

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
February 3rd, 2026

Present: Jim Rodda, Elisa Kryskow, Bruce Weiner, Ana Bradbury

Absent: Kayt Turner

Also Present: Jay Merselis (principal), Rebecca Phillips (superintendent)

- 1) Call to order: Bruce called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.
- 2) Public concerns - None
- 3) Correspondence: Scheduled Budget meeting with Select Board Wednesday March 4th at 4:30. Copies of budget are due February 18.
- 4) Approval of Minutes: Elisa motions to approve 1.6.26 minutes. Jim- 2nd. All in favor.
- 5) Principals Report:
 - 1) Accolades and happenings:
 - 1) BioEyes Program for 3rd graders: Missed Monday due to snow day, so program was truncated. Hats off to Williams College- very impressive! Kids had a great time.
 - 2) Last PD day was used to go through in greater detail all of safety plans. Useful as they found some space for improvement/changes: for example the reunification form - how would this work if we actually needed to do this.
 - 3) Thank you to Collin Downey for helping with a leak in Sapphire Room.
 - 2) Enrollment: remains steady. One more Pre-K inquiry, not a Hancock Family so would be on tuition policy.
 - 3) Attendance review and update:
 - 1) 23% of students have 5 or more absences at this point in time, 11% have 10 or more absences. Of the absences all are accounted for: ex: K student who started the year not coming to school on Thursdays, student is coming more now which is a natural progression. Some students with planned extracurriculars, some with excused absences from being sick. Staff absences: one staff out for 6 days, and two staff members out for about 9. All are planned in advanced re: sick and appointments with immediate family members.
 - 4) Upcoming
 - 1) Friday 2/6: Grades 3-6 to the '62 center to see dance and music based on the collaboration of works by Mozart through a deaf composer and deaf dancer. '62 center is paying for bus and many of the local schools will be attending.
 - 2) Boys and Girls club on 13th - a fun tradition always the Friday before Feb break.
 - 3) School Closed Feb 16-20 for February Break
 - 4) Last Jiminy Ski Day is March 2
 - 5) '26-27 academic calendar for review. Hoping to finalize calendar by April SC meeting.
 - 5) Misc:
 - 1) Roof leaking at flat part of roof. Jay spoke with Sherman. Roof needs to be cleared of foot of snow, especially as it has backed up around roof drains.
 - 2) Jay reached out to a government program that does air quality and building assessments. Jay wants to send someone out to look for mold, etc. They will come out later in the spring to assess the building (ceiling tiles, air quality, HVAC, rodents).
- 6) Superintendent Report
 - 1) Home Run Bill Update: Hearing scheduled on Feb 10 at 1pm. Rebecca testifying in person along with Warwick and Worthington superintendents. A small shift in her talking points: it is now a joint bill so making the point that this is unique to smaller

districts and hoping for overall relief, less specific to Hancock. All committee members are welcome to testify virtually and/or submit written testimony.

- 2) Student Enrollment for tuitioned-out students: 16 students at Greylock, 11 at McCann, 8 at Richmond, New Lebanon 2 (both in elementary), 1 in Taconic, 1 in Berkshire Hills
- 3) Revolving Account Financial Update
 - 1) School choice account has \$682,431. Preschool \$-8275 (not up to date) but with Jay's receipts, etc there is now \$1800 in preschool account. Afterschool account is \$-12k. REAP grant is \$19K, Rural Aid is \$25k. \$20k of rural aid will cover the summer program and SPED needs. Additional funds from Rural Aid go to: Play, swim club, chess club, anything enrichment- or extracurricular-related. Can also be used to replace technology.
 - 2) FY '27 Budget - 2nd review
 - 1) Update with Greylock tuition up from \$4% to 4.5% (Greylock tuition based on formula set out in tuition agreement).
 - 2) School Committee costs look to have increased by 100%. This is for yearly audit costs (which are \$3k. Will put in a new line item: "auditing costs," rather than having this reflected as SC costs.
 - 3) Decrease in revenue for pre school program: went from \$20k in first draft down to \$10k
 - 4) We commit 18% of previous year's School Choice Funds account to offset budget. Now that we're not bringing in new school choice kids that number will inherently go down. Also coming from this School Choice Funds Account: 1/2 time MTSS position and 2 Greylock tuitions.
 - 5) Overall an increase of 0.61%. Budget request from town is 6.31% up, asking town for 111,273.45 out of their revenue funds.
 - 3) Misc:
 - 1) Tuition contracts remain the same.
- 7) SPED Report
 - 1) Cornelia and Rebecca went to SPED Strategies Winter Convening conference today.
 - 2) Rebecca to make an action plan after audit to be timely with documentation.
- 8) Financial Report: reviewed
- 9) New Business: None
- 10) Adjournment: Jim motioned to adjourn at 7:22, Ana - 2nd. All in favor.