

**Advisory Committee
Town of Hanover
550 Hanover Street
Hanover, MA 02339**

Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2013

Committee Attendees: Brian Barthelmes, Florence Grady, David Bond, Jerry O’Hearn, Helen Graves, Joan Young, Jim Van Arsdale, John O’Leary

Absent: Wayne Moores

Others: Dr. Carl Batchelder, Libby Corbo, Skip Finnell, William Mariner, Jane DeGrenier, John Barry, Harry Dunn, Joe Salvucci, Gary Young

Brian Barthelmes, Advisory Committee Chairman, opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Large First Floor Hearing Room at Town Hall.

Advisory Committee meeting minutes:

The Advisory Committee reviewed the meeting minutes of March 13, 2013. Florence Grady made a motion to accept the Advisory Committee meeting minutes of March 13, 2013 as written. Joan Young seconded the motion, and it was so voted unanimously. David Bond abstained from voting since he was absent from this meeting.

School Department FY2014 Budget:

Libby Corbo, School Committee Chairman, and Dr. Carl Batchelder, Interim Superintendent of Schools, provided information about the School Department’s FY2014 budget requests.

A summary of the Hanover Public Schools FY2014 Educationally Sound Budget was provided to all Committee members. The School Department is requesting an additional \$133,000 in funding over what was recommended by the Town Manager for FY2014.

Ms. Corbo reviewed the positions the School Department hopes to add if it receives additional funding. Enrollment has increased at the high school. Class size has become a concern for certain subjects such as Mathematics and Wellness at the High School. Also, additional funding is needed for girls’ sports at the high school.

The School Department would like to add Math Coach positions at the Middle School. It is anticipated that these positions would improve Math MCAS scores.

The Sylvester School needs a Reading teacher.

A discussion took place about the Professional Development Budget for the School Department. It was explained that this budget funds pay for teachers when school is not in session, and also pays for substitute teachers. Reimbursement for conference and course fees is also paid out of this budget.

Two years of cost of living adjustments (COLA) for staff are included in this year's budget request.

Ms. Corbo mentioned that the School Department's administration budget is greater than surrounding towns because it also includes technology expenses.

A list of comparative teacher salaries from surrounding towns was provided to the Committee.

There is currently one Kindergarten aide each at the Center and Cedar elementary schools.

A discussion about the Salmond School Administration building took place. There are currently twelve employees working in this building. The possibility of leasing space for school administration or moving them to the Center School was discussed.

Town Meeting Articles:

The Advisory Committee had an informal discussion about Town Meeting articles with John Barry, Joe Salvucci, Harry Duun, and Gary Young, members of the Board of Selectmen.

Additional information is needed on the following articles:

STM Article 3 – Building Renovations – A breakout of expected costs and scope of work is needed.

ATM Article 13 – Forge Pond Park – A summary of appropriations and expenses since the project's inception is needed.

ATM Article 33 – Funds for Cemetery Preservation. \$80,000 was appropriated last year for this project; this year's request is for \$160,000. Further information on this request is needed.

The Board of Selectmen will be discussing Town Meeting articles further at their April 1, 2013 meeting.

Florence Grady made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Joan Young seconded the motion, and it was so voted unanimously.

Prepared by: Audrey Barresi, Advisory Committee Secretary