



TOWN OF HANOVER
550 HANOVER STREET
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS 02339

Advisory Committee

Hanover Advisory Committee
550 Hanover Street
Hanover, MA 02339
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 7, 2021 – 6 PM
Via Zoom Virtual Meeting

Committee Attendees

Ted Hickey	Gavin Little-Gill
Steven Freedman	Emmanuel Dockter
Sandy Hayes	Jim Hoyes
Joan Port-Farwell	Gerry O'Hearn
Steve Kmito	

Other Attendees

Joe Colangelo, Town Manager	Chelsea Stevens, Finance Director
Ann Lee, CDMI Director	
Matt Ferron, Superintendent of Schools	Dr. Raab, Business Manager, School Department
Tom Nee, Director of Technology Operations	

Gavin called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM with 8 members present. Chairman Ted Hickey arrived shortly after meeting was called to order.

Gavin asked if the members had reviewed the minutes from March 31st. A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 31st minutes and the motion carried by the members who were at the March 31st meeting (Gill, Freedman, Hayes, Hoyes, Port-Farwell and O'Hearn).

Gavin thanked the school department for joining the meeting.

Matt started the discussion with a brief PowerPoint presentation. He then turned the discussion over to Dr. Raab. During his presentation, Dr. Raab shared that their budget was a level service budget. They are in the beginning of pandemic recovery. For the Special Education Stabilization Fund they will need \$250,000. There may be federal relief money for this. Their goal is to restore cut positions to restore normalcy. Knowing there will be federal relief makes Matt feel comfortable. There is a shelf life to some expenses. There was a salary question and because they are in the middle of contract negotiations they can't talk details. In reviewing liabilities there are 2 coronavirus grants that could bring down the liability from \$350,000 to the \$170,000-\$190,000 range. They need \$250,000 for the Special Education Stabilization Fund and Matt thinks there may be more federal relief money that will restore staff normalcy and that is what we need; and Matt feels comfortable they will be able to get the funding.

There were fee questions – there will be no changes in fees for the coming year. Transportation – K-6 is required, 7th and 8th could have fees, not intending to do that, but it is an option. They are on a hold on additional fees. FACE has hourly rates for the before and after school programs. FACE was a \$1,000,000 program and this year they are barely breaking even. Education and Enrichment is going to rebuild this coming year!

Dr. Raab turned the meeting over to Tom Nee, Director of Technology Operations. Technology covers both the town and schools. The Advisory Committee was interested in cyber security and Tom shared there will be more in the coming months. Ted shared the concern surrounding our bond rating if we don't properly address cyber security. Tom shared the costs associated with assessments. There was a question on video streaming for students who are quarantined since schools are open 5 days per week. As part of the Memorandum of Understanding, it was agreed that the teachers are not required to provide video streaming for students in quarantine. The Hanover Teachers Association agreed, 'In the event a student is absent from the classroom due to quarantine or for other reasons, teachers will provide work assignments and at least one opportunity each day for student/teacher contact'. It was acknowledged that it was a challenge to provide video conferencing for student during the hybrid model; now that we're back to full time in person learning we agreed not to require on demand video streaming to allow the teachers to focus on in person learning. Tom shared that a key difference going forward with the IT budget it is going to be moving away from capital to sustainable.

Ted thanked Matt, Dr. Raab and Tom for the thoroughness of their presentations.

The committee took a few minutes to review the TM and STM warrant articles.

Specifically Article 4 from the STM warrant and Article 21 from the TM warrant and the need to have CPC have a formal discussion with the school committee. \$275,000 is a lot of money and there needs to be a formal position from the school committee. Article 27 will be reviewed with the school later.

The committee then reviewed dates for future meetings. 4/14 will be an in-person and a zoom meeting and the topics will be warrant articles for both TM and STM. 4/21 will be a zoom meeting with the town clerk's presentation along with other articles that may require some clarification. 4/28 will be an in-person and Zoom meeting to continue to review warrant articles and commentary for each. All meetings will continue to start at 6 PM.

A motion was made to adjourn that was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.