Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2026

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

1) Call to order: Kayt called the meeting to order at 6:02pm
2) Public Concerns: None
3) Correspondence: None
4) Review and approval of 9/1/26 minutes: Jim motions to accept the 9/1/26 minutes. Ana - 2nd. No discussion, all in favor.
5) Principals Report:
    1) Accolades and happenings:
        1) Samantha Lincoln (Grades 1-2) was iBerkshires Teacher of the Month. Well deserved; congratulations!
        2) Mulch was spread by AJ Guntlow, thank you so very much.
    2) Enrollment
        1) Remains steady with one inquiry about School Choice in the last month.
    3) Building Projects:
        1) Basketball Court has been re-sealed and painted. Looking to welcome the community to the court for pickleball as well. Devin Lamke (OT) will set up a disc golf course. These additions have come from Rural Aid Funding.
        2) Replacing emergency lights which was highlighted after last year's inspection.
    4) Upcoming Events:
        1) 10/7 Apple picking field trip
        2) 10/9 Half Day
        3) Saturday the 10th and Sunday the 11th: Movie night and Hancock Community Day
        4) School is closed 10/12
        5) Bottle Drive 10/18, 9am
        6) Nov 2-13 is food drive
    5) Misc:
        1) Garden has produced peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers. Made pickles with the students! Will prep beds for the fall and add garlic.
6) Superintendent's Report:
    1) Home Rule Bill update: No additional information.
    2) Finance Sub Committee Report
        1) First meeting was 10/5 (will meet monthly). Formed the structure of the committee and what the committee will be looking at. Main goal is to help communicate the budget in a more detailed and cohesive manner when on the Town Floor.
        2) Very close tracking of the month's budget based on warrants
    3) Policy: Interacting with Law Enforcement Officers Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement: 2nd read.
        1) Bruce makes a motion to approve the policy. Kayt- 2nd. No discussion, all in favor.
        2) Will put to a vote in November to become policy, at which time the procedures will be distributed to the staff so they're aware of how to respond should such an event occur.
    4) Tuition Expense
        1) Currently we have a difference/buffer of +$76,401 to the budget due to the numbers of students that attended at each school (we always put one additional student at each school to account for changes/families moving in/etc.). Two school choice students at Greylock. New Lebanon tuition significantly lower than other schools; we expect this to increase.

5) Pre-School Tuition Discussion:
    1) Rebecca began by stressing the importance of Pre School - crucial for social, foundational skills.
    2) When Rebecca arrived, we had a Pre-school Tuition Revolving Account that hadn't been touched in years. Used this money to off-set the Pre School teacher's salary. As the account has gone down we're using less of those funds (this year only $10k has been earmarked). Importantly, we don't have a stand alone Pre School teacher any longer.
    3) The required tuition does not cover the expenses. Tuition is set at $4,460 and has been a financial barrier for some of our families.
    4) Removing Pre School Tuition will be put to discussion and vote at November mtg.
7) Special Education Director Report: Status Quo
8) MCAS results: Discussed with handout "2026 MCAS Data Summary"
9) Financial Report: Reviewed
10) New Business: None
11) Adjournment: Kayt motioned to adjourn at 7:38, Jim - 2nd. All in favor.