

Meeting Minutes of the Hanover Select Board Special Joint Meeting with the Hanover School Committee held in a Hybrid Format with both in person attendees in the First Floor Hearing Room of Town Hall as well as remote attendees via Zoom videoconference, on Monday, January 23rd, 2023 @ 6:00 pm.

Call meeting to order and Pledge of Allegiance

At 7:00pm the Chair called the meeting to order.

Present at Town Hall were Chair Rhonda Nyman, Vice Chair Vanessa O'Connor, and Selectman Steve Louko. Selectmen David Delaney and John Tuzik were present via Zoom.

Also present at Town Hall were Town Manager Joe Colangelo (TM), Assistant Town Manager/HR Director/CDMI Director Ann Lee (ATM), Finance Director Chelsea Stevens (FD), and via Zoom, Director of Public Affairs, Licensing and Insurances Janet Tierney (DPA).

The Chair passed the meeting over to the School Committee Chair, who opened the School Committee Meeting. Present at Town Hall were Ryan Hall, School Committee Chair Elizabeth Corbo, Peter Miraglia, Ruth Lynch, and Kristen Cervantes. Also present at Town Hall were Superintendent of Schools Matthew Ferron and School Business Manager Michael Perrone.

All rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

The Chair requested any public comments. Resident Angela O'Brien appeared before the Board and spoke in favor of equal access for all to full day kindergarten and the proposed free full day kindergarten program.

The Chair requested a moment of Silence for Roger Leslie and Steve Richardson, both of whom had passed away this past week.

Budget

TM presented the [Fiscal Year 2024 Budget – January 23, 2023 Update presentation](#) to the Board and the School Committee, attached.

The Select Board, School Committee, Superintendent Ferron and TM discussed the budget and the financial impacts of instituting free full day kindergarten versus taking a phased in approach to the institution of the free program..

Resident Eric Grund appeared before the Board and spoke in favor of having a strategic plan in place for the execution of full day kindergarten.

Rob Powers joined the meeting via Zoom and encouraged both Boards to put a down payment on this process, possibly \$200,000.

Mike Cianciola appeared before the Board and discussed his concerns of putting the tax burden of the proposed program on the residents especially the seniors on a fixed income. He expressed a desire to see from the School Committee, the measures they can take to reduce the cost of their current budget in order to take other things on like the full day kindergarten, or additional costs of transportation or two additional positions, as the other Department's have done.

Approved 3/6/2023

The Board, School Committee and Superintendent Ferron continued to discuss the proposed free full day kindergarten.

The Chair informed those listening that the Board has a scheduled meeting after the joint meeting. She agreed to hear from one more person, Steve Freedman and asked that if anyone has any further questions please reach out to the Select Board or the School Committee.

Steve Freedman appeared before the Board and requested that all keep in mind the bigger picture that with or without the full day kindergarten all the scenarios are talking about a 6 to 8 times increase the average tax payer will see over what was paid last year. The Town is using up ability of overrides in the future, using the up the free cash and will have to make that up with tax increases in the future. He stated that there is still time for the Board and School Committee to discuss this before Town Meeting but he stressed that all keep in mind the big picture.

TM commented that he is hearing that more momentum at the blue in presentation, (Maintain Tuition Based Full Day Kindergarten, 4.8% Tax Levy, \$1,750,000 Free Cash, with the Budget remaining the same as presented on January 23rd), with potentially over the next week with discussions with the Board and Superintendent Ferron, whether or not a thought of adding some amount of free cash to be determined, to start a phased in process. TM asked that if he did not hear that correctly the Board Members please let him know.

The School Committee Chair expressed that the School Committee is open to willing to work as part of the team, and if they have to compromise on the budget presented they will discuss that as a committee. They are hopeful that full day kindergarten completely tuition free is a reality, if that starts a s phased program they are willing to discuss that as a Committee as well. The Chair of the School Committee requested that the Board let them know what they are thinking. She requested any comments from the School Committee, seeing none. The Chair asked for any comments from the Select Board, seeing none.

The Chair passed the meeting over to the School Committee to adjourn.

At 7:38pm The School Committee voted to adjourn via roll call vote. Roll Call Vote: Ryan Hall, aye, Kristen Cervantes, aye, Elizabeth Corbo, aye, Ruth Lynch, aye, Peter Miraglia, aye.

At 7:40pm, via roll call vote, the Select Board voted to adjourn the joint meeting of the Select Board and School committee. Roll Call Vote: Selectmen John Tuzik, aye, David Delaney, aye, Steve Louko, aye, Vice Chair Vanessa O'Connor, aye, Chair Nyman, aye.

Adjourn

The joint meeting ended and adjourned at 7:40pm.