

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

May 6, 2019

7:00 p.m.

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

Prior to the Call to Order, Town Clerk Eileen McCracken administered the oath of office to Elizabeth O'Reilly, Carlos AF Da Silva, and Nancy Correnti.

- 1. Call to Order.** Ed Schreier as senior member called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He congratulated Liza O'Reilly and Carlos Da Silva on their reelections and Nancy "Nes" Correnti on her election to the School Committee. He thanked Kay Praschma for her three years of service, most recently as Secretary, to the School Committee. Dr. Schreier thanked the citizens of Hingham for unanimously voting in support of the FY'20 budget and the three warrant articles at Town Meeting. He thanked the Board of Selectmen and the 15 members of the Advisory Committee, with a tip of the hat to ACES members Dave Anderson, George Danis, Bob Curley and Evan Sheehan. He thanked the CPC for their help and support, especially Bob Mosher, and also thanked the Capital Outlay Committee.

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

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

Visitors Present: Karen Johnson, Kevin Quilty, Elizabeth Wilcox, Caty Fortuin, Ray Estes, Eileen Sharkey, Mary Andrews, Katie Roberts, David Jewett, and Aisha Oppong

1.1 Election of Chair

On a motion by Ed Schreier and seconded by Liza O'Reilly,

It was

Voted: To elect Michelle Ayer as Chair of the School Committee.

Michelle Ayer - aye

Nes Correnti - aye

Carlos Da Silva - aye

Libby Lewiecki - aye

Kerry Ni - aye

Liza O'Reilly - aye

Edward Schreier - aye

1.2 Election of Vice Chair

On a motion by Ed Schreier and seconded by Kerry Ni,

It was

Voted: To elect Carlos Da Silva as Vice Chair of the School Committee.

Michelle Ayer - aye

Nes Correnti - aye

Carlos Da Silva - aye

Libby Lewiecki - aye
Kerry Ni - aye
Liza O'Reilly - aye
Edward Schreier - aye

1.3 Election of Secretary

On a motion by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was

Voted: To elect Kerry Ni as Secretary of the School Committee.

Michelle Ayer - aye
Nes Correnti - aye
Carlos Da Silva - aye
Libby Lewiecki - aye
Kerry Ni - aye
Liza O'Reilly - aye
Edward Schreier - aye

2. Approval of Minutes None

3. Questions and Comments

Ray Estes asked the Committee to prioritize installing a scoreboard on the varsity softball field, as that is one of the last attributes left from the 2014 fields project. Ed Schreier will follow up through the Long Range Planning committee, and share a report with the full Committee most likely by the next full School Committee meeting.

4. Superintendent's Report

- May 1 Enrollment
 - Elementary enrollment is starting to increase after declining over the past three years.
 - Preschool enrollment has increased over time.
- 2019 Kindergarten Enrollment
 - Not all packets have been returned, but the administration is expecting approximately 300 kindergarteners for the 2019-2020 school year. One building will likely have three sections and the other buildings will have four sections each.
- A discussion ensued about waiting lists for Kids in Action (KIA). John Ferris explained that due to limited space and teachers, it was difficult to expand the program. Additionally, the waitlist is not long enough to justify additional sections.

5. Communications

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent.

FY2109 ESSA Program Monitoring: The district was notified that it has completed all necessary actions under the review of the Title I, Title IIA and Title IVA federal grant programs.

5.2 Student Communications. Emma Quilty, Student Representative, reported:

- Several music students recently sang at Symphony Hall in Boston
- The Green Team at HHS is working with Spring sports to teams to slash the trash by promoting the use of reusable containers at lunch.
- The Junior class had a successful career exploration hour.
- The Unified Track program enrollment tripled this year and has been classified as a Unified

Champion School. They have a home meet on Tuesday 5/14 at 3pm. All are welcome.

