

## MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November 18, 2019

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

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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: David Jewett, Derek Smith, June Gustafson, Elizabeth Wilcox, George Danis, Andy Hoey, Melissa Smith, S. Gertz, Emma Quilty, Mary Andrews, Rick Swanson, Kathryn Roberts, Mary Eastwood

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 November 4, 2019

3. **Questions and Comments** - None

4. **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Austin reported that the Kindergarten Parent Forum held on November 5, 2019 for parents of children entering Kindergarten in September, 2020 was very well attended. He thanks the administrators and teachers who attended and presented. He reported that he attended the joint MASS/MASC conference. He thanked Dr. LaBillois, Katie Roberts, Kyra Frank, Libby Lewiecki, Tina Wehner and Eryn Kelley for the excellent presentation they gave on the coding initiative "Code Red." He received very positive feedback from many attendees. Libby Lewiecki said they were well received any there were many good questions. Michelle Ayer thanked all the participants and the Hingham Education Foundation.

5. **Communications**

5.1 Dr. Austin reported that the School Committee had entered into an agreement with Massachusetts School Committee Association to create a Policy Manual. He congratulated high school athletes on a great fall season and announced that the high school musical production of *Mama Mia* would start on Thursday night. Tickets are almost sold out.

5.2 Student Communications – Emma Quilty reported that Student Council had a ping pong tournament to raise funds for Allison Clarke Memorial Scholarship Foundation. the math team had a big win over 5 of the 6 teams hosted by Notre Dame Academy in Hingham. *Mama Mia* will be performed this Thursday through Saturday evenings at the high school. The Unified Basketball Team had a win over Weymouth. Field hockey team hosted the teacher versus student game. Mr. Hutcheson scored a hat trick, propelling the teachers to a 3-1 win. Please forward all coupons to Mrs. Jacobson at HHS to be used in the class "Extreme Couponing" for the Hingham Food Pantry. 23 senior athletes signed their national letters of intent. Last Sunday, many students helped at the SNAP Fall Family Fun Day. The holiday fair will be held at the high school on November 23,2019.

5.3 Other Communications – Liza O'Reilly shared a document that she had sent to Dr. Austin in preparation for the fees discussion at the December 2, 2019 School Committee meeting. These

include history of fees, benchmark community fee information, other student fees and administration recommendations. She is interested in the cost of living increase and a student fee policy.

## **6. Unfinished Business**

- 6.1 The Committee discussed proposed new policy 3.13.1, Negotiations Goals. Kerry Ni read the new policy.

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

It was

Voted: To approve new policy 3.13.1, Negotiations Goals.

- 6.2 The Committee discussed proposed new policy 3.13.2, Negotiations Legal Status. Kerry Ni read the new policy and mentioned that the word employee was added for clarification.

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

It was

Voted: To approve new policy 3.13.2, Negotiations Legal Status

- 6.3 The Committee discussed proposed new policy 3.13.3, School Committee Negotiating Agents. Kerry Ni read the new policy.

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

It was

Voted: To approve new policy 3.13.3, School Committee Negotiating Agents.

- 6.4 The Committee discussed proposed revisions to policy 6.2, Age Requirements. Carlos Da Silva commended Kerry Ni and the Policy Subcommittee for a job well done. Liza O'Reilly mentioned that this revision will make the policy more understandable as there has been some confusion over time. Dr. Austin will prepare procedures to help implement the revisions.

On a motion by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was

Voted: To approve policy 6.2, Age Requirements.

## **7. New Business**

- 7.1 The Committee heard a report on MCAS testing from Dr. LaBillois. He started by recognizing the support of Mary Andrews, Katie Roberts and Dave Jewett, the department directors who work with faculty to dig down into the data and implement changes. He also thanked the five principals in attendance and congratulated Principal Wilcox and Foster School for being named a 2019 School of Recognition.

Dr. LaBillois explained the Hingham Public Schools Accountability Results of each school and the resulting percentiles. He then reported on the type of assessments for each test – either Legacy MCAS or next Generation MCAS and explained the percentage of students meeting and exceeding expectations in each test. The next set of data provided was comparisons of test results by grade and subject of all students to each of our benchmark communities and performance summaries of those

results. Dr. LaBillois then presented the same sets of data for Hingham's Students With Disabilities and High Needs Subgroup. High needs was defined as an unduplicated count of all students in a school or district belonging to at least one the following individual subgroups: students with disabilities, English language learners (ELL) and former ELL students, or economically disadvantaged. Dr. LaBillois further refined the data for Students With Disabilities Subgroup which is defined as a count of all students in a school or district with disabilities as defined under the IDEA and who have an IEP. Next presented was MCAS Alt information on the number of students taking the test and the decision making process for who would qualify to take that test.

Dr. LaBillois next presented the District Data-Based Action Plan and Strategies for Improvement for all students and students with disabilities.

Michelle Ayer thanked Dr. LaBillois for his very comprehensive report and praised the strong performance of Hingham students. Questions and comments from the Committee included whether the high needs MCAS score has any effect on the overall MCAS score, whether chronic absenteeism was a factor in accountability and whether social-emotional issues or school refusal impact attendance. Additionally, the Committee praised the grade 6 and 7 ELA results. It was noted that scores decline between grades 6 and 8. It was noted that that is consistent with the rest of the state, and that the administration will propose a Tiered System of Support to address this decline.

