

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE
December 18, 2018 at 7:00PM
Foster Elementary School, 55 Downer Avenue, Hingham MA 02043

1. **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Michelle Ayer at 7:06 p.m. Chair Ayer announced that Liza O'Reilly, SC Vice Chair and Foster School Council Liaison, was absent due to a family commitment. She announced that the meeting is not being recorded. There was a request to record the meeting from an audience member and Ms. Ayer stated that any recordings need to be sent to the chair for review. Senate Patrick O'Connor was present at the meeting.

Members Present: Michelle Ayer, Carlos Da Silva, Libby Lewiecki, Kerry Ni, Kay Praschma and Ed Schreier

Central Office Present: James LaBillois and John Ferris

2. The Committee heard an update on the District Education Continuity Plan. Dr. LaBillois presented the plan and explained the following:

- Context & emergency response procedures
- General considerations
- Other variables to explore
- Transportation considerations

Dr. LaBillois explained the timeline and why the discussion was made to relocate the children from Foster School to the High School when the boilers were not operational on December 11, 2018. It was further explained that the Security Committee developed and recently revised (12/11/18) the emergency plans. Decisions are made depending on the length of the building non-usability and the time of day the situation has occurred. Therefore, because the incident at Foster happened in the morning, there was a site relocation. Dr. LaBillois further explained that the issue was diagnosed and the boilers were operational by mid-day.

If a situation occurred that would cause 2 to 5 days out of school, then school would be cancelled in order to address the issue and any missed school days would have to be made up.

Further scenarios were discussed depending on the specific issue and the length of time needed to address the issue. If it was 1 week or longer, students would have to be redistributed to other elementary schools and a search would begin for a new school location. Enrollment size can also impact solutions. Technological solutions would also have to be explored.

Various questions were posed from the audience. It was asked about funding of emergency space was needed due to a complete shutdown of a building. It was explained that the town of Hingham has reserves for such emergencies. There were concerns raised of the possibility of another issue. John Ferris explained the various scenarios and risks.

The process with the MSBA was also explained. It was noted that the presentation outlining the physical plant needs of the Foster School would be put on the district's website.

3. The Committee discussed plans to address the Foster School building needs. Michelle Ayer explained briefly the different projects on the town's radar and how Proposition 2 1/2 works. The School Building Committee has already been formed and a feasibility study done with respect to the grounds. This puts us further along compared to other districts applying with the MSBA.

John Ferris explained that we need to submit a Warrant Article to the Town and explained how that process works and a possible timeline. There are also various options such as:

Option 1 - File a Statement of Interest with the Massachusetts School Building Association again for December, 2019 consideration (keeping \$750k contingent)

Option 2 - Appropriate \$750,000 and go it alone

Option 3 - File a SOI and ask for extra funds for the maintenance of Foster.

Audience member and member of the SBC, Ray Estes, gave details and information on past MSBA applications.

Senator O'Connor spoke about the situation and how uncommon it is to be declined by the MSBA. His recommendation was to continue on, reapply, and set aside the funds for the necessary repairs. He mentioned that the MSBA is funded by the lottery, which has become stagnant.

Edward Schreier mentioned the various reports and studies that have been done regarding Foster. These too will be put on the district's website.

4. Public Comment. Further scenarios were discussed and questions were asked by the audience.

5. Adjournment

On a motion by Kay Praschma and seconded by Kerry Ni,

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 9:16PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Kay Praschma

Documents included in meeting packet:

12/18/18 School Committee Meeting Agenda