

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
March 5th, 2025

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

Also Present: Rebecca Phillips (Superintendent/SPED Director)

Absent: Bruce Weiner, Jay Merselis (Principal)

1. Call to Order - Kayt called the meeting to order at 6:09pm
2. Public Concerns: None
3. Correspondence:
 1. Please start printing names next to signatures on warrants via note from Joan Burdick
4. Kayt motioned to approve 2/10/25 minutes. 2nd- Alex. All in favor.
5. Principal's Report:
 1. Accolades
 1. B&G Club field trip was a success.
 2. Ski Program at Jiminy went smoothly as well; very happy to have this offering in our community.
 2. Enrollment:
 1. Consistent at 48; 38 are Hancock residents
 2. Letters sent out to families of residents turning 3, 4 or 5 to get an idea of demographics for incoming students next year.
 3. No change to current status of School Choice; still many inquiries.
 3. Project Updates:
 1. Roof remains ok; no problems recently despite all the snow and ice. In the spring we'll need a roofer that is familiar with a rubber membrane roof.
 2. Back wall of stage has been cleaned and painted.
 3. Sound system has been ordered for school play. Mrs. G (music teacher) had applied for a grant to upgrade stage lighting.
 4. School 2025-2026 Calendar
 1. Will vote at April meeting; committee in favor of half day Wednesday before Thanksgiving making 180th day of school Friday June 12.
 5. Upcoming Events/Schedules
 1. March 13th - 6th grade's Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser
 2. March 16th - Bottle Drive, 9a, public welcome!
 3. March 18th - Spring Concert
 4. Posting or 3rd/4th teacher in iberkshires and The Eagle in April.
6. Superintendent's Report:
 1. Power School Data Breach:
 1. Our old Student Management Program had a data breach at the end of Dec 2024. We had a contract with them through March 1st despite us moving to a different platform. We did not use many of their offered programs, so the breach affected us very little. We had names and addresses that could have been breached, but we have not been informed that any families or teachers have been directly impacted. Power School knows the person who stole the data and the data has been returned (read: it is not on the dark web).
 2. Cell Phone Policy:
 1. Updates re: definition of Personal Electronic Devices and expansion and detail of Bus Use Restriction. Added in medical IEP or 504 accommodations as necessary.
 1. 3rd Read.
 2. Vote: Alex makes a motion to accept the Hancock policy subject to grammatical corrections. Kayt- 2nd. All in favor.

3. Letter sent to families re: ICE and CBP. Families are also inquiring about funding and impact of political decisions - Rebecca is responding with a 'stay the course' mentality as many of these executive orders may not be carried to fruition and/or take significant time.
4. Student Data Review:
 1. Discussion
5. Kayt and Dr. Philips attended Finance Committee with Board of Selectmen meeting (3/5/25).
6. Draft Budget:
 1. Student need indicates that a 1/2 time para will need to be increased to a full time 1:1 para
 2. Will be receiving approx \$288,000 in circuit breaker funds and are still working with the town to determine the best way to spread out these funds to have the least impact on taxes.
 3. Will have Budget Hearing Meeting prior to April School Committee Meeting.
7. Circuit Breaker Discussion and Possible Vote
 1. Discussed possible options with how to use Circuit Breaker funds. Consensus is to bring options to the finance committee meeting
8. School Choice/Tuition Update:
 1. Bill was filed Jan 13. Joint Education Committee has been assigned and Rep Barrett thinks it will be addressed at the House level by the end of March.
9. Miscellaneous: School Committee is looking for an interested party to fill Alex Kastrinakis's seat at the upcoming election.
7. SPED Director Report
 1. Looking for a full time 1:1 para
 2. Special Ed para resigned
8. Financial Report - Reviewed
9. New Business: None
10. Kayt motioned to adjourn at 7:14, Alex - 2nd. All in favor.