

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

July 17, 2017

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly at 7:08 p.m.

Members Present: Michelle Ayer, 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: Rick Swanson, Katherine Gaughen, Richard McManus, Jen Doan, Mary Andrews, Kara Roth, June Gustafson, Ted Hirsch, Debbie Stellar, Beth Koyce, Courtney Orwig, Evan Sheehan, Aisha Oppong, Andrew Flynn

6.1 Agenda item was taken out of order.

State Senator Patrick O'Connor and State Representative Joan Meschino provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee entitled: Hingham School Committee Briefing: State Budget & Education Financing. The guests provided the Committee an overview of the budget timeline and provided information in the form of an FY18 Budget recap. The guests then provided an overview of the state-wide Chapter 70 funding, showing an increase of \$117,940,099; and noted that Hingham is slated to receive an increase of 2.8% in Chapter 70 funding (totaling \$196,963). The guests presented a historical review of Hingham's Chapter 70 funding, and noted that Charter School reimbursements are down due to a change in funding formulas. A review of circuit breaker was provided, and noted a \$20,000 budget amendment for Hingham to support security initiatives. The guests then provided a review of unrestricted general government aide, and other pertinent legislation. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly thanked the guests for their attendance and after a brief question and answer session, the guests departed.

2. Approval of Minutes.

2.1 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Carlos DaSilva,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on June 5, 2017.

2.2 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Kay Praschma,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Community Outreach Forum held on June 19, 2017.

2.3 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Kay Praschma,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on June 19, 2017.

2.4 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Michelle Ayer,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee working session held on June 28, 2017.

3. Questions and Comments. None

4. Superintendent's Report.

- Dr. Galo updated the Committee relative to the Athletic Director Search.
- Dr. Galo noted that HHS Principal Swanson has hired a new Assistant Principal, Collin Shattuck, who will be in attendance at the August meeting and will be introduced to the Committee at that time.
- Dr. Galo notified the Committee of the upcoming New Teacher Orientation sessions.
- Dr. Galo reviewed a memo from the state regarding the transition to online testing for grades 5 and 7, with a 10th grade pilot.
- A copy of the monthly facilities update was included in the packet,
- A copy of METCO Director Andrew Nyamekye's end-of-year communication and summary was noted.
- A copy of the HMS Transition Room report was also included in the packet.
- Dr. Galo noted an advisory from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding a recent Supreme Court case dealing with special education.

5. Communications

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: Dr. Galo noted that a parent letter was received regarding a family's position experience at HMS, and was missed for the last meeting, however a copy has been placed in the packet.

5.2 Other Communications: None

6. New Business

6.1 State Senator Patrick O'Connor and State Representatives Joan Meschino presented after the call to order.

6.2 The Committee heard the annual SEPAC Report. Katie Gaughen, SEPAC Co-Chair, delivered an update to the Committee. Ms. Gaughen began with an introduction of the new Executive Board of the Hingham, SEPAC and reviewed the role of the SEPAC, as defined in the Massachusetts General Laws. Ms. Gaughen then reviewed student achievement slides of student with disabilities, as compared against peers without disabilities and gave an overview of SEPAC activities related to advocacy over the past year. Looking ahead, Ms. Gaughen discussed the Collaborative Work Plan and the desire to increase support and networking opportunities for parents. The Committee thanked Ms. Gaughen for her presentation.

6.3 The Committee received a report on the School Department's Response to the 2012 Walker Report and heard changes and improvements in Special Education Services and Staffing that have resulted since 2012. Dr. Galo presented a review of Changes in Special Education since the 2012 Walker Report. Dr. Galo began with some background information and reviewed the methodology used in conducting the report. After a review of the Commendations section of the report Dr. Galo outlined some demographic changes in the district since 2012, including enrollment and primary disabilities for students both in and out of the district. Dr. Galo then reviewed each of the report's Recommendations and provided a status update on what has been completed in the district relative to that recommendation. Dr. Galo also outlined staffing changes since 2012, and reviewed the results of selected questions from the SPED Parent Satisfaction survey, administered following IEP meetings for students with disabilities.