- 7.2 The Committee discussed School Committee Operating Protocols. It was asked whether there should be a protocol about how the Committee works with Central Office staff. It was agreed that this is addressed in the third bullet, "Our Behavior". It was proposed that the word "needs" be added to the statement "Representing and advocating for the interests and achievement of ALL Hingham students", and the Committee agreed. The Committee envisions that future Committees will review, revise and sign a document like this each year when new members are elected and sworn in. This Committee will sign the document at the next meeting.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the Hingham School Committee 2019-2020 Operating Protocols with the addition of the word "needs" to make the phrase "Representing and advocating for the interests and achievement of ALL Hingham students."

- 8. 48 Hour Items:** Dr. Austin announced that he received notice this morning from the DESE that Hingham Public Schools is in full compliance

**9. Subcommittee reports:**

- Nes Correnti and Kerry Ni reported on the seminars attended at the MASC/MASS conference, including "Reframing Diversity," "School Law 101," "70 Minutes on Chapter 70," "Social Media," "Policy," "Superintendent Goals and Evaluations," and "School Committee Self Evaluation". Lt. Governor Maura Healey spoke on the Sandy Hook Promise. Kerry Ni mentioned that the School Committee should be approving student handbooks. Carlos Da Silva reported that he served as Hingham School Committee delegate to MASC and that all the resolutions passed. He also attended an MSBA workshop and shared that there is a list of green vendors.
- Nes Correnti reported that there will be two ToolBox training sessions for East School parents on December 11, 2019. The first parent social for East was a success.
- Libby Lewiecki reported that the South School Council will meet on November 20, 2019. There will be a HEF and HSP fundraiser at the Paragon Boardwalk Family Day on December 8, 2019. Other HEF events are Krigsman Yoga Exercising for Education on December 17, 2019 and a spring fundraiser on April 3, 2020.

Community Outreach is working to schedule two Coffees with the Superintendent – one at Linden Ponds and one at the Senior Center.

- Liza O'Reilly reported that the Town Master Plan Committee is conducting visioning sessions. Today was the first session and a wide cross section of the community attended. She met today after school with high school students and will meet with middle school students tomorrow. There will be more sessions throughout the next few weeks.
- Ed Schreier reported that he attended the PRS School Council meeting today. They are seeking a community representative.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Policy Subcommittee met on November 12, 2019. HMS PTO meeting last week started with coffee with the principals and at the meeting the discussion focused on building resilience in students. Lauren Ciocca and Melissa Goldman presented the "One Book, One School" initiative. HMS School Council meeting was today. Spirit week is next week. Two surveys will address transitions for grade 6 and a general survey for all parents. She attended the All Town PTO meeting where they discussed budgets and the superintendent's induction questions. Michelle Ayer added that other School Committee members should attend this meeting in order to meet the PTO members and asked for volunteers.
- Carlos DaSilva noted that Long Range Planning met on November 16, 2019 with the Board of Selectmen, Advisory Committee and Foster School Building Committees. They discussed the possibility of submitting an SOI for the PRS School windows. Hingham should hear whether Foster will be invited to participate in the MSBA program next year in early December. The Committees toured Foster School. The School Committee will be meeting on December 18 with the Board of Selectmen, Town administrators and the Advisory Committee to discuss next steps for Foster School. Michelle Ayer mentioned that John Ferris thought the joint meetings were very beneficial and suggested that they might have them quarterly, not just in budget season. There will be a meeting of the Long Range Planning Committee on November 20, 2019. The High School Council will meet on December 4, 2019.
- Michelle Ayer reported that the Special Education subcommittee met last week. Dr. Vinnes gave great updates on some of her initiatives for this year, including enrollment staffing, and professional development. They discussed budget priorities for FY'21. The Executive Board met with Dr. Austin and his mentor, Maureen LaCroix, to discuss Dr. Austin's evaluation. The committee will select the indicators on which to evaluate the superintendent at the meeting on December 2, 2019

## **9. Adjournment**

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

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 November 4, 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:

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[11-18-19 Agenda.pdf](#) 

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[2019 HPS Account\\_MCAS Report Powerpoint ...](#) 

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[Item 2.1 11-4-19 Minutes.pdf](#) 

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[Item 6.1 Policy 3.13.1 NEGOTIATIONS GOALS.pdf](#) 

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[Item 6.2 Policy 3.13.2 Negotiations Legal Statu...](#) 

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[Item 6.3 Policy 3.13.3 Negotiating Agents.pdf](#) 

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[Item 6.4 Policy 6.2 Age Requirements.pdf](#) 

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[Item 7.1 2019 MCAS Accountability Report](#) 

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[Item 7.1 2019 MCAS Accountability Report](#) 

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[Item 7.1 2019 MCAS Accountability Report.pdf](#) 

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[Item 7.2 SC Operating Protocols.pdf](#) 

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[Item 10a 11-4-19 Executive Session Minutes.pdf](#) 

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

Liza O'Reilly's Requested Information for Fees Discussion