- The Senior class raised enough money to make prom tickets free this year, for the first time.
- A scholarship has been established in memory of Andrew Warhaftig, a classmate who passed away due to a rare kidney disease one year ago.

5.3 Other Communications.

- Many Hingham teachers were honored at the HEA Award Ceremony for teachers in Plymouth County.
- As a follow up to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees Day on the Hill, the Committee considered two resolutions regarding proposed state legislation, the Promise Act addressing state funding for education and the Cherish Act addressing state funding for higher education. Liza O'Reilly requested more time to research the Promise Act and whether it is right for Hingham. She also requested that the Committee add a line to that proposal requesting that the legislature find a way to generate more revenue for schools. Carlos Da Silva proposed adding a line requesting that the legislature expand Chapter 70 financial aid for school districts by a minimum of \$100 per student. Ed Schreier requested summaries of all proposed bills addressing the Chapter 70 funding formula. The Committee decided to address both proposed resolutions at the May 20th meeting to give members more time to research the proposed bills and their potential impact on Hingham.

6. Unfinished Business

- 6.1 The Committee considered the proposed School Calendar for FY'20. The Town Clerk requested school cancellation for Hingham High School and Hingham Middle School on March 3, 2020 because of the Presidential Primary election. Several options were considered. Dr. Galo will consult with the teacher's union about the proposed calendar and how best to facilitate voting with minimal disruption to the Middle and High Schools. The Committee will revisit the calendar, but in the meantime, the draft dates for December, February and April vacations for the 2019-20 school year will be posted to the HPS website.

7. New Business

- 7.1 The Committee acted on the ratification of the proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the Hingham Cafeteria Managers and Food Service Technicians.

Note – this was taken out of order and happened after item 3

The School Committee was joined by Selectman and School Liaison to the Board of Selectmen, Karen Johnson. John Ferris explained that he, the district's attorney, the Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee and the Food Services Union met to amend the contract, to ensure that the district contract keeps pace with the Massachusetts minimum wage law. The adjusted scale will raise step 1 by \$.0.50, steps 2,3 & 4 by \$0.75 and the top step by \$1.00 per hour. John Ferris noted that this keeps all workers slightly above minimum wage and ensures that Hingham wage and benefit packages are comparable to surrounding towns. It was noted that Food Service wages are paid out of an enterprise fund comprised of money collected through the district food service program. Ms. Johnson noted that the contract shows that we value the food service workers and the role they play in the school community.

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To ratify the Memorandum of Understanding with the Hingham Cafeteria Managers and Food Service Technicians.

Karen Johnson – aye
Michelle Ayer - aye
Nes Correnti - aye

Carlos Da Silva - aye
Libby Lewiecki - aye
Kerry Ni - aye
Liza O'Reilly - aye
Edward Schreier - aye

- 7.2 The Committee heard the Science Department Program Review. Katie Roberts, Science Department Director, gave an overview of the K-12 Science department, including strengths, challenges and many accolades. Ms. Roberts outlined the significant changes to the K-12 Science Standards adopted in 2016, which have impacted the district Science Curriculum, including the implementation of the new Digital Literacy and Computer Science Standards (DCLS). Through collaboration with the Tufts Center for Engineering and Education Outreach and the Hingham Education Foundation, the district has successfully integrated computer science into the K-5 curriculum. Ms. Roberts also noted that professional development was a key part to the successful implementation of the new standards.

Additionally, the department successfully piloted a Grade 7-8 STEM elective. It was noted that the STEM classes at Hingham Middle School benefit from some of the facilities in the new school, such as the Distance Learning Lab.

At Hingham High School, many initiatives have grown into a broad and rich range of electives and clubs. The Biotechnology program is thriving and was awarded an Innovative School of the Year Award by the Mass Bio Ed Foundation. Additionally, the implementation of a greenhouse facilitated a Botany elective and a corresponding Botany Club. The Science department has partnered with local watershed associations and the Department of Marine Fisheries to further expand research and learning opportunities for students. The Robotics team has grown and received an award and grant from NASA.

