

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

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

- 1. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by Chair Michelle Ayer at 7:02 p.m.

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

Central Office Present: Dorothy Galo, John Ferris and Suzanne Vinnes.

Visitors Present: June MK Gustafson, Joshua Ross, Emily Dowal, Aisha Oppong, and Nes Correnti.

- 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 Superintendent Finalist Interviews held on December 10, 2018.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Superintendent Finalist Interviews held on December 17, 2018.

- 3. Questions and Comments**. None.

- 4. Superintendent's Report**

- March 1, 2019 Enrollment for K-12 is 5 students fewer than February.

- 5. Communications**

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: Social Studies Department Director Andy Hoey sent results about South Shore History Day competition in which 10 students were honored.

5.2 Student Communications. None

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 has been one change since the last update. One teacher is extending a leave of absence, which gives us a small savings. Budget is currently at \$54,692,639 (5.16%). The Advisory Committee and Board of Selectmen voted a budget with an increase of 4.45%. It is evident that the current proposed budget needs to be reduced. One option is to discuss reductions tonight or to commit to a number for Town Meeting and itemize priorities later. Potentially more news and information will become available. Discussion ensued.

6.2 The Committee continued discussion of the School Committee's proposed preliminary FY '20 operating budget.

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

It was

Voted: To approve an operating budget for FY' 20 of \$54,319,826 in concurrence with the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee votes.

7. New Business

7.1 The Committee heard an update and forecast for the FY'19 operating budget. John Ferris updated the Committee on the forecast for the FY' 19. There is currently a \$222,051 deficit. John Ferris commented that the amount is manageable, but it is important that the number does not grow. A lot of this deficit stems from Special Education services (i.e., contract services and unbudgeted tuitions). Transportation costs and energy costs have been on the rise. Some maintenance purchase orders are open. John Ferris anticipates a zero or a positive balance at the end of the Fiscal Year. There will be no reserve fund transfer. It was confirmed that the change of contract services will be reflected in the FY'20 budget. Discussions ensued.

7.2 The Committee considered the homeschool application of the Grissom children: Sierra (grade 11), Steven (grade 9), Shelby (grade 7), Sadie (grade 5) and Susanna (grade 3).

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

It was

Voted: To approve the homeschool application of the Grissom children for the 2018-2019 school year.

7.3 The Committee received notification of the appointments of Lisa Dynan, paraeducator at Hingham High School, effective March 4, 2019.

8. Other Items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting. None.

9. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Community Outreach: Kay Praschma reported that website proposals were discussed at the last meeting. There were a wide range of quotes and services. The highest proposal was around \$30,000. Some have yearly subscriptions so proposals varied tremendously. The general consensus was to find out what the full School Committee wants to do and what the new superintendent, Dr. Paul Austin, wants to do. Community Outreach is currently not making any proposals at this time. It was confirmed that \$30,000 is included in the FY'20 budget for the website project. The subcommittee has also been working on a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) for Foster school. Kay Praschma explained to the audience what the FAQ is for and that the Community Outreach subcommittee members would like to get feedback from the other committee members. Liza O'Reilly had some suggestions and edits, which she will send to all Community Outreach members. Discussions ensued. It was agreed that next steps after the SOI application process can be done at a later time. Kay Praschma suggested the subcommittee meet again to finalize all input and edits. The final FAQ will be put up on our website. There was a comment from the audience, Emily Dowal. She found the FAQ will be an important information sheet to have. She mentioned that some parents do not even know what a warrant article is? What is Town Meeting? Liza O'Reilly referred to the League of Woman Voters website for this information. Joshua Ross also asked about next steps and a possible plan B for Foster school.

Policy: Nothing to report.

Special Education: Michelle Ayer will attend the upcoming SEPAC meeting.

Long Range Planning: The next meeting is on 3/25/19 at 5.30 p.m.

Salary & Negotiations: The next meetings are scheduled for 3/18 and 3/21/19. Liza O'Reilly reported that individual contracts will be finalized at these meetings.

SNAP: KN reported that Pizza Palooza will take place on 3/27/19 from 5-7 p.m. at HHS.

HEF: Libby Lewiecki reported that HEF will hold its fundraiser on 3/29/19. Tickets are on sale now.

Other items:

- Dorothy Galo mentioned that South School and Plymouth River School will be honored at the State House on June 7th (letters in packet). 57 schools are invited and 2 are from Hingham.
- It was mentioned that Carlos Da Silva, Libby Lewiecki and Kerry Ni attended the Division 3 MASC get-together last week. It was a very informative event at which time MASC's priorities were presented. On May 1st, "Day on the Hill" is scheduled, which is a great opportunity to discuss priorities with your legislators.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Kay Praschma,

It was

Voted: To adjourn at 8:28 p.m.

Documents Included in Packet:

3-11-19 Agenda.pdf 

3-11-19 Annotated Agenda.docx 

Item 2.1 12-10-18 Minutes Finalist Interviews.pdf 

Item 2.2 12-17-18 Minutes Finalist Interviews.pdf 


Item 4 3-1-19 Enrollment.pdf 

Item 5.1 History Day.pdf 


Item 6.1 FY 20 Budget Discussion March 11, 2019.pptx 


Item 7.1 FY19 Forecast.pdf 


Item 7.2 Homeschool.pdf 

Item 9 Foster Elementary Facts and Issues 

Item 9 Foster FAQ 

Item 9 School Committee Member Report.docx 

SC FYI Facility Dept February Report.docx 

SC FYI Schools of Distinction.pdf 

SC FYI SSEC.pdf 