

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2026

Present: Jim Rodda, Elisa Kryskow, Kayt Turner, Ana Bradbury, Bruce Weiner
Also Present: Jay Merselis (principal), Rebecca Phillips (superintendent),

- 1) Call to order: Rebecca called the meeting to order at 6:07pm due to reorganization.
 - 1) Jim nominates Kayt as Chair. Elisa - 2nd. All in favor, no discussion.
 - 2) Rebecca turned the meeting over to Kayt as Chair.
 - 3) Kayt nominates Bruce as Vice Chair, Elisa - 2nd. All in favor, no discussion.
 - 4) Ana nominates Elisa as Secretary. Jim - 2nd. All in favor, no discussion.
 - 5) Jim nominates Kayt, Bruce and Ana as Union Representatives. Elisa - 2nd. All in favor, no discussion.
 - 1) All positions will stay the same as previous year/election term.
- 2) Public Concerns: None
- 3) Correspondence: Email to Jay from Mary Ellen Donna regarding scholarships; two graduates were given awards.
- 4) Review and approval of 5/5 and 5/18 minutes:
 - 1) Bruce makes a motion to approve both, Jim - 2nd. All in favor, no discussion.
- 5) Principals Report:
 - 1) Accolades and happenings:
 - 1) 6th Grade trip to Cape Cod. Mr. Merselis and Mrs. LeBarron as chaperones. Really excellent and engaging activities for all the kids including a salt marsh walk, Plymouth plantation and whale watch.
 - 2) Summer Program enrollment and planning are going well.
 - 1) Meals are still being figured out; it may be that families are encouraged to bring their own food.
 - 2) Enrollment remains steady. We will close the school year out in the mid-40s (43), likely open in the low-40s (42). We still have town interest in the Sapphire room.
 - 3) Last PD day involved questions for all staff: what worked well; challenges and opportunities; collaboration and culture; how they were looking ahead.
 - 1) From this the take home message was really strengthening early literacy and handwriting skills for younger grades. For older grades: having better computer skills to enhance learning. Some staff noted that they could use more targeted support in specific academic areas. Appropriate reading material for each of the grades.
 - 2) Jay will be working on mapping out one period per week for each class to integrate all the learning/wellness/community things we're already doing but have specialized time for it so as not to interrupt class time.
 - 4) Upcoming Events/Schedules
 - 1) June 12th, 12:30, 6th grade graduation
 - 2) June 15th, 10am Pre-K/K graduation
 - 3) June 16, Jiminy Peak Pool Party and BBQ
 - 4) June 17, 6pm Camp Out overnight
 - 5) June 18, last day of school, 11:30 dismissal
 - 5) Miscellaneous
 - 1) Little Library 'soft opening.' Notice will go out to parents first and will be monitored regularly. Will be in a planter close to the school rather than by the sign/road. Emphasis that this is for children's books.
- 6) Superintendent's Report:
 - 1) Wellness Policy: Discussion, 3rd read, and vote. Kayt made a motion to move the Wellness Policy into policy. Jim. All in favor. No discussion.
 - 2) Home Rule Bill update: No update since last meeting
 - 3) FY 27- FY 31 Bus Bids: Discussion, Award and Vote.

- 1) Details of single bid: company met all requirements. This is a 5 year bid. Year 1: \$612.75/day = \$110,295/yr. Late bus, if requested: \$160/day. Field Trips: \$150 base + \$3.5/mi. Increases based on cost of living each year. For reference current rate is \$570.74. Budgeted \$108K. Kayt motions to accept the one bid proposal for the bus. Jim- 2nd. All in favor, no discussion.
- 4) FY 27- FY 29 HTA Contract Settlement Agreement: Discussion and possible vote.
 - 1) Did not vote as the agreement has not been ratified at this time.
- 5) Miscellaneous:
 - 1) Rebecca met with New Lebanon Superintendent. Talked about doing more than a one year contract. Tuition will remain the same at \$12K and reimbursement for our two elementary kids will remain at the federal transportation cost. This is an interim superintendent, so they agreed that a one year contract will suffice. Will meet with him again next year/spring. Budgeted for 3 students, but have confirmation that we will only have the 2 elementary students.
 - 2) Enrollment: a few inquiries for families looking to homeschool.
 - 3) Putting together a curriculum committee and will be looking at a new ELA curriculum. Current curriculum is 6-7 years old so we want to be sure we're capitalizing on the best options for our students.
- 7) Special Education Director Report:
 - 1) SPED transportation remains challenging for a number of reasons: new companies won't be able to let us know until July if they can take us on and if we don't commit to our current company now, we may lose them. Budgeted in \$80K for SPED transportation. Likely will come in about \$10K over based on what the numbers we've been getting.
 - 2) SPED and Civil Rights Audit will be on site June 3-4.
 - 3) SPED retreat: Rebecca and Cornelia have earmarked a day in July to work together to review and streamline policy.
- 8) Financial Report: reviewed.
- 9) New Business:
 - 1) Discussion about greenhouse; details were lost in translation/game of "telephone." Bottom line: no plans to install greenhouse.
 - 2) No July meeting. Back August 4th.
- 10) Adjournment: Kayt motioned to adjourn at 7:04, Jim - 2nd. All in favor.