

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

February 25, 2019

7:00 p.m.

School Department Conference Room, 220 Central Street, Hingham, MA 02043

1. Call to Order. Michelle Ayer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Michelle Ayer, Carlos Da Silva, Libby Lewiecki, Kerry Ni, Liza O'Reilly, Kay Praschma, and Ed Schreier.

Visitors Present: June MK Gustafson, Aisha Nelson Oppong, George Danis, Emma Quilty, Kevin Quilty, Joshua Ross, Raymond Estes.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Kerry Ni,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee and Advisory Committee Education Subcommittee Meeting held on February 7, 2019. Michelle Ayer, Carlos Da Silva, Libby Lewiecki, Liza O'Reilly, and Ed Schreier voted Ate, . Kay Praschma and Kerry Ni Abstained.

3. Questions and Comments. None

4. Superintendent's Report

Upcoming Kindergarten Enrollment. Kindergarten enrollment is opening up this week. Packets can be picked up at the elementary schools. Each school will also hold a coffee hour at the beginning of the process. There is an additional teacher currently in the budget. Still too soon to know if this position will be needed. The School Administration will be watching enrollment closely. Michelle Ayer asked if Community Outreach could possibly help to get word out. The website will be updated with the current information and Community Outreach could possibly share to social media.

5. Communications

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent –NEASC letter. At the time the NEASC report was approved last spring and official communication was received, there were a handful of recommendations that needed to be done this past January and others need to be done over a two year period. In the packet is a thank you letter.

5.2 Student Communications. Emma Quilty reported on happenings at Hingham High School (HHS) before vacation. Members of the HHS Spreading Acts of Kindness Club with Foster School elementary students created Valentine's Day cards for the residents of Harbor House and money was raised by the Veteran's Appreciation Club for veterans and their families. 23 students and 3 teachers travelled to the Dominican Republic on a service trip. Emma Quilty reported also on athletic teams, the quiz bowl team and charity work.

5.3 Other Communications. None

6. Unfinished Business

6.1 The Committee heard an update on the administration's proposed preliminary operating budget for FY'20. There is a memo in the packet from John Ferris regarding budget updates. The bottom line has been slightly reduced due to personnel changes and slight adjustments to utilities. We went from 5.39% increase over last fiscal year to an increase today of 5.18%. Dr. Galo does believe we will need to reduce significantly more. However, at this time it is difficult to continue to reduce

items. Major changes are not anticipated at this time.

- 6.2 The Committee continued discussion of the proposed preliminary FY '20 Operating Budget. The School Administration asked the Committee if there were any items that they are not married to. They would like to hear the Committee members' thoughts on items that we may want to eliminate. Discussions ensued. Michelle Ayer made it clear that the Committee is not voting on the budget tonight. June Gustafson asked for clarification on the inclusion facilitator position. It was confirmed that this is for two positions. The general consensus of the Committee is that all asks are needed and important and nothing could be eliminated at this time.
- 6.3 The Committee continued discussion on Warrant Article Z. Michelle Ayer clarified that the proposed article was an amendment to the current standing article (from 2017), which is not permitted. This was brought to the School Committee's attention by Moderator Michael Puzo. He suggested new language for us to consider. Michelle Ayer, in general, wants to re-discuss the warrant article as a full School Committee and how we want to proceed. Discussions ensued.

On a motion by Ed Schreier and seconded by Kay Praschma,

It was

Voted: To remove Warrant Article Z from the 2019 Town Meeting Warrant. Michelle Ayer, Carlos Da Silva, Libby Lewiecki, Liza O'Reilly, Kay Praschma, and Ed Schreier voted Aye. Kerry Ni voted Nay.

7. New Business

- 7.1 The Committee received notification of the appointments of Kristen McKenna, Food Service Technician at Foster School, effective January 24, 2019 and Michelle Magner, Kids in Action Teacher, effective February 25, 2019.
- 7.2 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Colleen Franke, School Psychologist/Chair at Plymouth River School, effective February 22, 2019.

8. 48 Hour Items. None

9. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Community Outreach - Meeting will be held at 9.15 on Thursday February 28, 2019. Liaisons to reach out to schools and visit at next PTO meetings. Template of talking points to be sent to School Committee members. Will continue to work on Q & A for Foster and will share FB post regarding Kindergarten applications.

Kerry Ni asked about social media training from MASC. It was suggested to wait until after Town Meeting with the newly elected member(s).

Policy - no meeting planned at this time. James LaBillois mentioned that an email was sent to members regarding the public comment decision.

Long Range Planning - Nothing new to report. However, Carlos Da Silva asked about the master plan. John Ferris reported that more information should be available within a month.

Salary & Negotiations - Meeting date to be determined. Individual contract negotiations will continue.

Special Education - Next date to be determined. Michelle Ayer will send out an email.

SNAP - SNAP was featured on Channel 4.

Kerry Ni reported that the East School Council is having 2 focus groups for parents. Invitations have been sent out regarding the Boosterthon fundraiser.

Hingham Education Foundation (HEF) - Still can donate and have donation matched. Deadline for match is February 28, 2019. Spring social is planned for March 29, 2019.

Libby Lewiecki reported that she attended the HMS School Council meeting. 2 topics of discussion were vaping concerns among 8th graders and starting a RTI initiative.

10. Adjourn


On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Kay Praschma,

It was

Voted: To adjourn at 9.05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Kay Praschma

Documents Included:

[2-25-19 Agenda.pdf](#) 


[Annotated Agenda Comments.pdf](#) 


[Item 2.1 2-7-19 SC with AdCom Minutes.pdf](#) 

[Item 5.1 NEASC Letter.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.1 Budget Actions Memo.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.1 FY 20 Budget Discussion Pre Vote 2.25.19.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.3 Article Z Foster School Article to Amend Feasibility Study Vote \(002\).docx](#) 

[SC FYI 2018 Annual Report.pdf](#) 

[School Committee Member Report.docx](#) 