

Attendance: Mrs. DeGrenier, Mrs. Haley, Mrs. Hill, Mr. Lovell, Mrs. McKenna, Mrs. Palek, Mr. Wilson

Minutes from the last meeting were approved by Mrs. Palek and Mr. Lovell.

Family and Community Engagement:

- Inclusive school week begins this week. It will be kicked off with books being sent to the teachers that will be read to students. Art, Specialists and other teachers will be included this time. They will be creating art that will include all students. Information will be sent to parents and a follow up with pictures.
- Ashley Stracko and Karen Cass will be coordinating the making of holiday cards to be sent to different places around Hanover.
- Communication is important. Hanover may be using some language from the Hingham schools about the community happenings.
- ***Keep this on the action board: A statement should be put on the field trip forms: Parents that would like their child to attend, but cannot enclose the fees, please indicate here (as an example).***

Safety and Security

No updates.

Teaching and Learning:

- Last month, the administration met with staff to discuss benchmark assessments that took place in October and MCAS results. Former students for grade 3; current and former students for grade 4. We were able to take a look at how they did on MCAS and i-Ready, which are good indicators of where the students are in their learning. Things were well matched; had some students who needed improvement on MCAS but didn't perform well on i-Ready. That was very helpful for teachers.
- Teachers had an opportunity to "drill down" on parts of the reports.
- The MCAS data told the standards that were presented and we were able to look at comprehension and writing responses.

- Constructed responses for math (how did you solve this equation?) There were 16 possible points. Center received 63% of the points (state average is 55%).
- Strengths in Center were based on the number of points and percentage of students that got it correct.
- Math - Number and Operations and Algebraic Thinking is where we want students to grow. We want students to be strong in the areas of Geometry and Measurement, but these do not necessarily grow year to year as much as Number and Operations and Algebraic Thinking. 75% of points received for Number and Operations (state average is 55%).
- We would expect that we would be exceeding the state's average and are significantly higher than the state average.
- Geometry was better than it has been and 42% of the points were received (state average is 47%).
- Based on our scope and sequence for Math, for example, the curriculum for Geometry is front loaded because it is at the end of the scope and sequence. Just because MCAS is done, doesn't mean we stop teaching. Teachers do not teach to the test.
- Center is strong on their foundation skills.
- ELA - Center received 60% of the points (state average 54%). Our strengths were vocabulary acquisition overall and we received 73% of the points. Reading received 67%. We need to work on writing where we received 37% of the points (state average 29%).
- The staff are attending professional development in writing this year.
- Many times, students do not have the foundational knowledge and grades 3 and 4 may play catch up (i.e. phonics, math skills).
- Each grade level attends Professional Learning Communities weekly and also attends data meetings.
- The agenda for the School Committee meetings will be provided to the School Council attendees. Appendixes are attached when it is sent via email.
- Mrs. DeGrenier mentioned that there is a public forum on 12/13/23. If someone is not able to attend, it will happen again after the first of the year. Information can be shared in general about the budget and how it affects our schools. The School Committee is trying to reach others and get news to as many parents as possible. "Grass Roots" movement involving the community and coordinated by Mrs. Corbo.
- The numbers are quite grave, which may lead to significant budget cuts or an override. We have exhausted the resources we have now and there is no place to go other than classroom teachers. We can raise the student count per teacher, but we need to be careful about that.

Human Capital:

- We have two secretaries, which we need to run the office.
- We need a reading teacher; the number of ABA's is fine, but it took us a long time to find them. The current fee structure is being looked at and reviewed.
- We have two Speech and Language therapists servicing the same number of kids when we had three. They are also responsible for evaluations.
- One Vice Principal and one Principal.
- We keep track of missed services for compensatory services.
- We need to work with the community to move forward with a strong budget.
- We have kept the same amount of staff members in the positions; we haven't grown but we have done a lot with what we have.

Sustainable Funding:

- Mrs. Palek asked how will the deficit be addressed? The Town may ask for an override.
- Mrs. DeGrenier does an AMAZING job with the budget every year.
- Covid money is not available to use anymore.
- Mrs. Hill brought up that the deficit is more than just the school: older residents, police officers, firefighters and other departments. More safety should be added, not decreased with the new mall. Mr. Ferron and the Town Manager. " Many people are not voting (younger generation)
- The town has grown and we need more services.
- We received a \$1,900 dollar donation from ShutterFly, which is going to school committee as a donation. \$50.00 donation to the farm stand.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for **February 7, 2024 at 3:15**. On the agenda will be: Budget, Spring MCAS , update on school improvement plan and grants updates.

Minutes submitted by: Mrs. Valerie Haley