

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE
March 9, 2020

- 1. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM by Michelle Ayer. She announced that the meeting is being recorded.

Members Present: Michelle Ayer, Nes Correnti, Carlos Da Silva, Kerry Ni, Liza O'Reilly and Ed Schreier.

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

Visitors Present: June Gustafson, George Danis, Kirk Shilts, Tony Keady, Jen Benham

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 with the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee held on February 11, 2020 with one correction: "Town Manager" in paragraph 2 was changed to read "Town Administrator".

- 2.2 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 February 24, 2020 with the following changes: "Nes Correnti inquired if the town is being too conservative in its forecasting process, we may continue to have a surplus each year; 2019 surplus amounted to \$2.8 million which then reverted to fund balance. Mary Power stated that fund balance money should not be used for or ongoing expenses but should be saved for big ticket items. She stated that excess fund balance money could potentially be used to provide tax relief to citizens when Foster is renovated or rebuilt. Nes Correnti noted that the Town's fund balance is at close to 30% even though the Town's own financial policy proscribes carrying 16-20% fund balance."

3. Questions and Comments None

4. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Austin reported that the March enrollment has increased by 10 students from last year. The February and March Facilities Report shows extensive work done in February. Dr. Austin praised the Facilities Department, Doug Foley, and Katie Hartman for their hard work. He reviewed the March projects planned. Mr. Ferris provided updates.

5. Communications

- 5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: None

5.2 Student Communications: None.

5.3 Other Communications: Dr. Austin spoke about a recent letter about COVID-19 that was sent to the HPS community. Although there are no cases reported in Plymouth County, the letter was sent in an abundance of caution.

6. Unfinished Business

- 6.1 Dr. Austin reviewed the proposed FY'21 Operating Budget and said that there is no change from the prior meeting, with a 5.93% increase proposed. John Ferris noted that there are no new retirements or leaves of absence. The Committee and Dr. Austin have received a lot of feedback about the use of revolving accounts. Chair Ayer suggested that an ad hoc

Finance Subcommittee be established to look at the revolving accounts and to make recommendations to the administration and School Committee. The Advisory Committee Education Subcommittee voted on a status quo budget of 4.4%. Chair Ayer thanked the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Committee and acknowledged that they have a difficult job. The Advisory Committee could potentially vote tomorrow. Liza O'Reilly asked whether the School Committee will vote on the budget at their next meeting. Michelle Ayer stated that it's possible, but either way, the Committee would have to vote after Town Meeting to discuss how to allocate the money that is budgeted. At that time, the new ad hoc Subcommittee should have recommendations. There will be a meeting on March 25th with representatives from the School Committee & Administration, Board of Selectmen & Town Administration, and Advisory Committee to discuss the mechanics and timing of the budget process going forward. A town-wide training of elected officials on the financial forecast, budget, calendar, and process was suggested.

- 6.2 The Committee continued discussion of the proposed FY'21 Operating Budget. No vote was taken.
- 6.3 The Committee received an update for the TRACES program. The program is in its new location on Libbey Parkway in Weymouth. The teachers and students like the space. The Town will not ask for a warrant article to renovate 308 Cushing Street as the estimate is \$1.7 million. The administration recommends keeping the program in Weymouth, unless another space within Hingham becomes available. Because funds to pay the \$60,000 annual lease are not in the budget, the money will likely come from one of the revolving accounts. Liza O'Reilly commented that the town is considering other substantial capital projects.

7. New Business

- 7.1 The Committee discussed the Student Opportunity Act District Plan. Hingham will receive \$170,000 from the State under the Act. Dr. Austin mentioned that based on the amount of funds received, Hingham will submit a short form to the DESE. Dr. LaBillois will lead the project to complete and submit the form to the DESE. The form is not available yet but is expected to be soon. Community input, via a forum and potentially a survey, will be sought for this report. The report is due by April 1.
- 7.2 Dr. Austin mentioned that the Warrant Report is due to the Town Administrator on March 13th. He and Mr. Ferris will prepare a draft to share with the Committee.
- 7.3 The Committee received results for the bid for the Plymouth River School vestibule. Mr. Ferris explained that there was only one bid and while it was from a reliable company, it was much too high. He recommends that the committee reject all bids and he will rebid the project using slightly different language. Dr. Schreier inquired whether House Doctor could do the work. Mr. Ferris replied that they are doing the design work but cannot do the actual build.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the recommendation of the Director of Business and Support Services to reject all bids and plan to put it out to rebid at the appropriate time with the appropriate language.

