

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2025

Present: Kayt Turner, Jim Rodda, Elisa Kryskow, Ana Bradbury, Bruce Weiner (via phone)

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

1. Call to Order - Kayt called the meeting to order at 6:03pm
2. Public Concerns: None
3. Correspondence: Letter for School Committee member Bruce Weiner being recognized for MASC Leadership/Life Member Awards Dinner on Friday 11/14.
4. Approval of minutes:
 1. Jim motioned to approve 9/2/25 minutes. 2nd- Kayt. All in favor.
5. Principal's Report:
 1. Accolades and Happenings
 1. Beautiful and successful day for apple picking this past Monday, 10/6
 2. We welcome the community to Chess Club on Tuesdays 2:30-4 with Ms. Shiya
 3. Really pleased with integration/collaboration between students within the school: science experiments that incorporate math and ELA, partner reading, daily improvement and most importantly happy, smiling, engaged faces!
 2. Enrollment has stayed steady
 3. Jay joined Advisory Committee for State Educational Policy. Excited to represent rural Western MA
 4. FY25 Attendance Data
 1. The state reporting data from last year mis-represented us to look like we only have 162 school days. Trying to figure this out as it looks like a software issue. Richmond has the same issue.
 2. Last year data showed that Pre-K students that don't come all 5 days were getting marked absent even if it was a day that they don't attend.
 1. This has been changed for FY 26
 3. Breaking down who is missing and why (excused versus unexcused, sick versus travel, etc)
 4. Parents will be notified on November report cards if their child is close to missing the 10% of school days mark.
 5. Upcoming Events/Schedules
 1. 3rd-6th grades will go to Hopkins Forest, Oct 27
 2. Pre-k - 2nd grades will go to Ioka Farm, Oct 27
 3. Sweetwood Halloween party, Oct 31
 4. Trunk or Treat, Oct 25, 4:30-6p.
 5. Early dismissal Oct 29, staff PD
 6. Food drive: 11/3-11/14
 7. Staff PD day, 11/4
 8. Grandparents/Special Friends Day, 11/7
 9. Holiday Concert Date is now Wednesday 12/17 5:30pm instead of Thursday 12/18 as originally planned.
6. Superintendent's Report:
 1. MASC SC Award: details above in correspondence.
 2. Home Rule Bill Update: Reached back out to Rep Barrett's office. The bill is still very much alive. Education committee chair meetings indicate that this bill will be moving forward, but we don't know timelines, etc. Long road, but we're staying on top of progress. No action needed on our part at this time.
 3. Demographic/enrollment
 1. Numbers of Hancock students and what schools they are in

2. Currently paying for 2 Home Run Bill/ School Choice students at MGRSD.
4. Staffing FTE
 1. Table to capture staffing and their employment time commitments
5. MCAS/Benchmark Data: discussion of release timelines and plans for November committee presentation
 1. New math curriculum has really showed positive growth.
 2. Direct correlation between attendance and scores on MCAS
 3. Working to increase capability in writing as this was a tipping point between meeting expectations and dropping to partially meeting expectations.
 4. More detail to come at next meeting.
6. ELA Audit: occurred today and was short and easy
 1. 3 areas of review: Jay to take on the role of home language survey for child, home language of parents/translation service, and assuring that staff have the opportunity to earn 15 credits of training in ELA. With these updates the audit will come back as "No Findings."
7. Miscellaneous
 1. Another great meeting with Andrew Shanock to review MTSS data collection and honing in on reading
 2. Federal Government Shutdown
 1. We're not worried about Federal Grants at this time as we have already budgeted through the year. TBD on shifts for lunch program, but presumably the state is very committed to keeping this program going.
 2. Wage Transparency Act: salary ranges on job offerings will be listed.
7. SPED Director Report: No additional information
8. Financial Report - Reviewed
9. New Business
10. Kayt motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:09, Bruce - 2nd. All in favor.
11. Adjournment: Kayt made a motion to adjourn at 7:27. Jim- 2nd. All in favor.school