

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

October 21, 2019

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

- 1. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 7PM by Michelle Ayer.
Members Present: Michelle Ayer, Nes Correnti, Carlos Da Silva, Libby Lewiecki, Kerry Ni, Liza O’Reilly and Ed Schreier.

Central Office Present: Paul Austin, Jamie LaBillois, Suzanne Vinnes, and John Ferris.

Visitors Present: Tony Keady, June Gustafson, Ceci Hanlon, Mary Eastwood, Jackie Sansone, Lori Jacobs, Melissa Hamrock, Maura Yodzio, Kathleen LeBlanc, Dawnmarie Finocchi, Eugene Buczynski, Leanne Turnak, Mary Andrews.

2. Approval of Minutes

- 2.1 On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Coffee and Conversation held on October 15, 2019

- 2.2 On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on October 15, 2019

- 2.3 On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Coffee and Conversation held on October 17, 2019

3. Questions and Comments - None

4. Superintendent’s Report - None

5. Communications

5.1 Dr. Austin and John Ferris reviewed the September and October 2019 Facilities report. September highlights include a 700 x 4ft fence installed at East Elementary and the heating system at South Elementary was rebuilt. In addition, the MSBA senior site visit to Foster Elementary went well. In October, the public announcement system at HHS will be repaired under capital, a solar powered scoreboard will be installed on the girl’s varsity softball field and the PRS vestibule design process will begin.

5.2 Student Communications – None

5.3 Other Communications - None

6. Unfinished Business

6.1 John Ferris reviewed the FY'21 Budget Guidelines proposed by the administration.

On a motion by Carlos DaSilva and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was

Voted: To approve the proposed FY '21 Budget Guidelines.

6.2 Proposed revisions to the HPS Policy 3.7.5 Public Involvement policy were presented to the Committee for a third reading. Liza O'Reilly proposed a change to clarify that Committee members now have individual email accounts. Ed Schreier took exception to a proposed revision which states that "[a]ll speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner." He disagreed with the inclusion of the word "encouraged," stating that speakers should be required to present their remarks in a respectful manner. Kerry Ni remarked that this could be an unlawful limit on speech. Michelle Ayer stated that because a "respectful manner" is subjective, this would be difficult to enforce as a rule.

On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Carlos DaSilva,

It was

Voted: To accept the revised HPS Policy 3.7.5 Public Involvement. Ed Schreier abstained.

7. New Business

7.1 Principal Tony Keady updated the Committee on the progress of the 2018-2019 East Elementary School Improvement Plan and presented the 2019-2020 Plan. Mr. Keady thanked the members of the East School Council. Improvement was noted on the 2018-2019 Literacy and Math goals. East will continue to work on the Community Engagement goals with new PTO leadership, as well as the Makerspace and Student Ambassador goals. East continues to implement the Social-Emotional Toolbox and the Hingham Tiered Systems of Support. The East Student Council would like to focus on recycling in the 2019-2020 school year. Mr. Keady reviewed the School Improvement Plan Data Gathering Process. East enrollment increased this year. The 2019-2020 School Improvement Plan includes 5 goals: 1) Literacy, with a focus on writing in grades 3, 4 & 5; 2) Math, focusing on Geometry, Measurement & Data; 3) Science; 4) strengthening connections with families and the broader community; 5) understanding cultural differences.

Mr. Keady reviewed several programs unique to East. The CREW program, a vertical tier of students, grades K-5 will focus on kindness this year. In the Makerspace program, students use a CAD program to design a project. One benefit of this program is that the time enables teachers to observe their peers while students are in that class. Mr. Keady thanked the PTO for hosting a Back to School Bash, a floor hockey tournament and many field trips, in addition to many other activities.

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was

Voted: To approve the 2019-2020 East School Improvement Plan.

7.2 Principal Mary Eastwood and Assistant Principal Lori Jacobs presented an update of the 2018-2019 plan progress and the South School Improvement Plan. Mrs. Eastwood thanked the South School Council members. On the 2018-2019 Plan, progress was made on the Academic Progress goal. Mrs. Eastwood noted that South ranked 31/942 on MCAS results last year. South continues to emphasize hands on learning at every opportunity. On goal two, physical and emotional wellbeing, South

presents Buzz Awards, emphasizes its slogan “Bee kinder than necessary,” utilizes the Social-Emotional Toolbox, and continues the Kindness Rocks program. Additionally, South participated in Inclusion Week by having classroom activities that celebrate differences. Progress was made on the Parent/Community engagement goals, the Communication and Collaboration goal and the School Safety goal.

Mrs. Eastwood reviewed the 2019-2020 Plan. South will continue their successful initiatives with a focus on reflex Math. Additionally, South staff will continue to implement the Social-Emotional Toolbox. To address parent and community engagement, as well as communication, South will continue to use the newsletter and Buzz Blasts and Fast Facts. South hosts a New Family Reception and Tour each year, as well as a new student lunch to welcome families new to the school. To address school safety, South continuously reviews and refines safety protocols, has made enhancements to the School check-in/check out procedures and uses surveillance equipment.

Liza O’Reilly inquired whether students returning to school after Summer break remembered how to use the Toolbox. Some review was required, but it was very helpful to have a common language.

On a motion by Libby Lewiecki and seconded by Kerry Ni,

It was

Voted: To approve the 2019-2020 South Elementary School Improvement Plan.