School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly thanked Dr. Galo for the report overview and encouraged members of the audience to read the more comprehensive report. Ms. O'Reilly then opened up discussion for comments or questions from audience members.

Kerry Ni, a parent in attendance, addressed the committee to express her frustration and concerns with the Special Education program and the district's handling of the Walker Report.

- 6.4 The Committee reviewed recommended changes to the building use and transportation fee schedules, as proposed by John Ferris and recommended by the Policy Subcommittee. Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris provided the Committee with an overview of the proposed changes in rates relative to building use and transportation fees. Mr. Ferris noted that the policy subcommittee has reviewed the proposal and Mr. Ferris expressed his opinion that the rates are within market range and will provide a good value to the Hingham community.

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

It was

Voted: To appropriate recommended changes to the building use and transportation fee schedule for Fy18.

- 6.5 The Committee reviewed proposed revisions to Policy 6.24, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee (1st Reading). Policy Subcommittee Chair Cynthia Galko noted that a request came from a parent to review policy 6.24 that deals with the issuance and presentation of diplomas. Discussion ensued. Following brief discussion, questions, comments, and feedback were requested from Cynthia Galko who will review with the subcommittee at their next meeting.

- 6.6 The Committee reviewed proposed revisions to Policy 3.1, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee (1st Reading). Policy Subcommittee Chair Cynthia Galko provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Committee. Following brief discussion, questions, comments, and feedback were requested from Cynthia Galko who will review with the subcommittee at their next meeting.

- 6.7 To act on the appointments to the 2017 School Building Committee. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly provided an overview and context to the formation of the 2017 School Building Committee. A discussion of the candidates followed, using only their assigned numbers. Following the discussion:

A motion was made by Cynthia Galko and seconded by Aylene Calnan to appoint numbers 1, 2, and 3 from the list. Discussion ensued and Carlos DaSilva and Edward Schreier asked that #4 be considered.

On an amended motion by Cynthia Galko and seconded by Aylene Calnan,

It was

Voted: To appoint candidate numbers 2 and 3.

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

It was

Voted: To appoint candidate number 1. Five voted in favor, two were opposed. Ed Schreier noted that he is not voting to oppose candidate #1 but rather in support of candidate #4.

Cynthia Galko noted that she may provide feedback to the Selectmen and Town Moderator on the process of assembling the School Building Committee. Chair Liza O'Reilly suggested that anyone else who has thoughts on the process should do so as well.

- 6.8 The Committee received the proposed School Committee Meeting Calendar for 2017-2018. Following a brief discussion of the proposed schedule, a proposal was made to move the April 9, 2018 meeting to April 10, 2018.

On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Michelle Ayer,

It was

Voted: To approve the SC Meeting Calendar for FY18, with one change of dates from April 9 to April 10, 2018.

Dr. Galo noted that a decision on the date for the September Planning meeting is still outstanding. Chair Liza O'Reilly asked the committee members to look at their calendars and be prepared to decide on the date at the July 31 Working Session meeting.

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

Carlos DaSilva noted that Weymouth has been accepted to the MSBA program and that he has contacted Senator Patrick O'Connor and asked him to put in a good word for Hingham regarding our MSBA application.

8. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Community Outreach Subcommittee: Next Meeting will be held August 1, 2017.

Salary & Negotiations: Next meeting scheduled for July 18, 2017

Long-Range Planning: Last met on July 11, 2017. Edward Schreier provided an update on upgrades to multipurpose fields stands, track patches, pipes, poured rubber at East playground, and the HS roof, which is just about completed.

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

It was

Voted: To move to Executive Session, not to return to Open Session, for the purpose of discussing strategies with respect to matters related to the collective bargaining agreement with HEA, Unit A

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko