

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

September 23, 2019

School Department Conference Room, 220 Central Street, Hingham, MA 02043

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Michelle Ayer at 7:01 PM.

Members Present: Michelle Ayer, Nes Correnti, Carlos Da Silva, Libby Lewiecki, Kerry Ni, Liza O'Reilly, and Ed Schreier.

Central Office Present: Paul Austin, James LaBillois, and John Ferris.

Visitors Present: George Danis, June Gustafson, Jackie Sansone, Kevin Quilty, Emma Quilty, Ray Estes

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1. On a motion by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Ed Schreier,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on September 9, 2019.

Carlos Da Silva asked to revisit this vote and explained a word was missing in section 6.3.

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on September 9, 2019 with an edit to 6.3: Add the word "not" in the fifth sentence so it now reads, "Carlos Da Silva stated that the Long Range Planning Committee recommends not asking the Boosters for support for this project because there is money available in the Hingham High School Fields Fund."

- ### **3. Questions and Comments**
- Ray Estes congratulated the Committee and administration on a great start to the school year. He thanked Ed Schreier and the Committee for voting for the Varsity Softball scoreboard. He addressed the concern that this was a first-time request that was acted on too quickly by mentioning that the issue was discussed both in 2014 and 2015 as part of the High School Fields Project. After the project was completed, it was cut. Donors, Hingham Little League, and the Hingham Sports Partnership provided money that was used for batting tunnel, cages, and foul poles. There was no power to the field when they got a quote for a solar scoreboard. No funds were available at that time but since there is now money donated, it is appropriate to use it to fund the scoreboard. Ray Estes also addressed the turf field needs. Artificial turf lasts for 7 to 15 years. Ours is 3 years old now. We will be able to use revolving account to start to build funds toward that. The Committee should consider putting that item in long term budget.

4. Superintendent's Report

- Enrollment - Paul Austin updated the Committee on enrollment for the 2019-2020 School year. The enrollment is 4330 which is 12 more than last year.

- “Start with Hello” week will be celebrated at all 6 schools this week. Jamie LaBillois explained that this is part of the Sandy Hook Promise and that all six schools will participate.
- Paul Austin will have his first Superintendent/Student Leadership Committee meeting on Tuesday morning. This is one of his annual goals and he is excited to meet the 8 high school students who will be on the committee.

5. Communications

- 5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: Paul Austin received a letter from Massachusetts Parents United stating that HPS has a punitive lunch debt policy. He looked into the allegation and found no evidence of “food shaming” in our schools.
- 5.2 Student Communications: Emma Quilty presented on behalf of Hingham High School Student Council. This is “Start with Hello” week in the schools. The focus is on getting to know each other better. Freshman class election took place last week. The Homework Club will be starting next week with peer tutoring as well as a teacher available. Best Buddies will join SNAP for soccer at 1:00 on Sundays. On October 4, both boys and girls soccer will play Plymouth South and wear purple in honor of Maddie McCoy. All funds raised will be donated to “Maddie’s Promise Foundation” for research into rare pediatric cancers. Voter registration will be held at the school this week. Also this week will be a meeting of senior team captains and leaders who will work on a positive, inclusive environment at HHS. Parent/teacher night will be held Thursday with members of the Student Council helping parents find their way.
- 5.3 Other Communications: None

6. Unfinished Business

- 6.1 The Committee heard a proposed revision of HPS Policy 3.7.4 Order of Business and Agenda. Kerry Ni explained that this revision would remove the prescribed order of business and the requirement that School Committee members submit agenda items in writing.
- 6.2 The Committee heard a proposed revision of HPS Policy 3.7.5 Public Involvement. This revision retains part of the policy. It replaces paragraphs 2 and 3 with a detailed process that was suggested by district counsel. Liza O’Reilly commented that the Natick School Committee faced a lawsuit over Public speaking at meetings and that many towns are revising their policies to address this issue. The policy would not prohibit free speech nor censor comments. Michelle Ayer mentioned that it allows the committee to not address all comments.
- 6.3 The Committee heard a proposed revision to HPS Policy 6.3a Homeless Students. Kerry Ni explained that the revision would add language to immediately enroll homeless children even before all their paperwork is complete. Jamie LaBillois noted that this was always in the procedure but after an Every Student Succeeds audit, we were asked to add it to the policy. This is part of the McKinney Vento Act.
- 6.4 The Committee heard a proposed revision to HPS Policy 6.3b Children in Foster Care. This revision would address the same issue as the proposed change to Policy 6.3a. Libby Lewiecki asked about proof of vaccinations and Jamie LaBillois explained that we would be getting all the paperwork for each child, but they can enroll before it is turned in.

- 6.5 The Committee heard a proposed revision of HPS Policy 6.8, Athletic Participation Restrictions. Jamie LaBillois explained that the revisions are relative to concussions and were suggested after a conversation with the Department of Public Health. Liza O'Reilly suggested that the Aspen/X2 reference be renamed to something more generic like "student database."
- 6.6 The Committee heard a recommendation to declare as surplus four Vanguard 420 sailing boats and surplus rigging. John Ferris commented that the request was made by the sailing coach and athletic director. Four boats were sold a few years ago and the proceeds were deposited into the gift account. Those funds then were used to purchase these boats.

On a motion by Carols Da Silva and seconded by Kerry Ni,

It was

Voted: To declare surplus four Vanguard 420 sail boats in poor to good condition including main sail, jib sail, rudder, tiller, mast and boom and direct the Director of Business to dispose of the boats to the highest bidder and deposit any funds received into the Athletic Gift account for future use by the Sailing team to purchase boats.

