

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 1st, 2025

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

Also Present: Rebecca Phillips (Superintendent/SPED Director), Jay Merselis (Principal)

Absent: Bruce Weiner

1. Call to Order - Kayt called the meeting to order at 6:12pm
2. Public Concerns: None
3. Correspondence:
  1. MASC email regarding budgeting and guidelines
4. Alex motioned to approve 3/5/25 minutes. 2nd- Jim. All in favor.
5. Principal's Report:
  1. Accolades and Happenings
    1. Spring Concert was a success; scheduled earlier than usual, but was timed well with regard to play, spring sports starting, etc.
    2. Save the Date(s) for "Beauty and the Beast" play: 1:00pm formal dress rehearsal on Friday 4/11. First formal showing - 6pm Friday 4/11. Saturday 4/12 Matinee, 2pm.
      1. The school had grant money that was used for a sound system. Thank you to Mrs. G (music teacher) and a colleague of hers for their hard work in getting the sound system up and running.
    3. Grant funded swimming program in North Adams which has been a success with many families taking part in this.
      1. Samantha Lincoln increased her professional development by becoming a lifeguard which has been really helpful in many regards (Jiminy pool party, etc.).
  2. Enrollment:
    1. Consistent at 48; Projected at 43 for next year (4 6th graders graduating, 2 pre schoolers who are not eligible to continue, 1 incoming Hancock kindergartener)
    2. No change to current status of School Choice; still many inquiries for school choice as well as out of district pre-K program.
  3. School 2025-2026 Calendar
    1. Will vote at May meeting; draft can be disseminated.
  4. Upcoming Events/Schedules
    1. ELA MCAS will begin before April break. Math MCAS prior to Memorial Day.
    2. HOPE Egg Hunt 4/13, 1pm
    3. April vacation 4/21-25
    4. 4 week, full day Summer Program led by Mrs. Dowling.
6. Superintendent's Report:
  1. Dr. Phillips wanted to share with us a meeting she had with Aldonna G (music teacher) where Mrs. G spoke of the "joy and sense of community that she experiences at Hancock."
  2. Home Run Bill
    1. There is a new house chair for Education Committee; hoping that hearings will begin to be scheduled within the next 2 weeks.
  3. Pre-School tuition contract for out of state/out of district students: Discussion and possible vote
    1. Last spring School Committee ended out of state/district enrollment for Pre-K students due to the financial implications of the Hancock School District assuming responsibility for any/all special education needs.
    2. Discussed an out of state/out of district tuition policy, similar to what is currently in place for K-6 where the applicant assumes financial responsibility for the per pupil tuition cost as well as 504/IEP services.

3. Rebecca is speaking with our legal counsel, Kim, regarding questions that have come up including and not limited to: 1) where the incoming tuition money will go (revolving account), 2) yearly re-evaluation of student placement.
  4. More discussion and possible vote at May meeting.
4. Discussion about how to manage and move forward with Pre-K/K rooms given current enrollment with options for how to divide or combine these age groups and what that means for teacher placement.
5. Summer Academy is fully funded by the combination of Rural Aid and REAP grants.
  1. This funding has also been used for the Play, Sound System, and other activities that enrich the kids' overall lives in addition to their educational experience.
6. Miscellaneous
  1. Rebecca will speak with Andrew Court, superintendent in New Lebanon, to update tuition contract
  2. Accolades to our Honor Roll High School students (14 students total).
  3. Looking at overall results from both MCAS and Benchmark data in a side-by-side comparison.
    1. Discussion about MCAS formatting and test design
    2. Rebecca will parse out benchmark data specific to grades 3-6.
7. SPED Director Report
  1. FY26 3 year cycle for special ed and civil rights audit. Some of this will be onsite (no date yet).
8. Financial Report - Reviewed
9. New Business:
  1. Upcoming sscholarship awards
  2. Ana Bradbury and Wes Lamore are running for school committee at May election
10. Alex motioned to adjourn at 7:48, Jim - 2nd. All in favor.