

## MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

December 18, 2019

- 1. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Michelle Ayer. She thanked the Massachusetts School Building Authority, Advisory Committee, School Committee, School Building Committee, John Ferris, Dr. Wilcox, and Dr. LaBillois for all their efforts in submitting a Statement of Interest for Foster School.

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 and John Ferris.

Visitors Present: Thomas Mayo, Kathleen Almand, Joseph Fisher, members of the School Building Committee and members of the Advisory Committee.

- 2. Discuss the MSBA Vote**

Dr. Austin presented slides. He reviewed the MSBA process and the Massachusetts School Building Authority vote of December 11, 2019. He explained the Module 1 orientation that he, John Ferris, Ray Estes and Tim O'Neill attended. He shared the letter with the attendees and explained that an invitation into the Eligibility Period is NOT an invitation to the Feasibility study. An MSBA board vote approving a potential grant for the Town of Hingham will be no sooner than July 1, 2022. The eligibility period is April 1, 2020 to December 28, 2020 and Hingham is required to satisfactorily complete all the required items. Hingham may begin work before April 1, 2022 but may not submit anything until then. Dr. Austin addressed the \$750,000 that was approved for a feasibility study in April, 2017 and compared that amount to some other town's projects. The MSBA requirements for members of the School Building Committee was also addressed.

### **Questions and Comments**

There were questions and comments about timing, amount of possible reimbursement, Town Meeting votes required, the deadline for warrant articles, and whether the original warrant article would need to be rescinded. It was noted that the \$750,000 approved is amounts used by other towns for similar projects. John Ferris clarified that feasibility money is rolled into the total cost of the project and does not increase the overall cost. The possibility of a warrant article to increase funds for the feasibility study was discussed. Warrant articles are due by January 20, 2020. Additional topics included the size and cost per square foot of past school projects, the need for discretion when discussing percentage points for reimbursement, how the reimbursement process works. John Ferris briefed the group on the maintenance required to keep Foster School functioning for a few more years, and how the \$350,000 extraordinary expenses money approved by Town Meeting is being used. Ray Estes updated the Committee about recent site survey and borings work. Michelle Ayer thanked Dr. Austin and asked if there were any more comments.

### **48 Hour Items**

The Hingham Public Schools was notified today that Building 12 is no longer safe for student use. Students are not allowed in the building and any necessary educational materials must be removed from the building by Friday, December 20th. The trade program, TRACES, and the robotics team use the facility daily. Tom Mayo and Paul Austin started a conversation today about possible replacement sites for the programs. They will work together to come up with a solution. John Ferris stated that we would need to hire engineers to assess what is necessary to get the building up to code for review by the Building Commissioner

**3.    Adjournment**

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

It was

Voted: To adjourn at 7:10PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Kerry Ni

Documents Included:

Agenda

Letter from MSBA