- 6.7 The Committee received notification of the appointments of Elementary Spanish teachers Kendelle Ingram at PRS and Cristina Jauregui Figaredo at East School. effective August 26, 2019.
- 6.8 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Karen Maravel, administrative assistant at HHS; bus drivers Martin Noenicks, Peter Brown, Tina Davidon-Webb, Sandra Fischer, Diane McAllister, Barbara Pattavina and Korine Target; custodian Christopher Taylor; food service technician Lauren Popovich; paraeducators at East School Holly Gammon-Faulkner, Brittany McCulloch, Mark Rulli, Gwen Traynor, Jessica Tucker and Christine Winchester; at Foster School Jacqueline Cahill, Meagan Hodges, and Kaylee Willard; at HHS Lisa Dynan, Kathryn Foisy, Tara Hancock, Christina Houghton, Samuel Mildrum, and Leah Putnam; at HMS Alexandra Barber, Gabrielle Barnes, Laura Daly, Eric Langmeyer, Kathryn Trefry, Sofia Verras, and Gregory Whitney; at PRS Kelly Donovan and Linda Harned; and van monitor James White, all effective for the beginning of the school year.
- 6.9 The Committee received notification of advancements on the salary scale on September 1, 2019 of Ashley Baxter to M60 Step 8, Joann Bellis to M30 Step 7, Courtney Bruno to M30 Step 6, Alysia Campbell to M30 Step 7, Emily Day to M15 Step 4, Katherine Day to B15 Step 4, Brian DeMarco to M30 Step 4, Andrea Feeney to M15 Step 4, Andrea Feeney to M15 Step 4, Glenda Garland to M30 Step 8, Melissa Goldman to M15 Step 7, Susanne Hallisey to M30 Step 12, Caroline Mills to M30 Step 11, Heather Murphy to M60 Step 13, Jenna Nelson to M60 Step 12, Heather Perine to M60 Step 10, James Quine to M30 Step 13, Meghanne Quirk to M30 Step 9, Katelyn Sassorossi to M60 Step 6, Jamie vonFreymann to B15 Step 11, and Megan Whoriskey to M15 Step 6.
- 7. 48 Hour Items:** Paul Austin introduced Jacquelyn Sansone, the new Director of Kids in Action to the Committee.
- 8. Subcommittee and Project Reports**
Policy: Kerry Ni reported that the subcommittee talked about goals and that one goal is to align Hingham policies with those of the MASC.

Salary and Negotiations: Will report in Executive Session.

Master Plan Committee: Liza O'Reilly stated that the consultant hired by the Town gave a presentation at the meeting. They are planning targeted sessions with board members and staff. The next meeting will be on October 21, 2019. The committee's goal is helping Hingham plan for the future and how to get there. They will develop a logo, tagline, and community outreach events. The facilities session will be held on October 21, 2019.

Community Outreach: Libby Lewiecki reported that the subcommittee will host "Coffee and Conversation with the Superintendent" on October 15, 2019.

Hingham Education Foundation: Libby Lewiecki mentioned that they are off to a good start. Congratulations to a good group of well-organized people. This is the third year of CS immersion and are looking ahead. They are having a conversation about future initiatives on October 1, 2019. They are gearing up for the spelling bee on Sunday, November 3 and planning spring events.

South School Council: Libby Lewiecki shared they will be having a meeting this coming Wednesday but she will be unable to attend but will be at the October meeting.

METCO: Nes Correnti shared that there was apple picking over the weekend at Honey Pot Farms. She, Michelle Ayer and Carols Perez, METCO Director, met and discussed community, where METCO is going and how to address any concerns, and the budget. This is a new liaison role for the School Committee this year and part of the discussion centered around what that role would be.

All Town PTO: Michelle Ayer reported that she attended Paul Austin's first meeting of the year. It went well with good discussion and excitement about the beginning of school. Michelle told them that the School Committee members who are assigned to their schools will reach out to them and that they should schedule times to be present at a PTO meeting in the future to fill the PTO in on School Committee activities.

Hingham Cares reached out to Michelle Ayer. They are looking for a School Committee liaison. Although it is not directly related to the schools, there is some overlap. Ed Schreier had attended a few meetings in the past and was asked if he would be interested in attending a meeting or two going forward. He is interested and provided some background information. He will contact them.

Special Education: Dr. Vinnes confirmed that she can meet on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 10:30 or 11:00 AM.

School Building Committee: Ed Schreier attended the MSBA walk around at Foster School with John Ferris and Ray Estes. They were well prepared and it was a great meeting and we will keep our fingers crossed.

9. **Adjournment.**

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To adjourn to Executive Session, not to return to Open Session, for the purpose of approving minutes, discussing strategy related to the collective bargaining process and discussing matters related to the collective bargaining contract, the open discussion thereof would impact our negotiating ability at 8:50PM.

M. Ayer – aye
C. DaSilva – aye
K. Ni – aye
E. Schreier – aye
L. O'Reilly – aye
L. Lewiecki – aye
N. Correnti - aye

Respectfully Submitted By:
Kerry Ni

Items Included in Packet:

9-23-19 Agenda 

9-23-19 Agenda.pdf 

Item 2.1 9-9-19 Minutes.pdf 

Item 4 9-9-19 Enrollment.pdf 

Item 6.1 Proposed Revision to Policy 3.7.4 ORDER OF BUSINESS AND AGENDA 

Item 6.2 PROPOSED UPDATE TO 3.7.5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT 

Item 6.3 Homeless Policy 6.3a (JML rev. 9.11.19) 

Item 6.4 Foster Care Policy 6.3b (JML rev. 9.11.19) 

Item 6.5 ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION RESTRICTIONS (JML & JQ edits) 

Item 6.6 Motion to Declare Surplus Sailboats.docx 

Item 9a 8-12-19 Executive Session Minutes.pdf 
