

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November 4, 2019

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

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Michelle Ayer. She announced that the meeting is being recorded.

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: Jennifer Newell, Charleen Fabrizio, Hackie Sansone, Melissa Smith, Elizabeth Wilcox, June MK Gustafson, Bob Curley

2. **Approval of Minutes**

2.1 On a motion by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Nes Correnti,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on October 21, 2019

3. **Questions and Comments** - None

4. **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Austin reported that the November 1, 2019 Enrollment shows there are 11 more students K-12 than at the end of last year. He reviewed the South Shore Educational Collaborative Board of Directors Report of October 11, 2019 and shared that the budget is in line with the projected budget.

Dr. LaBillois reviewed the Kindergarten to Grade 5 curriculum summaries. They remained mostly unchanged but now have a social-emotional/ToolBox component. The summaries have been posted to the website. There was a suggestion to look at the parent assistance sections and how they might be changed to address specific grades. Another suggestion was to include the names of the books being read at each level.

Dr. Austin provided an update of Superintendent goals and induction activities. Since his last report, has with his NSIP mentor twice, met with the student leadership committee, and attended two community coffees. Dr. Austin will provide the committee with his findings at the February 24, 2020 School Committee meeting. He also mentioned that Dr. LaBillois has formed a group to study the HPS website and make suggestions. Dr. Austin was asked if he had considered including HMS students as part of his student advisory group. Additionally, the special education goal includes a lot of professional development. Dr. Austin was asked whether the professional development provided includes the topic of communication with parents. Dr. Vinnes responded that she is working with her staff on parent communication.

5. **Communications**

5.1 Dr. Austin attended the Town forecast meeting this morning. Materials are in the packet.

5.2 Student Communications – Emma Quilty was at King Philip for a soccer playoff game. The committee wished her good luck!

5.3 Other Communications - None

6. New Business

- 6.1 Principal Melissa Smith updated the Committee on the progress of the 2018-2019 Plymouth River School Improvement Plan and presented the 2019-2020 Plan. Ms. Smith read their mission statement. The 2018-2019 theme was TEAM and the focus was on closing achievement gaps and rolling out the social-emotional curriculum, ToolBox. A highlight was being featured on the Inclusive Schools Network website. The council improved the school's social media presence with a focus on enhanced communications and worked on increasing partnerships with local agencies. The coffee with incoming Kindergarten parents was very well attended.

The 2019-2020 plan will focus on Honoring the Past. Ms. Smith mentioned that the school is celebrating their 50th anniversary. Equity and inclusiveness will be the foci. They are piloting the STAR 360 assessment in Grades K and 5. Another goal is to provide social-emotional newsletters for parents. Finally, PRS has a goal to strengthen the home-school collaboration with Plymouth River families.

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

It was

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

- 6.2 Principal Beth Wilcox presented an update of the 2018-2019 plan progress and the Foster School Improvement Plan. For the 2018-2019 plan, Dr. Wilcox stated that the council developed their Improvement Plan to align with the Hingham Public Schools Strategic Plan. The goals were to increase student achievement in literacy and mathematics; and to foster a community of learners, a community focused on service and a community committed to global awareness.

For the 2019-2020 School Council plan, the theme is "I am a Masterpiece." The goals are to increase individual instruction, develop and refine instruction of social-emotional strategies, expand to integrate computer science initiatives, utilize data to provide feedback on planning and instruction, and focus on collaboration and communication between school and community. Dr. Wilcox explained that they are looking at a WIN (What I Need) block structure with hopes of implementing it this spring.

Dr. LaBillois commended Dr. Wilcox for being a 2019 School of Recognition.

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

It was

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

- 6.3 The Committee discussed the MASC resolutions that would be voted on by the delegate, Carlos Da Silva, at the meeting on November 8, 2019. Michelle Ayer asked that the members consider all schools in the Commonwealth when voting on the resolutions. The members read the resolutions aloud.

Resolution 1: Banning Polystyrene from Schools.

