

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
December 8th, 2025

Present: Kayt Turner, Jim Rodda, Elisa Kryskow, Bruce Weiner, Ana Bradbury (zoom)
Also Present: Rebecca Phillips (Superintendent/SPED Director), Jay Merselis (Principal)

- 1) Call to Order - Kayt called the meeting to order at 6:04pm
- 2) Public Concerns: None
- 3) Correspondence: Teacher contract negotiation ground rules meeting Jan 8.
- 4) Approval of minutes:
 - a) Kayt motioned to approve 11/4/25 minutes. 2nd- Jim All in favor.
- 5) Principal's Report:
 - a) Accolades and Happenings
 - 1) Grandparent's Day, Raising Resilient Kids talk and Community Thanksgiving were all very successful. There were 50 community members at Community Thanksgiving.
 - b) Enrollment at 43 students; 1 student homeschooling for the winter.
 - 1) Recently had both a Pre-K and a school choice Kindergarten inquiry.
 - c) Curriculum Review:
 - 1) Goals:
 - i) To meet State Standards
 - ii) Smooth transfer of knowledge from grade to grade
 - iii) Informal and Formal Teacher Collaboration
 - iv) Adjustments made based on student needs
 - 2) Math: "Eureka Math" – paid program offers more extensive online resources. Concepts build from year to year in an intentional way
 - 3) Literacy: "Being a Reader" and "Wilson" – Many of our teachers have done the online training with Ms. Alden in an 18month certification.
 - 4) Science: "Mystery Science" – inquiry based lessons, very hands-on. Everything aligns with State Standards
 - 5) Social Studies: "Investigating History" – this is a MA/DESE program. Emphasizes critical thinking. It's currently being used in grades 5/6. Looking to pilot grades 3/4.
 - d) Upcoming Events/Schedules
 - 1) Ruby room has initiated a fun holiday "spirit week" starting Dec. 15
 - 2) Dec 17 at 5:30 – Holiday Concert followed by Community Christmas
 - 3) Dec 18, school store – welcoming lightly used donations
 - 4) Dec 23, half day release at 11:30. No aftercare available.
 - 5) Jan 5, first day back to school after break and also first day of Jiminy Ski Program
 - e) Attendance: being tracked diligently. We don't report to the state the nuances of "why" kids might be absent (i.e. a child who has missed a significant number of days but this was pre-planned due to family travel versus a child who missed one day per week for somatic complaints), but are very aware of this information internally to help guide intervention. 3 students have missed 5 or more days. Working with families and have already noticed a positive change.
 - f) Building needs: does it make sense to meet with Selectboard to create a 5 year plan to address building concerns: exterior building doors including classrooms, double door in back and kitchen, Paint and replace trim and ventilation louvers, Regrading around building to reduce water damage, replace outside spigot.
 - 1) A more immediate concern is bathroom floors. The concrete paint is peeling which is unhygienic. Jay will look into epoxy.
- 6) Superintendent's Report:

- a) Home Rule Bill Update: Summary of history - After testifying in June with Warwick, the Chairs of the Joint Ed Committee recommended that an amended bill be presented that included all other effected districts. Worthington and Richmond were the only ones that wanted to join in the amended bill. Currently - Rep Barrett reached out to Rebecca Nov 7. DESE expressed preference for a statewide bill. This amendment to the amendment will continue through this same legislative process; they have until Dec 2026.
- b) MASS/MASC joint conference:
 - 1) Rural schools: why they matter, and a focus on the cost of educating students in a rural setting (hiring larger FTEs than necessary). Advocated for reinstatement of full funding for rural aid.
 - i) Rural Aid was funded at \$16M last year, but only \$12M this year (Hancock will receive \$28,421 as opposed to \$42,506 last year.
 - 2) Open Meeting Law: Addressed many of the nuances of the law such as serial quorum, and cautioning communication between SC members.
 - i) Dr. Phillips was correct in how quorum was handled at recent BoS meeting.
 - 3) All State School Committee Award presentation for Bruce. Dr. Phillips read the MASC recognition of Bruce.
- c) Budget timeline: Rebecca will bring draft budget to the January meeting.
 - 1) Union meeting on Jan 26th.
 - 2) Mt. Greylock tuition contract in progress; no changes being made.
- 7) SPED Director Report
 - a) Vote: Bruce made a motion to reallocate \$19k from the Monument Mountain Tuition to SPED transportation making the tuition line \$29,410 and the SPED transportation line \$44k. Elisa – 2nd. All in favor.
 - b) Remaining balance for the transportation will come from the circuit breaker which will impact the amount we have available to offset the FY27 budget.
- 8) Financial Report - Reviewed
- 9) New Business
- 10)Adjournment: Kayt motioned to adjourn at 7:34, Jim- 2nd. All in favor.