

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

December 16, 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 and John Ferris.

Visitors Present: June Gustafson, Alec Porter, Erica Pollard, Heather Rodriguez, Emma Quilty.

- 2. Approval of Minutes**

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

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on December 2, 2019.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Workshop held on December 2, 2019.

- 3. Questions and Comments** - None

- 4. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Austin reported that the Board of the Massachusetts School Building Authority met on December 11, 2019 and has invited Hingham into its eligibility period. He thanked Lueders Environmental, Inc. for their generous donation of \$75. He also noted that the winter coaching assignments were in the packet and thanked the coaches and student athletes for a great athletic program. Dr. Austin mentioned that December enrollment was consistent with the numbers from the end of last year. The South Shore Educational Collaborative's annual Report is available in the Superintendent's office and the financial report from December, 2019 is in the packet. The SSEC Board voted to admit Whitman-Hanson as a member district, effective July 1, 2020.

- 5. Communications**

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: The MSBA letter is in the packet; the Eligibility period runs from April 1, 2020 through December 28, 2020.

5.2 Student Communications: Emma Quilty thanked Dr. Austin for having a snow day the day after the last School Committee meeting. The HHS Math team is 10-0. Denise Stanley and Maryellen Holler won an award Herff Jones for the yearbook and Maryellen Holler was voted the MSSADA Administrative Assistant of the year. The high school recently held the "Catching Kindness" award ceremony. The PTO funded an exhibit of ancient Roman artifacts by retired Latin teacher Doug Ryan. Junior Rhiannon Peacock won the Voice of Democracy award, boys and girls basketball both had big wins, and Freshman Kelsey Tarby came within 3 seconds of setting a state track record.

- 6. New Business**

- 6.1 The Committee heard the Class of 2019 College Board Testing and placement Report. Heather Rodriguez, Guidance Department Director, presented the report to the Committee. She started with a summary of the graduating students' post-graduation plans: 91.2% of graduates will attend four year colleges and 94.9% will continue their education. She explained that the College Board has changed the way data is reported to the schools. Unless a college is "test optional," they will accept either SAT or ACT scores. For SAT Evidence Based Reading and Writing, Hingham High School's mean score was 601 compared to the mean of 559 in Massachusetts and 531 nationally. For SAT Math, Hingham's mean score was 600 compared to the mean of 561 in Massachusetts and 582 nationally. Ms. Rodriguez described the SAT Subject Tests taken, the ACT test and Advanced Placement examinations. She also commended the 100 students who were named AP Scholars and the 5 students who were named National Scholars. For the PSAT taken by juniors, 12 students earned the ranking of National Merit Scholars. Ms. Rodriguez noted that the performance of students with disabilities on the SAT, ACT and AP exams has been a topic of interest. Although the College Board and the ACT have provided data in the past, they no longer do this. However, the guidance department is in the process of analyzing the number of students with disabilities, which consists of students on IEPs and 504 plans, who take AP exams. A preliminary look at the data shows that more students with disabilities sat for AP exams last year. Most of those students were on 504 plans; at least one was on an IEP. Ms. Rodriguez will send the data to the Committee and Dr. Austin once her research is complete.

Kerry Ni asked why a smaller percentage of Hingham students take AP exams than our benchmark towns. That may be because Hingham requires students to take the final AP exam. Also, unlike some of our benchmark towns, most Hingham AP classes are not open enrollment, but require prerequisite courses to enroll. The College Board and many of our benchmark towns encourage most students to enroll in AP classes because exposure to AP curriculum is considered good preparation for college. She also asked whether it was possible to track how students fare once they are in college. Ms. Rodriguez stated that it is possible to track students through the Naviance system but that the data is not complete. Liza O'Reilly asked whether the district requires students to take AP exams if they are taking the class and how our practice compares to our benchmark towns. The DESE reports how students do in college by town but Ms. Rodriguez doesn't think the methodology is comprehensive. Ms. Rodriguez will look into how our benchmark towns track this data.

- 6.2 The Committee heard a proposal for a Foreign Exchange program between Hingham and France. High School French teacher, Alec Porter, explained the program where students will live in France with families, attend school and visit cultural sites. This level of immersion is very helpful to language development. The French students would then come to Hingham to spend a week with a family. Prometour is the company that will oversee the program and they have a lot of experience with it. The Committee asked for more clarification about how the families are vetted. They also noted that the cost is less since the students will be living with families. Carlos Da Silva stated that he received a communication from a professor in Spain regarding a possible exchange program and has passed it along to administration. Kerry Ni suggested that the Policy Subcommittee review the Foreign Exchange policy.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the Foreign Language Department to proceed with investigating the France Foreign Exchange program for 2020-2021 with Prometour.

- 6.3 The Committee received notification of the late night field trip of Hingham Middle School drama

students to New York City on May 16, 2020.

- 6.4 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of Hingham High School students to Puerto Rico on October 9 to 12, 2020.
- 6.5 The Committee received notification of the appointments of Amy Shaker as an Occupational Therapist at South School, effective December 9, 2019; Ulrike Fernald as a paraeducator, Alison Gargano-DaPonte as a tutor and Kellie Riley as a Foods Service Technician, all at Foster School effective December 2, 2019.

7. **48 Hour Items:** None

8. **Subcommittee reports:**

- Nes Correnti reported that the East School Council met on December 11th. The parent survey will take place after the new year and results will be available to discuss at the January 22, 2020 School Council meeting. They discussed the MCAS score decline being attributable to school attendance and talked of ways to communicate the importance of attendance. She also attended the METCO Directors Association Annual Education Conference held on December 6th. The theme was climate and the effects of race.
- Michelle Ayer reported that 11 members of Hingham Public Schools, including she and Nes Correnti, attended the METCO conference. Newton had over 50 attendees, so that gauntlet has been thrown down for next year.
- Libby Lewiecki reported that she will be scheduling a Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting to start working on FAQs for Foster School and the MSBA process.
- Liza O'Reilly reported that the Town Master Plan Committee has concluded visioning sessions. The next meeting will be held on December 18, 2020. Foster School Council was quiet in December. The PTO will meet on January 5, 2020.
- Ed Schreier reported that the Long Range Planning Committee attended a tour of buildings 12 and 179. They are starting to think of ways to repurpose these old buildings. He attended the HHS Rowing Association Meeting with Dr. Austin, Mr. Swanson, Mr. Quatromoni and members of the board of HHSRA. The rowing program is growing with 105 athletes this past fall.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Policy Subcommittee will be scheduling a meeting soon. She and Dr. Austin attended the Council of School Attorneys. They heard of two Department of Labor Relations decisions and learned about the DESE and the Student Opportunity Act.
- Carlos DaSilva noted that Long Range Planning met on December 9, 2019 to discuss Buildings 179 and 12. At the tour, Tom Mayo, Michelle Monsegur, and representatives from Recreation Department, Planning, and Kids in Action were present. The subcommittee met today and discussed the 2020-2021 Capital budget. They will meet again on January 6, 2020.

9. **Adjournment**

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

It was

Voted: To adjourn to Executive Session at 8:28PM, not to return to Open Session, for the purpose of:

- a. Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session of the School Committee held on December 2, 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:

-  [12-16-19 Agenda.pdf](#) 

-  [Annotated 12-16-19 Agenda.pdf](#) 

-  [Item 2.1 12-2-19 Minutes.pdf](#) 

-  [Item 2.2 12-2-19 Fee Workshop Minutes.pdf](#) 

-  [Item 4 12-1-19 Enrollment.pdf](#) 

-  [Item 4 SSEC Report 12-6-19.pdf](#) 

-  [Item 4 Winter 19-20 Coaching Appointments.pdf](#) 

-  [Item 5.1 Hingham, Foster ES, Eligibility Period Board Action Letter 12.11.19 \(3\).pdf](#) 

-  [Item 6.1 2019 CEEB Report.pdf](#) 

-  [Item 6.2 France Exchange'20-'21.pdf](#) 

-  [Item 6.3 HMS Drama Field Trip to NYC..pdf](#) 

-  [Item 6.4 Puerto Rico Field Trip.pdf](#) 

-  [Item 8 Warrants.pdf](#) 