7.3 On a motion by Libby Lewiecki and seconded by Liza O’Reilly,

It was

Voted: To appoint Carlos DaSilva to serve as the Hingham School Committee delegate at the annual MASC conference being held on November 6 – 9, 2019. All members are asked to read the proposed MASC resolutions to discuss at the next meeting.

7.4 The Committee discussed the School Committee 2019-2020 Calendar to plan topics and dates of possible workshops. Liza O’Reilly proposed workshops on the topics of athletic and other fees, issues presented in the Superintendent’s report in February and on the Superintendent evaluation process. Michelle Ayer would like to review the School Committee subcommittees. Carlos DaSilva suggested a MASC Social Media workshop, which was discussed last year, as well as a planning session for Foster Elementary, once the MSBA has determined whether to invite Hingham into the program. It was proposed that a workshop covering the topics of the Superintendent Evaluation process, issues arising out of the 100 day report, and the makeup of Subcommittees be held on February 24th. A workshop on fees was proposed for December 2nd, ahead of budget season. The School Committee plans to discuss Foster on December 16th. Depending on the MSBA decision, Community Outreach will plan a meeting with the Foster Community on December 18th or 19th. A Social Media workshop was proposed for the Spring.

8. Subcommittee reports:

- Nes Correnti attended the East PTO meeting and will attend the first School Council meeting on Wednesday 10/30.
- Libby Lewiecki reported that:
 - Community Outreach organized two successful coffees with the Superintendent and plans to have more in the future. The next Community Outreach meeting will be on October 31.
 - The South School Council will meet on Wednesday, October 30.
 - The Hingham Education Foundation Spelling Bee will be on November 3rd. Additionally, Dr. LaBillois

and Science Director Katie Roberts will present on Hingham's Computer Science Initiative at the MASC Conference on November 6th. HEF's support made this initiative possible.

- Liza O'Reilly reported that:
 - The Foster School Council met on October 16th.
 - The second town wide Master Plan Committee meeting was held on October 16th. The consultants hired by the town are gathering information. A productive meeting focused on facilities was held on October 21. Many town departments were represented. Two visioning sessions will be held on November 20th in the evening and November 23rd during the day. Residents are strongly encouraged to attend and give input. Liza O'Reilly will propose that student input be sought. In addition, the Master Plan consultants are holding sessions with various community groups.
 - Salary and Negotiations will meet on October 31st.
 - The Foster Fall Fair will take place on October 26th.
- Ed Schreier reported that:
 - The PRS School Council met on October 21st and welcomed several new members. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of PRS. STEAM Week is beginning at PRS.
 - Ed thanked the East PTO for assisting with the permits for the new fence that was installed.
- Kerry reported that:
 - The Policy Subcommittee will begin to review the HPS manual along with the MASC sample policies and the next meeting will be on October 30 at 10AM.
 - Dr. Austin attended the SEPAC meeting to hear from parents. SEPAC sent a survey to parents and guardians of students who receive special education. SEPAC will be hosting an Assistive Technology presentation on Tuesday 10/22 at 7PM at HMS. Finally, the next SEPAC meeting will be on 11/20 and will be brief, followed by a social.
 - HMS School Council met on October 21st. School Council will be working on two surveys, one for sixth grade parents on the topic of transition from grades 5-6 and another all school survey for all HMS parents. The next meeting will be on November 18. The HMS PTO met on Thursday, 10/17. There was discussion on the 5th to 6 grade transition. Parents noted that training on how to use Aspen and google classroom would be helpful. Parents also noted that a single platform for communication would be helpful. Upcoming HMS events are the 6th grade Harvest Happening on Friday 10/18, the 7th grade Night of Scares on 10/25 from 7-8:30PM and the 8th grade bonfire on 10/18 from 7-8:30PM.
 - SNAP will be hosting an event at Wahlburgers on 11/13 from 5:30-9PM, as well as a Fall Family Fun Day on 11/17 at the South Shore Sports Center. Upcoming winter programs are Yoga/Zumba, Swimming and Basketball.
- Carlos DaSilva noted that the Department of Public Works had removed many of the Foster Fall Fair yard signs. He asked if we could ask all of the schools to find a place for signs for events at the other buildings to help them publicize.
- Michelle reported that:
 - The next Special Education subcommittee will take place on November 14th.
 - METCO will be hosting a Thanksgiving potluck on November 14th at 6PM at the Teen Center in Dorchester. All Committee members are invited.
 - The first All Town PTO meeting was productive and focused on parent engagement.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Ed Schreier and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was


Voted: To adjourn at 8:50PM.


Respectfully Submitted by:
Kerry Ni


Documents Included:


[10-21-19 Agenda.pdf](#) 


[Item 2.1 10-15-19 Coffee and Conversation Minutes.pdf](#) 

[Item 2.2 10-15-19 Minutes.pdf](#) 

[Item 2.3 10-17-19 Coffee and Conversation Minutes.pdf](#) 

[Item 5.1 Facility Dept September & October Report.pdf](#) 


[Item 6.1 Draft FY'21 Guidelines 2019.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.2 PROPOSED UPDATE TO 3.7.5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.1 East School Council Improvement Plan 18-19 Update.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.1 East-School-Council-Improvement-Plan-19-20.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.2 South School Improvement Plan 18-19 Status.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.2 South School Improvement Plan 19-20.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.4 Special SC Reports 19-20.pdf](#) 

[SC Operating Protocols](#) 
