

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

**Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2011**

**Committee Attendees:** David Bond, Florence Grady, David Walsh, Donald White, Joe Sullivan, Joan Young, John Lamoureux

**Others:** Town Manager, Steve Rollins, Selectmen, Dr. Kristine Nash, School Committee Chairman, Mike Cianciola, Hanover School Committee members: Kevin Bradley, Brian Shaw & Les Hayward, Director of Technology, Michael Purdy, Cedar School Principal, Risa Mancillas

Advisory Committee Chairman, David Walsh, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Town Manager, Steve Rollins spoke about his recommendations on School capital request items. A May 2011 Town Meeting article will request that \$120,000 be added to the Stabilization Fund to cover FY2013 School budget shortfalls.

Two separate Town Meeting articles, requesting the replacement of special needs vans, were submitted by the School Department. These two articles will be combined in the May 2011 Town Meeting warrant. Steve Rollins said he still has concerns about High School buses and school maintenance as they relate to the FY2012 budget.

School Committee member, Brian Shaw said he would like to see the article requesting \$65,000 for new computers be included in the warrant. Because the \$65,000 will be included in the total School budget, a motion could be made to pass over this article.

School Committee Chairman, Mike Cianciola, said that he had received a list of questions today from the Advisory Committee about the School Department's FY2012 budget. The following questions were answered by the School Committee and discussed by the Advisory Committee:

**Why did the school committee elect to have a reduction in force and not ask the unions to re-open the contract and forego raises? If they did what was the union's response?**

Mike said that the School Committee had spoken with the School's attorney Rebecca Bryant about the potential reduction in force. She recommended that the school wait to send a letter to the Teacher's Association asking for concessions, until their FY2012 was budget was determined.

The School Committee presented their FY2012 budget to the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Committee on January 10, 2011.

Mike explained that he needed to wait until he had a vote from the School Committee to send a letter to the Teacher's Association. A letter was sent to the Hanover Teacher's Association on February 9, 2011 outlining the School's budget constraints and proposed position eliminations. There was a meeting with the Teacher's Association today. The next meeting with the Teacher's Association is scheduled for April 4, 2011. Dr. Nash explained that the union really wants to see what the reductions will look like.

**Other than teachers, what positions were eliminated? With the reduction in force will that increase class sizes? By how much? How did you structure it with an overall declining school enrollment in order to lessen the impact?**

A list of the proposed positions to be eliminated was distributed to the Advisory Committee and reviewed by the School Committee and Dr. Nash. A discussion about how these changes would affect the delivery of services and student/ teacher ratios took place. Documents which outlined expected student enrollments by grade and school, and student to teacher ratios were distributed to the Advisory Committee.

It was discussed that when you have a lower student enrollment, the number of special classes such as Art and Music, decreases.

Dr. Nash expressed her concern about the ability to grow programs, such as Health Education, with a decreased budget.

**Will there be a fee increase in sports? How much? Are the fees proportional to the cost of running the individual program? (ie.,is cross country fee subsidizing football/hockey)**

The Advisory Committee received a copy of proposed High School Athletic Fees for 2011-2012. A flat fee of \$475 per student is being considered in order to maintain freshman sports programs. Another option would be to charge an increased fee for each individual sport played by a student. Donald White asked if the fee could apply to more than one family member. It was discussed that this fee would only cover one family member. There will not be a cap on this fee per family. Several sports at the High School including golf and girls Ice Hockey are self-funded. David Walsh asked about insurance for athletic coaches. Dr. Nash said this insurance is covered by the School's insurance policy. Girl's and Boy's basketball is the most expensive sport due to uniforms, referees, and transportation. The Principal's discretionary account pays for students who cannot afford things such as the athletic fees.

It was mentioned that buses to the High School will most likely be eliminated. It would cost approximately \$60,000 to offer buses to the High School.

Dr. Nash mentioned that the Schools might open up a full-day kindergarten if class room space becomes available. The Schools would be eligible for more foundation money if a full-day kindergarten were offered.

**Will the School Committee support consolidation of maintenance and custodial services of school and town buildings?**

Michael Cianciola said that the Town Meeting article regarding the maintenance of school buildings is a year premature. Dr. Nash and Mike Cianciola complemented the work being done

by the new Facilities Engineer, Bob Murray. He was hired to support the Town and the Schools. Once complete, Bob Murray's office will be located in the new High School. Dr. Nash explained that the Schools have both custodian and maintenance personnel. She provided copies of job descriptions for both of these positions.

She would like to have the responsibility for custodians positions stay within the Schools.

Dr. Nash said that the section of the Massachusetts General Laws cited in the Town Meeting article, regarding the maintenance of Schools, may be incorrect. She provided a copy of Chapter 71, Section 6B, which may be more relevant.

**Would the school committee support the consolidation of all town wide Information Technology management and support?**

Dr. Nash said she would need more information about the Town's technology requirements before making a decision on this issue. Dr. Nash spoke about the School's need for a data management person. This person would maintain databases used for Department of Education reports.

Brian Shaw mentioned that everyone may have a different definition of technology. He wondered if the centralization of technology was proposed as a cost saving initiative or to solve technology deficiencies.

**Is there an increase of children going out of district?**

School Building Committee Chairman, Chris Martin has been offering tours of the new High School to 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents and students to encourage their enrollment.

Donald White asked about expected energy costs for the new High School. GG&D has projected energy costs to be \$243,000 more than the existing High School. The School Committee has asked GG&D to review this estimate again.

Dr. Nash asked about the role of the Advisory Committee in the FY2012 budget process. David Walsh explained that the Advisory Committee is required to make a recommendation on all Town Meeting articles including the FY2012 budget.

Florence Grady made a motion to approve the Advisory Committee meeting minutes of March 9, 2011. Joan Young seconded the motion. John Lamoureux abstained from voting since he was absent from this meeting. All others were in favor.

Florence Grady made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Joan Young seconded the motion. All others were in favor.

Prepared by: Audrey Barresi, Advisory Committee Secretary