- 7.4 The Committee discussed new Policy 3.11 School Calendar (IC/ICA). Kerry Ni explained that Dr. Austin asked to review the existing policy. Current policy limits the presentation of next year's school calendar to being presented to the School Committee at the first meeting in May. To give the Committee flexibility to approve the calendar earlier in the year, the Policy Subcommittee proposed a revision that would require the Committee to

vote on the calendar annually by March 1st. She noted that language from the MASC sample policy addressing the number school days and school hours required by the state regulations. This is a first reading.

7.5 The Committee received notification of the appointments of Kimberly Hamel and Elizabeth Doherty, paraeducators and Kaylee Willard, tutor, at Foster School; Corie Burke, bus driver; Chris Taylor, custodian at HHS; and Ashley Sanford, Building Coordinator at HMS and Elementary Schools.

7.6 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Edward Chiappini, custodian at Foster School and Krystal Rich, paraeducator at HMS.

8. 48 Hour Items: Dr. Austin updated the Committee on measures being taken to sterilize schools and buses. We now own 7 Victory Electrostatic Guns, one at each school and one at the bus depot. All buildings and buses are being sprayed every day and before and after large events. He met with town administrators and the Department of Health to discuss emergency planning. He will address the possibility of remote learning pending guidance from the DESE.

9. Subcommittee reports:

- Liza O'Reilly reported Foster School Council will meet on Wednesday. The Town Master Plan Committee received the consultant's report on findings from the survey and visioning sessions. The video of the meeting is available on Harbor Media; she encouraged all to watch it as it provides a broad overview of school and town facilities. Additionally, the findings show the need to address climate change, rising sea levels, and the impact on sewers and pump stations. The Committee will meet on March 18 to discuss facilities, services, and housing.
- Nes Correnti reported that East School PTO met and discussed the results of the family survey. Topics included enrichment, the new grading system, and Kindergarten entrance age. The Community Outreach Subcommittee met with website design people. The timeline is to have the new website completed in the summer. June Gustafson asked whether it will link the teacher sites to Google Classroom. Dr. Austin confirmed that it will.
- Carlos DaSilva reported that the Long Range Planning Subcommittee will meet on March 24 to discuss capital proposals. HHS School Council met and discussed graduation requirements, cultural proficiency and state diversity training. They also discussed installing solar panels for the school to the far parking lot.
- Dr. Vinnes reported that she, Carols Perez, and Dr. LaBillois went to the South Shore Minority Recruiting Fair on Saturday and met with a lot of educators.
- Michelle Ayer stated that the Special Education Subcommittee will meet next week to discuss the budget. The METCO sponsored Mr. Joy show has been cancelled.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Policy Subcommittee met to start going through sections A and B of the MASC manual. They will meet on March 24 with Jim Hardy from MASC. The HMS School Council will meet on Monday, March 16, 2020. SNAP Pizzapalooza will be held on March 25th at HHS. The registration for the SNAP summer program is open and they will offer soccer, lacrosse, and baseball during the Spring.
- Ed Schreier attended the PRS PTO meeting last week with Dr. Austin who gave a very informative presentation about the budget.
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10. Adjournment

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

It was

Voted: To adjourn to Executive Session at 8:20PM, 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 February 24, 2020.
- 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,
- d. 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
N. Correnti - aye
C. DaSilva - aye
K. Ni - aye
L. O'Reilly - aye
E. Schreier - aye

Respectfully Submitted
by:
Kerry Ni

Documents Included:

3-9-20 Agenda.pdf	👤	m
Annotated 3-9-20 Agenda.pdf	👤	m
Item 2.1 2-11-20 with Advisory Comm...	👤	m
Item 2.2 2-24-20 Minutes.pdf	👤	m
Item 4 3-1-20 Enrollment.pdf	👤	m
Item 4 Facility Dept February & March ...	👤	m
Item 5.3 Community Letter March 9 - ...	👤	m
Item 6.1 FY '21 Update.pdf	👤	m
Item 7.3 Reject All Bids - PRS Vestibul...	👤	m
Item 7.4 Policy 3.11 School Calendar...	👤	m
Item 9 Warrants Signed.pdf	👤	m
Item 10a 2-24-20 Executive Session M...	👤	m