left to become homeschooled and within the same week a new family moved to Hancock! 38 from Hancock, 11 School Choice
    2. Another inquiry about school choice: these inquiries demonstrate continued interest
  3. Project Updates:
    1. Shed is in Cheshire, building permit is finalized, concrete pad is finished. Looking to have the Shed in the next few weeks
    2. Standards being put into a report card format from our new Student Management System: Teacher Ease.
    3. Math curriculum is getting good feedback from the teachers. Additional resources and this being the second year of use are both helpful.
      1. Oct 11 is an early dismissal, Math PD day - a consult from the program itself.
    4. Prices for fire-doors needing replacement.
  4. Upcoming Events:
    1. Various field trips upcoming. Most of these are completely free to the school and only entail the cost of transportation: Apple picking this week, spending a day hiking at Jiminy Peak, Ioka Farm, Sweetwood for Halloween, Ninja Warrior course, Grades 3-6 to Hopkins State Forest for a Science Program with a Naturalist/Scientist
    2. Vaccination Clinic upcoming on 10/9. Get the word out!
    3. School Closed 10/14 (State Holiday) with half day (early dismissal 11:30) on the prior Friday (10/11)
    4. Grandparents/Special Friends Day: Oct 25
    5. Trunk or Treat (4:30-6) AND Chili dinner (5:30-6): Oct 26
    6. Community Thanksgiving: Nov 21.
7. Superintendent's Report:
  1. Data Presentation:

1. Benchmark data - looking at longitudinal data to see trends. Some regression at the beginning of the school year. Trying to mitigate that with the Summer Program.
  2. DIBLES in November for Early Literacy
2. Tuition Enrollment Numbers
  1. On par with the number of kids in each school with the number we budgeted for
3. Updated Grant Funding Numbers:
  1. REAP: 26k, historically will be used for offsetting para costs but Rebecca will wait until we know what Rural Aid comes in at. This past year was \$33,000
  2. Early Childhood Grant 262: \$1,037 (offsetting OT's time - RTI support for fine motor)
  3. 240 SPED Grant: \$23,244, used for SPED Para at Richmond
  4. 140: Will be used for stipends for a group that has been put together for address attendance concerns stipends: \$506
  5. Inflation rate of 3.42% (we can anticipate our bus costs to reflect this next year)
8. SPED Director Report
  1. Hired Cornelia Alden
9. Exemption Request regarding *School Entrance Regulations* date on 2/24/2009. Discussion and Vote.
  1. Tabled
10. Financial Report - Reviewed
11. New Business: None
12. Kayt motioned to adjourn 7:38, Alex - 2nd, all in favor.