

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE
October 23, 2017 7:30 PM
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly at 7:31 p.m.

Members Present: Aylene Calnan, Carlos Da Silva, Cynthia Galko, Liza O'Reilly, Kay Praschma and Ed Schreier.

Central Office Present: Dorothy Galo, James LaBillois, John Ferris, Elizabeth Kurlan

Visitors Present: Kathleen Jordan, Katie Florek, Mary Eastwood, Kathleen LeBlanc, Maura Yodzio, Lori Jacobs, Eugene Buczynski, June MK Gustafson, Dawnmarie Finocchi, Kerry Ni.

2. Approval of Minutes.

2.1 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on September 25, 2017 with one correction – change NASC to NEASC in Item 5.3.

2.2 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on October 10, 2017.

3. Questions and Comments. None

4. Superintendent's Report.

Dr. Galo shared the good news that 89 Hingham High School students have been awarded the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, which provide a full tuition scholarship to any state school, due to their performance on the grade 10 MCAS examinations.

5. Communications

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: Dr. Galo notified the Committee of a correspondence regarding an issue first raised on social media relative to the Committee's Kindergarten entrance-age policy. Dr. Galo noted that she, as well as Dr. LaBillois and Cynthia Galko, would be meeting with the parent who posted the concern later in the week. Dr. Galo further noted that Massachusetts General Law requires school registration in September of a calendar year in which the child turns 6 years of age.

5.2 Student Communications: School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly noted that Student Council Representative Emma Quilty was unable to attend due to a conflict with her athletic schedule. Miss Quilty had provided an update for Ms. O'Reilly to read however, which gave information regarding recent HHS Patriot League Championships, the work of the HHS Climate Committee, an upcoming Lip Sync Battle, a successful Homecoming, and a

performance for HHS students by a Guatemalan performance group. It was also noted that HHS would play the Thanksgiving Football Game on Wednesday evening at Fenway Park. Tickets are for sale at MLB.com and kickoff is at 7:45 p.m.

5.3 Other Communications: Dr. Galo informed the Committee of a recent Board of Directors Meeting of the SSEC. A report was provided outlining news, enrollment and budget information.

6. New Business

6.1 The Committee acted on the ratification of the proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the Hingham Cafeteria Managers and Food Service Technicians.

Hingham Selectman Paul Healey joined the Hingham School Committee for the vote. Aylene Calnan, Chair of the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee, provided a summary to the Committee. It was announced that the Committee has reached a Memorandum of Agreement with the Cafeteria Managers and Food Service Technicians. The contract will run through June of 2020, with a \$1 across-the-board increase to all members in year 1, and a 2% across-the-board increase in years 2 and 3. Aylene Calnan noted that the Agreement included a maintenance bonus for increasing users, as well as many other housekeeping items and an increased benefit in both personal days and holidays. Dr. Galo noted that this is a three-year contract, that many of the workers are part-time or work on an hourly basis, and that the total value of the contract falls within the budgeted allowance.

On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To ratify the proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the Hingham Cafeteria Managers and Food Service Technicians.

6.2 The Committee received the South Elementary School Improvement Plan for 2017-2018 and an update of the 2016-2017 plan progress. Mary Eastwood, principal of South Elementary School, introduced those members of the South Elementary School faculty in attendance. Mrs. Eastwood began by reviewing the progress they have made toward their 2016-2017 South School Improvement Plan. Goals included work to ensure academic excellence at South School, implementation of social-emotional programming, parental and community awareness of the great things happening at South School and school safety training. Mrs. Eastwood then provided a review of the South School goals for the 2017-2018 school year, which will include a continued focus on academic excellence, additional opportunities to build a service delivery model to support the social-emotional learning of South School students, a focus on increasing parental awareness and engagement, and promoting collaboration with the community.