The Science Department staff was highlighted as a particular strength; many of them have research backgrounds and a number have received teaching awards from various organizations.

Questions and Comments: Kerry Ni asked how our middle school STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Math) programming compares to our benchmark districts, given that 25% of Middle School Science MCAS material is Engineering. Ms. Roberts replied that most districts offer 2 years of STEM programming and that Hingham is working toward that goal by piloting a 7th and 8th grade STEM elective. Liza O'Reilly asked whether we were neglecting state Science standards by not offering more robust STEM programming at the Middle School. Ms. Roberts stated that her department is exploring the idea of partnering with other disciplines/subject areas to carve out more time for STEM education. Staffing is the most significant challenge of expanding the program. Libby Lewiecki asked how many students have registered for the new AP Computer Programming class. David Jewett, Math Department Director, responded that 10 students have registered and that is a good number for the first year. Tim Dempsey, Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Chair inquired about whether the district had explored the idea of offering Physics MCAS at the High School level. Ms. Roberts responded that they had explored the idea but decided against it, as almost all students pass the Biology MCAS, and students benefit from taking Physics later in High School after more math education. Nes Correnti asked about the possibility of starting a Science mentoring program across the Middle and High School. Different dismissal times were cited as a challenge, but it was noted that the High School and Middle School Robotic teams collaborate on some projects.

- 7.3 The Committee reviewed the proposed new contract terms and contract extensions for Administrators. Liza O'Reilly made a motion to approve new contract terms and contract extensions for the following Administrators:

New Contracts: Joseph Andrews and Elizabeth O'Neill. Please note that the memo reflecting the terms of Joseph Andrews' contract that was shared with the Committee erroneously stated a salary of \$121,794 for the 2019-2020 school year. The correct amount is \$133,088.

Contract Rollover Extension: Derek Smith

Contract Salary Extensions: Suzanne Vinnes and Elizabeth Wilcox.

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was

Voted: To approve the contracts for Joseph Andrews, Elizabeth O'Neill, Derek Smith, Suzanne Vinnes and Elizabeth Wilcox.

7.4 The Committee discussed the district's representative to the South Shore Educational Collaborative's Board of Directors for 2019-2020. Dr. Galo has represented Hingham on the SSEC Board for many years. She spoke with her successor, Dr. Paul Austin, and he would like to be appointed to the Board.

On a motion by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Liza O'Reilly,

It was

Voted: To appoint Paul Austin, Ph.D., as the district's representative to the SSEC Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 school year.

7.5 The Committee held a public hearing to consider a resolution withdrawing from participation in the state's School Choice program for 2019-2020. Dr. Galo noted that Hingham traditionally does not participate because of space constraints, and that as the new developments in town are completed, space is likely to become more of an issue.

On a motion by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Liza O'Reilly,

It was

Voted: To withdraw from participation in the state's School Choice program for 2019-2020 because of space constraints.

7.6 The Committee discussed the terms of the appointment of administrators to serve on the HEA, Unit A, Sick Leave Bank Committee. The Committee discussed appointing representatives to the Sick Leave Bank Committee for one year, and potentially extending the terms of those representatives once a new contract is negotiated next year.

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

It was

Voted: To appoint John Ferris, Katie Roberts and Mary Eastwood to the HEA, Unit A, Sick Leave Bank Committee for 2019-2020.

7.7 The Committee discussed use of the Foster Emergency Maintenance Capital to rebuild the breakers at Foster School for a cost not to exceed \$28,000. This issue was discussed with and approved by the 2017 School Building Committee. This project would help minimize disruption to the Foster School building in the event of an electrical failure.

On a motion by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Edward Schreier,

It was

Voted: To approve the use of the Foster Emergency Maintenance Capital to rebuild the breakers at Foster School for a cost not to exceed \$28,000.

7.8 The Committee discussed use of the Foster Emergency Maintenance Capital to install a quick connect switch at Foster School for a cost not to exceed \$55,000. This was discussed with and approved by the 2017 School Building Committee. This project would help minimize disruption to the Foster School building in the event of an electrical failure.

On a motion by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Edward Schreier,

It was

Voted: To approve the use of the Foster Emergency Maintenance Capital to install a quick connect switch at Foster School for a cost not to exceed \$55,000.

7.9 The Committee discussed declaring as surplus Chromebooks used by Hingham Middle School students in the one to one program and offer the Chromebooks for sale to the students with any proceeds deposited into the Town's general fund. The Committee considered how to dispose of Chromebooks that are no longer useful because of age or condition.

On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To declare as surplus approximately 394 used Chromebooks and authorize the Director of Business and Support Services to offer such Chromebooks first to the students who hold the Chromebooks, and then to the public, on a first come, first serve basis at a price of \$40 + \$2.50 tax (total \$42.50) and any units not so purchased by the public to be used for spare parts, sold for salvage, or otherwise disposed of at the lowest cost to the School Department. Any funds collected shall be deposited into the Town General Fund.

On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Ed Schreier,

It was

Voted: To declare as surplus approximately 313 old, unusable Chromebooks and authorize the Director of Business and Support Services to dispose of such Chromebooks first for salvage, or to otherwise dispose of them at the lowest cost. Any funds collected shall be deposited into the Town General Fund.

8. 48 Hour Items. Dr. Galo reported that she had held student tally and budget meetings at the Middle School and High School. Elementary meetings would be held the following day.

9. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Subcommittee Assignments: Michelle Ayer requested that committee members let her know which subcommittee and liaison assignments they were interested in for 2019-2020 by Friday, May 10, 2019.

Special Education: Michelle Ayer reported that the subcommittee discussed enrollment numbers and that the number of students for which the district is financially, but not programmatically, responsible would be reported to the full School Committee as part of the financial reporting. Additionally, the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) had a presentation on the Quincy Family Resource Center (QFCR). Dr. LaBillois will include information about QFCR and resources available to families as part of Professional Development.

East School Liaison: Kerry Ni reported meeting with the PTO. The meeting was well attended and the School Department budget and school related Town Meeting Warrant Articles were discussed.

HMS School Council: Libby Lewiecki reported that they are working on goals for next year. Additionally, Mr. Smith will be sending out a survey to parents about Chromebooks.

HHS School Council: Carlos Da Silva reported that members of the council had visited Pembroke HS and also visited Plymouth Public Schools to view a solar energy program.

Michelle Ayer reported receiving an email from Donna Smallwood, the outgoing chair of the Hingham Advisory Committee, congratulating the School Committee on its good work this year.

10. Adjourn

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Ed Schreier,

It was

Voted: To adjourn at 9.46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Kerry Ni

Documents Included:

[5-6-19 Agenda.pdf](#) 

[Item 1 Ballot 5-6-19.pdf](#) 

[Item 4 5-1-19 Enrollment.pdf](#) 

[Item 4 K Enrollment.pdf](#) 

[Item 5.1 ESSA Monitoring.pdf](#) 

[Item 5.3 Higher Ed Resolution.docx](#) 

[Item 5.3 Resolution in Support of Full Funding for Our Public Schools.docx](#) 

[Item 6.1 Primary Election 2020.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.1 School Calendar 19-20 DRAFT.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.1 Cafeteria MOU on Pay Increase on 4.8.19.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.2a 2019 SCIENCE PROGRAM REVIEW.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.2b 2019 SCIENCE PROGRAM REVIEW Appendix.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.3 admin contracts memo to SC 5-6-19.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.4 SSEC Vote.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.5 MGL Chapter 76 \(school choice\).pdf](#) 

[Item 7.6 Sick Leave Bank.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.7 Breakers.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.9 Motion to Declare Chromebooks Surplus 2019.pdf](#) 
