

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

May 20, 2019

7:00 p.m.

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

- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Michelle Ayer.

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

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

Visitors Present: Mary Andrews, kara Roth, MB Barber, Joseph Andrews, Marybeth Robinson, June MK Gustafson, Melissa Goldman, Kara Kremer, Katie Roberts, Tim Dempsey, Sharon Burritt, Holly Pilotte. Stephanie Gregoire, Zkate Maneel, Jen Van Gelder.

- 2. Approval of Minutes** None

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

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee and Capital Outlay Committee held on January 23, 2019.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee and Advisory Committee meeting held on February 28, 2019.

2.3 Ed Schreier noted that he had thanked a number of people at the start of the May 6, 2019 meeting and would like those names included in the minutes.

On a motion by Libby Lewiecki and seconded by Nes Correnti,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the May 6, 2019 minutes with the addition of the people that Ed Schreier thanked after he called the meeting to order.

- 3. Questions and Comments** None.

- 4. Superintendent's Report**

Good News! Congratulations to Hingham High School Science teacher Livvy Kates who recently earned a qualifying spot on the 2019 Ironman 70.3 mile World Championship next September in Nice, France.

There was a small fire at Hingham High School on Friday, May 17, 2019 causing school to be cancelled that day and a late start at Hingham High School on Monday. Monday's start was further delayed as the Hingham High community waited for National Grid to turn on the gas. Students enjoyed field day activities from 10-11 a.m. at which point they were able to enter the building. Thank you to all who helped get the building up and running.

5. Communications

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent.

The South Shore Educational Collaborative Board met on April 26, 2019. Dr. Galo shared the budget and enrollment reports with the Committee.

5.2 Student Communications. None

5.3 Other Communications. None

6. Unfinished Business

6.1 The Committee heard an update on the FY'20 Operating Budget. Dr. Galo shared an updated plan to close the over \$400,000 gap between the proposed budget and the budget approved at Town Meeting. The original gap was wider than expected, in part due to unexpected VoTec tuitions. The return of kindergarten packets allowed the administration a better understanding of how many students will enter in the fall and how much tuition that will generate. Expected tuition should provide more than \$45,000 than originally predicted. Other factors that allowed the administration to close the gap between the proposed budget and the approved number were funding an additional crew coach through a revolving fund rather than the operating budget, reduction of the proposed Adjustment Counselors (the Administration hopes to continue funding an additional counselor at HMS through a Title I grant), the reduction of a proposed Human Resources (HR) Director from 1 to .5 FTE (this will allow Dr. Austin to assess Central Office operations and potentially hire a Director in January), and the reduction of a proposed Special Education teacher offset by the restoration of four para professionals.

Comments and Discussion: Nes Correnti proposed that the Committee and administration prioritize an additional Adjustment Counselor over the HR Director. Therefore, if the district does not receive Title I funding, the administration should reallocate the money for a HR Director to cover the cost of an Adjustment Counselor. John Ferris noted that the administration and Committee will have the flexibility to reallocate funds after the district is notified about Title I funding in July. Michelle Ayer noted that Liza O'Reilly had submitted her notes on the proposed path forward and was supportive of everything except funding an additional crew coach. The Committee reached consensus and agreed on the proposed path to a balanced budget.

7. New Business

7.1 The Committee heard the English/ELA/Reading Department Program Review. ELA Department Director Mary Andrews gave an overview of the district English Department. She thanked the teachers and other directors, as well as her predecessor, Lainey Silva. Her updates included:

- The adoption of the Journeys K-5 reading program
- The adoption of the Empowering Writers K-5 writing program
- The transition to a standards based report card
- Combining the STEM and Literacy Lab courses into one course at the Middle School
- Implementation of the Grade 6 Introduction to Drama course
- The adoption of the One Book, One School project
- The adoption of the Notice and Note note taking pilot
- Two new Senior Seminars at the High School
- The transition from Legacy to Next Generation MCAS

Strengths of the program include:

- Strong, highly qualified teachers and staff
- The Writing Program
- Curriculum/Literature selections
- New content in Professional Development and a partnership with Bridgewater State University
- Successful students who score well on standardized tests (MCAS, SAT, AP) and succeed after High School graduation

Areas for future growth include:

- More opportunities for collaboration with Special Education teachers
- Navigating an abundance of change, as a number of new administrators enter the Hingham school system
- Growing class size and limited classroom space
- Preserving the importance of the Humanities in a STEM world

Comments and Discussion: Ed Schreier noted that parents in the community had asked about the practice of peer review editing of student work instead of teacher editing. Ms. Andrews clarified that peer review editing is often part of the process but does not replace teacher editing. Moreover, student editors are given a structure and checklist to guide the process so that it is effective. Carlos Da Silva asked whether the department had opportunities for students with dyslexia to gain confidence with public speaking. Ms. Andrews responded that there is an increased awareness of the challenges of dyslexia, resulting in more strategies to allow students with dyslexia to participate to the best of their abilities, including the use of Assistive Technology. Kerry Ni asked about the challenge of coordinating with special education teachers. Ms. Andrews noted that the schedule drives this issue and that there are committees researching alternative scheduling models at both the Middle and High schools. Libby Lewiecki noted that she had found past ELA parent classes helpful and asked whether they were still offered. Ms. Andrews responded that the department had not offered those classes in recent years, but past presentations are available on the department website.

7.2 The Committee discussed a resolution in support of increased funding for Massachusetts public schools. The Committee continued the discussion initiated on May 6, 2019. Michelle Ayer thanked Liza O'Reilly and Libby Lewiecki for editing the resolution in support of the Promise Act. They removed reference to that particular Act and instead titled it Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for Massachusetts Public Schools. This allowed for the inclusion of points beyond the scope of the Promise Act, such as full funding of the METCO program and an annual minimum aid increase of \$100 per student. Libby Lewiecki read the resolution in its entirety. Carlos Da Silva suggested restoring the words "Promise Act" to the title. Kerry Ni commented that there are three pending plans or bills addressing education funding, and that Massachusetts Association of School Committees does not recommend supporting a particular bill until the three have been reconciled. Dr. Galo commented that it is important to focus on finance reform and not solely on the foundation budget formula. She noted that if and when districts obtain additional funding, the State should give some direction of where the funds should go and provide a way of measuring results.

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

It was

Voted: To adopt the Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for Massachusetts Public Schools.

Libby read a Resolution in Support of the Cherish Act to Increase Funding for Public Higher Education in Massachusetts in its entirety. There were no changes to this resolution.

On a motion by Libby Lewiecki and seconded by Kerry Ni

It was

Voted: To approve the Resolution in Support of the Cherish Act to Increase Funding for Public Higher Education in Massachusetts.

- 7.3 The Committee received the subcommittee and liaison assignments for 2019-2020. The assignments were in the Committee packets and are effective immediately. They will be posted to the website.
- 7.4 The Committee received and discussed recommended dates for School Committee meetings during July and August 2019. The Committee agreed upon summer meeting dates of July 22, 2019 and August 12, 2019.
- 7.5 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of Grade 10 to 12 Art and Music students to Berlin and Prague from April 16, 2020 through April 23, 2020.
- 7.6 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of Grade 9 to 12 Music students to Los Angeles from February 26, 2020 through March 1, 2020.
- 7.7 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of Grade 9 to 12 French and Spanish students to Paris, Barcelona and Madrid from April 16, 2020 through April 25, 2020.
- 7.8 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of Grade 4 PRS students to Camp Wingate-Kirkland in Yarmouthport from September 25, 2019 through September 27, 2019.
- 7.9 The Committee received notification of the appointments of Megan Corey and Colleen Quinn, Food Service Technicians, effective May 2, 2019 and Jeff Southworth, Custodian at PRS and HMS, effective April 26, 2019.
- 7.10 The Committee received notification of the retirements of teachers Pamela Amster at East School, Marcia Appell at Foster School, Linda Corson at South School, and Maria Swirbalus at Hingham Middle School, effective June 30, 2019. Michelle Ayer wished them all wonderful retirements and thanked them for their many years of service to Hingham Public Schools.
- 7.11 The Committee received notification of the retirement of Joan O'Brien, Administrative Assistant at Hingham Middle School, effective July 19, 2019. Michelle Ayer thanked her for her years of service.
- 7.12 The Committee received notification of the resignations of Aisha Oppong, Financial Assistant to the Director of Business & Support Services, effective May 14, 2019; Andrea Atkins, Administrative Assistant at Central Office, effective May 24, 2019; and Erik Silva, District Maintenance Custodian, effective April 5, 2019.

8. 48 Hour Items. Carlos Da Silva noted that he would like to see more diversity among teachers and Central Office staff.

9. Subcommittee and Project Reports

The Salary & Negotiation Subcommittee will meet on Friday, May 24th at 4:30PM.

Ed Schreier updated the Committee on the Long Range Planning Subcommittee. He noted that the playground at South School was completed and certified by the Architectural Access Board. Long Range Planning will also research the request for a scoreboard for the varsity softball field and a long range plan for district wide field maintenance.

Libby Lewiecki noted that the Hingham Education Foundation will meet on Tuesday, May 21st.

Libby Lewiecki reported that the Hingham Middle School Council Chromebook survey was finalized.

Additionally, Mr. Smith is working on the School Improvement Plan which will include four goals.

Ed Schreier noted that the 50th Anniversary of Plymouth River School is approaching and asked anyone with PRS memorabilia to contact the school.

Michelle Ayer noted that SEPAC will meet on Wednesday, May 22nd. She will be unable to attend, but Kerry Ni will attend and update the Committee.

Dr. Galo updated the Committee on the Hingham High School end of year activities.

10. Adjourn

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

It was

Voted: To adjourn the meeting at 9:41p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Kerry Ni

Documents Included:

[5-20-19 Agenda.pdf](#) 

[5-20-19 Annotated Agenda.pdf](#) 

[Item 2.1 1-23-19 Minutes LRP-Capital outlay.pdf](#) 

[Item 2.2 2-28-19 Minutes SC-AC.pdf](#) 

[Item 2.3 5-6-19 Minutes.pdf](#) 

[Item 4 Good News!.pdf](#) 

[Item 5.1 SSEC Report.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.1 Budget Update.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.1 FY 20 Operating Budget.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.1 2019 ELA Program Review.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.2 Memo to SC Resolution for Education Finance Reform.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.2 Red-lined version Resolution in Support of Full Funding for Our Public Schools.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.2 Resolution in Support of Increased Funding for Massachusetts Public Schools.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.3 Subcommittee Assignments 19-20.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.5 Art and Music Trip to Berlin and Prague.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.6 LA Music Trip.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.7 Spain and France Field Trip.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.8 PRS Field Trip.pdf](#) 

[Item 9 Warrants Signed.pdf](#) 