6.3 The Committee received preliminary information about Spring 2017 MCAS scores. Dr. LaBillois provided some general information regarding the recently released next-generation MCAS results for Hingham Public Schools, noting a comprehensive presentation scheduled for November 20, 2017. Dr. LaBillois noted that while only half of the students across the state have been identified as “meeting expectations,” Hingham’s performance remains strong against the state and competitive with our benchmark communities. Dr. LaBillois also noted that this is a new assessment and cannot be compared with past performance. These scores represent the district’s new baseline.

6.4 The Committee discussed MASC resolutions for the MASC/MASS conference on

November 1, 2017. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly noted that at the upcoming MASC conference, several resolutions are up for review. The Central Office Leadership team then reviewed each resolution presented and provided some general background information as well as their opinion on the extent to which each resolution would impact Hingham Public Schools. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly thanked the Central Office team, and noted that general consensus was that passing the Foundation Budget Review Commission findings was the key issue for which the Committee expressed interest in advocating.

- 6.5 The Committee recognized "One America" as a new pilot club at Hingham High School for operation to commence during the school year 2017-2018 without a paid advisor. Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris noted that this club at HHS was submitted after the Committee approved the list of active clubs at HHS.

On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Cynthia Galko,

It was

Voted: To recognize "One America" as a club at Hingham High School for operation to commence during the school year 2017-2018 without a paid advisor.

- 6.6 The Committee received notification of the appointments of Alaina Barry, HMS paraeducator, effective September 6, 2017; Todd O'Hara, HMS Custodian, effective October 3, 2017; and Katherine J. Shaughnessy, HHS paraeducator, effective September 18, 2017.

- 6.7 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Rebecca Caruso, HHS paraeducator, effective August 30, 2017.

7. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Kay Praschma noted the recent Patriot Ledger article in which the Weymouth Superintendent of Schools was quoted in regard to an incident at the Weymouth High School. Ms. Praschma said that she thought the Superintendent's public response was well done and the staff should take this into consideration for future communications.

8. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Salary & Negotiations: Negotiations are ongoing with many units having Memorandum of Agreements in place.

Policy: The subcommittee will continue review of the Policy Manual at their meeting on October 30, 2017 and Cynthia Galko will be meeting with Dr. Galo, Dr. LaBillois, and a parent regarding kindergarten entrance age.

Community Outreach: The subcommittee will be meeting this Thursday, October 26 at 11:15 a.m. to hear a presentation by the STACKR organization. The subcommittee will also be discussing communications in general over the next few meetings. Carlos DaSilva asked if the School Committee members could receive all Principal communications.

Long-Range Planning: The subcommittee is reviewing a request from crew for fundraising, will be discussing temporary signage, and noted the commencement of the 10-year capital plan. Ed Schreier noted that the HHS Field warranty issues have been resolved.

Special Education: SEPAC hosted the annual parents rights and responsibilities meeting and the session was taped by HCAM. Liza O'Reilly further noted recent outreach by PTO presidents regarding social media.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Cynthia Galko,

It was

Voted: To adjourn to Executive Session at 9:21 p.m., not to return to regular session.

Aylene Calnan - yea

Carlos Da Silva - yea

Cynthia Galko - yea

Liza O'Reilly - yea

Kay Praschma - yea

Ed Schreier - yea

Documents Included in Meeting Packet:


10-23-17 Agenda Annotated.docx 

10-23-17 Agenda.pdf 


Item 2.1 9-25-17 Minutes.pdf 

Item 2.2 10-10-17 Minutes.pdf 


Item 4 Adams Scholarships.pdf 


Item 5.3 SSEC Update.pdf 


Item 6.1 Food Service MOA.pdf 


Item 6.2 South School School Improvement Plan 16-17 Status.pdf 

Item 6.2 South School School Improvement Plan 17-18.pdf 

Item 6.3 Boston Globe - New tests bring worse scores for Mass.pdf 

Item 6.3 Patriot Ledger Interactive Graphic MCAS.pdf 

Item 6.4 MASC-MASS_2017_Delegate-Resolutions.pdf 

Item 6.5 One America Club.pdf 

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko