

# MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

August 20, 2014

## **1. Call to order.**

The meeting was called to order by Ray Estes at 7:35p.m.

Members Present: Ray Estes, Carol Falvey, Caryl Falvey, Dennis Friedman, Liza O'Reilly, Ed Schreier, and Andy Shafter

Central Office Present: Dorothy Galo, Ellen Keane, Elizabeth Flynn, John Ferris

Visitors Present: Cynthia Galko, Maryellen Dever, Tom Pylar, Edward Healey, Richard Linehan, Chris Falvey, Bill Crean, Mike Brazis, Tim Collins, Lisa Hennessey

## **2. Approval of Minutes.**

2.1 On a motion by Carol Falvey and seconded by Dennis Friedman,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on July 21, 2014.

2.2 On a motion by Carol Falvey and seconded by Dennis Friedman,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the School Committee held on July 21, 2014.

## **3. Student Communications.** None

## **4. Communications.**

Dr. Galo noted two SC emails regarding HMS turf field proposal and a "Zip Trip" visit to Hingham by Fox 25 News.

## **5. Questions and Comments.** None

## **6. Superintendent's Report.**

- Enrollment projection update as of 8/20/14: Elementary enrollment – 1993, Middle School – 1014, High School – 1215, for a total of 4222.
- Hiring and vacancy update: 23 staff have been hired with their first contracts. Custodial and central office business positions hiring in process. Dr. Galo thanked John Ferris for his work covering for the vacant positions.
- Middle school ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted at 3:00 p.m. in the middle school courtyard.
- August, 2014, staff newsletter was presented
- Dr. Galo reviewed MASS draft school finance position for work of Foundation Budget Review Commission, September 2014.
- Fall coaching assignments were reviewed

School Committee Questions and Comments: New STEM program at HMS for 2014 – 2015.

## **7. Unfinished Business.**

7.1 On a motion by Dennis Friedman and seconded by Caryl Falvey,

It was

Voted: To approve a proposed revision to the School Committee Policy 2.1 (Appointments) that reflects the incorporation of a national fingerprint-based Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) check for school employees and other applicable contract workers or volunteers (MGL Chapter 71, Section 38 R) into current CORI regulations, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee and Dorothy Galo.

7.2 On a motion by Dennis Friedman and seconded by Caryl Falvey,

It was

Voted: To approve a proposed revision to School Committee Policy 6.13 (Student Discipline) that incorporates changes to the Massachusetts General Laws and DESE Regulations related to student discipline (specifically with respect to new guidelines for excluding students from school) as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee and Dorothy Galo.

7.3 On a motion by Dennis Friedman and seconded by Caryl Falvey,

It was

Voted: To approve a proposed revision to School Committee Policy 4.34 (Student Activity Accounts) that adjusts the current (\$15K) cap on the available checking account balance for the Middle School Accounts to increase to \$25K during February 1 to June 30 of each year, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee and John Ferris.

## **8. New Business.**

8.1 Dennis Friedman reviewed the first reading of new policy 7.1.1 related to video surveillance, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee and School Administration.

School Committee Questions and Comments: Suggestion for Town Counsel to review legal requirements for policy before the next meeting.

8.2 Dr. Galo reviewed the proposed meeting calendar for 2014-2015.

On a motion by Dennis Friedman and seconded by Caryl Falvey,

It was

Voted: To approve the proposed meeting calendar for 2014-2015

8.3 On a motion by Dennis Friedman and seconded by Caryl Falvey,

It was

Voted: To approve the home schooling application for Patricia Breen (Grade 5) and Elizabeth Breen (Grade 2).

8.4 On a motion by Carol Falvey and seconded by Caryl Falvey,

It was

Voted: To approve the home schooling application for Owen MacDougall (Grade 1).

8.5 On a motion by Carol Falvey and seconded by Caryl Falvey,

It was

Voted: To approve the home schooling application for William Echols (Grade 7), Jonathan Echols (Grade 5) and Charis Echols (Grade 2).

8.6 The Committee discussed the merits of the School Building Committee's consideration of construction of an artificial turf field at the new middle school, with action on a recommendation to the School Building Committee as may be appropriate.

Ray Estes reviewed the discussions conducted as part of the effort to solicit community input and opinions from the Board of Selectmen, Advisory Committee and School Committee on the topic of an artificial turf field as part of the Middle School project.

Audience Questions and Comments: Ted Healey, Mike Brazis, Chris Falvey and Bill Crean spoke in favor of SBC vote to fund the proposed MS turf field. Cynthia Galko spoke in favor of a Town Meeting vote. Tim Collins spoke against the SC recommendation for turf field and use of contingency funds.

School Committee Questions and Comments: Where is the best location for a second turf field in town? A turf field would be beneficial at HMS for physical education classes; concern about planting natural grass field without irrigation; SBC approved installation of irrigation system if grass field is planted, support for installation of irrigation system and metal detector.. 3 options: proceed with grass field, Town Meeting approval of turf field or approval of irrigation system for grass field. Support for turf field with SC recommendation, concerns about timing of turf proposal and priority given for one to one Chromebook initiative at grade 6, personnel contracts, Full Day K proposal and impact on central office administrators, support for Town Master Plan Field Committee, other capital projects needs, preference for grass field at MS, paid professional staff would be in charge of turf field with no more impact on the Director of Business and Support Services. First priority should be what is best for middle school students and physical education program, Selectmen support for proceeding with a turf field, turf decision under authority of SBC confirmed by 3 legal opinions, shortage of fields in town, good location for turf field, excerpt from Lisa Hennessey email: "The majority of leaders think we need a town meeting for voters to choose on what kind of surface little Johnny is going to kick a soccer ball? In my mind, this is a non-issue. Just because it wasn't the original plan doesn't make it wrong to change, as some might argue because it wasn't in writing. I know as well as every other person who has been involved in a construction project that building is a process and unforeseen variables change our outcomes and creative solutions are applied. Please use your time, not ours at a town meeting, to apply common sense and practical thinking." The importance of working as a community set as a precedent during the Town Meeting approval of the high school fields, support for option 3, plan for turf field with approval at Town Meeting, turf field without lights versus with lights, need for filing SOI for Foster School, no plans for lights at MS if turf field built, turf field - no negative impact on physical education program and curriculum, turf field within scope of MS project and SBC authority, benefits of turf vs. grass field, concern about using funds as stop gap measure, support for turf field, concern about delay if turf field goes to Town Meeting.

Straw Vote #1 – Do you support turf field as part of the MS project to meet our programmatic needs?

Ray Estes, Carol Falvey, Caryl Falvey, Dennis Friedman, Ed Schreier and Andy Shafter voted in favor and Liza O'Reilly opposed.

Straw Vote #2 – Should SBC get Town Meeting approval before proceeding (assuming support for turf field)?

Andy Shafter, Liza O'Reilly and Caryl Falvey voted in favor; Ed Schreier, Carol Falvey and Ray Estes voted against; Dennis Friedman abstained.

The committee thanked the SBC for work on MS project and the audience for input.

- 8.7 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Noelle Allard, School Psychologist, at HMS and HHS, effective August 25, 2014.
- 8.8 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Brian Conroy as Elementary Science Specialist, effective August 25, 2014.
- 8.9 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Barbara Gorczyca, music teacher at HMS, effective August 25, 2014.
- 8.10 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Wendy Kirk, .5 Grade 3 teacher at PRS, effective August 25, 2014.
- 8.11 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Shannon Martin, Grade 3 teacher at South School, effective August 25, 2014.
- 8.12 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Michael Pravia as a Grade 8 Social Studies teacher at HMS, effective August 25, 2014.
- 8.13 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Diane (Robin) Smith as administrative assistant at PRS, effective June 18, 2014.
- 8.14 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Emily Snow as a Paraeducator at PRS, effective August 27, 2014.
- 8.15 The Committee received notification of the appointment of James Damery, custodian at HHS, effective August 18, 2014.
- 8.16 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Joseph Pernet, Bus Driver, effective August 1, 2014.
- 8.17 The Committee received of the appointment of Meghan Corry, Behavior Analyst (BCBA), effective 8/25/2014.
- 8.18 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Annmarie Kracunas, Reading and Math tutor at PRS, effective August 27, 2014.
- 8.19 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Kristi Allan, Grade 3 teacher at South School, effective August 11, 2014.
- 8.20 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Ashley Craig, paraeducator at East School, effective July 31, 2014.
- 8.21 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Danielle Ferrari, paraeducator at Hingham High School, effective June 20, 2014.

- 8.22 The Committee received notification of the resignation for reason of retirement of Elaine Smoot, Payroll Supervisor, effective September 1, 2014.
- 8.23 The Committee received notification of the full year LOA of Caitlin Haynes, Pre-K teacher at East School, effective August 27, 2014.
- 8.24 The Committee received notification of the following advancements on the 2013-2014 salary scale effective September 1, 2014: Kathleen Jennings to M, Step 6; Erin Krall to M30, Step 14; Maria Zade to M30, Step 6.

## **9. Subcommittee and Project Reports**

- Ed Schreier noted the success of the summer SNAP recreation program for students with special needs (29 participants) and thanked the Rotary for its generous donation.
- Policy Subcommittee: Dennis Friedman noted future work on SC policies.
- Carol Falvey discussed the ribbon cutting ceremony schedule for the HS field on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

On a motion by Carol Falvey and seconded by Dennis Friedman,

It was

Voted: To approve payment of invoice #13 for Pare Corp. for \$2,590.12

On a motion by Carol Falvey and seconded by Caryl Falvey,

It was

Voted: To approve payment of the final Seaver Construction, Inc. invoice for \$15,456.00.

- Dr. Galo noted that the new teacher orientation will start on Monday, August 25, 2014. The Convocation will be held on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at the new MS with coffee served at 7:45a.m. and the meeting beginning at 8:15 a.m.
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## **10. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting.** None

## **11. Adjournment**

On a motion by Andy Shafter and seconded by Dennis Friedman,

It was

Voted: Unanimously by roll call vote at 10:28 p.m. to adjourn to executive session not to return to open session for purposes of discussing strategies related to collective bargaining with HEA Unit A and HEA Unit B, discussion of which in open session would be detrimental to the School Committee's bargaining position.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Ed Schreier