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

It was

Voted: To vote in favor of Resolution 1: Banning Polystyrene from Schools.

Resolution 2: Pertaining to Educator Diversity and the Professional Licensure. After the resolution was read, discussion ensued. Dr. LaBillois stated that this is a very complicated issue and might include

larger overhauls than eliminating MTEL. June MK Gustafson commented that MTEs often address subjects that are not pertinent to the subject a teacher teaches. Also, the cost can be prohibitive.

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

It was

Voted: To vote in favor of Resolution 2: Pertaining to Educator Diversity and the Professional Licensure. Michelle Ayer, Ed Schreier and Liza O'Reilly abstained.

Resolution 3: School Transportation

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

It was

Voted: To vote in favor of Resolution 3: School Transportation

Resolution 4: Climate Change

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

It was

Voted: To vote in favor of Resolution 4: Climate Change. Ed Schreier abstained.

Resolution 5: Full Funding of Transportation Costs for Students in Foster Care and State Care.

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

It was

Voted: To vote in favor of Resolution 5: Full Funding of Transportation Costs for Students in Foster Care and State Care.

Resolution 6: Universal Quality Pre-Kindergarten Access in Massachusetts.

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

It was

Voted: To vote in favor of Resolution 6: Universal Quality Pre-Kindergarten Access in Massachusetts.

Resolution 7: Poverty and Children.

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

It was

Voted: To vote in favor of Resolution 7: Poverty and Children.

Resolution 8: Resolution for Access to Menstrual Supplies.

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

It was

Voted: To vote in favor of Resolution 8: Resolution for Access to Menstrual Supplies.

Resolution 9: Charter School Reform.

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

It was

Voted: To vote in favor of Resolution 9: Charter School Reform.

Proposal to amend the MASC by-laws.

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

It was

Voted: To vote in favor of the Proposal to amend the MASC by-laws

- 6.4 The Committee discussed a proposal for Policy Manual development from Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC). Kerry Ni, Policy Subcommittee chair, discussed how revising our policies to align with those of MASC would make the task of updating policies simpler. Most of our benchmark towns do align their policies with MASC. The cost of \$10,500 would be broken up over 3 years. The Committee discussed the risks of not doing this. It was noted that creating policy is one of the three responsibilities of a School Committee. John Ferris stated that we can afford to pay for this year and we will put it in the budget for the next two years. A question arose if this would include procedures and about the proposed timeline.

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

It was

Voted: To accept the proposal from MASC policy service to update our Policy manual subject to clarification of procedures and regulations and when they will need the documents.

- 6.5 The Committee discussed proposed new policy 3.1.1, Negotiations Goals. Kerry Ni stated that this is recommended by MASC and is needed because the Committee is entering a negotiations year. Michelle Ayer noted that this is a first reading.
- 6.6 The Committee discussed proposed new policy 3.1.2, Negotiations Legal Status. Liza O'Reilly state that this is to follow the laws and bargain in good faith. Libby Lewiecki stated that the language should be clarified regarding the MGL statute quoted in the Policy.
- 6.7 The Committee discussed proposed new policy 3.1.3, School Committee Negotiating Agents. Liza O'Reilly pointed out that the School Committee can hire people to assist with bargaining.
- 6.8 The Committee discussed proposed revisions to policy 6.2, Age Requirements. The goal of this revision is to clarify Kindergarten start age. Libby Lewiecki inquired if the wording "at the school's discretion" should be changed to "at the Principal's discretion." Kerry Ni recommended adding language that the Superintendent will create procedures to guide the schools in their decision making process.
- 6.9 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of the DECA Business Club of Hingham High School on December 12 to 13, 2019. The Committee asked what DECA stands for – it is Distributive Education Clubs of America and it focuses on business.
- 6.10 The Committee discussed revisions to the 2019-2020 School Committee Special Reports Calendar. Liza O'Reilly commented that the Superintendent's Update on his goals and induction activities scheduled for February 24, 2020 should be in open session with a discussion to follow in a workshop. It was

noted that there is a district band/orchestra concert scheduled on December 19, 2019.

6.11 The Committee received notification of the appointments of Julie O'Halloran, Administrative Assistant at Central; Jeannine Banner, Administrative Assistant at PRS; Luke Leavitt and Lance Mortland, Custodians; Linda Ristau, Food Service Technician; paraeducators Kristin Stenstrom at East, Ashley Morrill and Elizabeth Donohue at Foster, Stacy Jackson and Eleanor Lunday at HHS, and Kristen McKenna and Caitlin Ogar at HMS; and Christine Lotano, tutor at PRS.

6.12 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Stacy Lemieux, paraeducator at HHS.

7. Subcommittee reports:

- Nes Correnti noted that the East School Council will meet on November 20, 2019. They will conduct focus groups to assess needs and what's working well. The East PTO meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2019. There will be a social for East school parents on November 15, 2019. METCO will host a Thanksgiving Feast on November 14, 2019 from 6 to 8 PM at St. Peter's Parish in Dorchester.
- Libby Lewiecki reported that the Community Outreach Committee will meet tomorrow. The South School Council will meet on November 20, 2019. It is South School's 20th anniversary of their major renovation. They are planning a Veteran's Day celebration and a time capsule and quilt.
- Liza O'Reilly reported that Salary & Negotiations will meet in Executive Session on October 31, 2019. The master Plan Committee is conducting Visioning session on three dates. She will be meeting after school with high school and middle school students. Students are encouraged to attend and will receive Big Red points.
- Ed Schreier reported that he has ordered Thanksgiving pies for the Central Office staff.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Policy Subcommittee met on October 30, 2019 and the next meeting will be on November 12, 2019. SEPAC had an assistive technology presentation that was well attended. She thanked Lauren Ciocca and Caroline Ferris from HMS for their excellent presentation. SNAP will host a Wahlburger's event on Wednesday and a Fall Family Fun Day on November 17, 2019. All are invited.
- Carlos DaSilva noted that Long Range Planning will be meeting on November 19, 2019. HHS Student Council will meet on December 4, 2019.
- Michelle Ayer reported that the next Special Education subcommittee meeting will take place on November 14, 2019.

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:

- a. Approval of minutes of the Executive Session of the School Committee held on October 15, 2019;
- b. Discussing matters related to the current HEA Unit A collective bargaining contract, the public discussion of which may be detrimental to the Committee's bargaining position, and act as appropriate
- c. Discussing matters related to the collective bargaining negotiations with the HEA Unit A for the 2020-2023 contract, the public discussion of which may be detrimental to the Committee's bargaining position.

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

Documents Included:

[11-4-19 Agenda.pdf](#) 

[Item 2.1 10-21-19 Minutes.pdf](#) 

[Item 4.1 11-1-19 Enrollment.pdf](#) 

[Item 4.2 SSEC.pdf](#) 

[Item 4.3 2019-2020 Curriculum Summaries.pdf](#) 

[Item 5.1 Forecast.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.1 PRS School Improvement Plan 2018-2...](#) 

[Item 6.1 PRS School Improvement Plan 2019-2...](#) 

[Item 6.2 Foster 2018-2019 School Improvemen...](#) 

[Item 6.2 Foster School Improvement Plan 19.2...](#) 

[Item 6.3 MASC-Resolutions-Report-2019.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.4 MASC Policy Manual Contract Hingha...](#)

[Item 6.5 DRAFT Proposed Policy 3.1.1 NEGOTI...](#)

[Item 6.6 DRAFT Proposed Policy 3.1.2 Negotiat...](#)

[Item 6.7 DRAFT Proposed Policy 3.1.3 School ...](#)

[Item 6.8 Proposed Revision to Policy 6.2 Entra...](#)

[Item 6.9 DECA Field Trip.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.10 Special SC Reports 19-20 revised dra...](#)

[Item 8 Signed Warrants.pdf](#) 
