

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

June 3, 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 7:00 p.m. by Michelle Ayer.

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

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

Visitors Present: Carols Perez, Christina Strahle, Tony Keady, June MK Gustafson, Lauren Beischel, Andrea Feeney, Rachel Kolet, Maggie DeYoung, Caroline Silva, Charlotte mcViney, Ian Uiterwyk, Kristin Uiterwyk, John Borowiecki, Kimya Howell, Bev Vernon, Yvette Kanter

2. Approval of Minutes None

2.1 On a motion by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Ed Schreier,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on May 20, 2019.

3. Questions and Comments None.

4. Superintendent's Report

- Graduation Update
 - Graduation and the Senior activities went smoothly. The administration will consider whether to hold the ceremony in the morning again next year or to move it back to the afternoon.
 - Michelle Ayer congratulated the Class of 2019 and reminded everyone that this was Dr. Galo's last graduation as Superintendent.
- Close of school details
 - The last day of school for the Elementary and Middle Schools will be Friday, June 14th. The last day of Hingham High School will be Monday, June 17th due to the fire in May.

5. Communications

- 5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent. Dr. Galo presented an update from the Facilities Department for April and May 2019.
- 5.2 Student Communications. None
- 5.3 Other Communications. None

6. Unfinished Business

- 6.1 The Committee discussed the Hingham Public Schools calendar for 2019-2020. They discussed the Hingham Town Clerk's request to close the Middle and High Schools on the presidential primary election day. The Clerk also indicated that she would request that the schools close for the general election in November of 2020. June MK Gustafson, President of the Hingham Education Association, informed the committee that she sent surveys to the teachers at the Middle and High Schools. Most of the respondents expressed a preference for a late start, however there was concern about student safety at Hingham High School because the layout of the building could result in voters walking through the school during the day. Dr. Galo stated that voters often do not know which door to enter at Hingham High School. She also raised two additional considerations. First, closing only the Middle and

High Schools would be more expensive because the buses would need to run for an additional day for those two buildings. Second, closing school for this election could potentially set a precedent for future elections. Kerry Ni was in favor of cancelling school for all buildings on election day to protect student safety and to prevent the additional cost of running the buses a second day. Libby Lewiecki stated that a better solution would be a late start on election day and an education campaign to teach the populace how and where to vote. Liza O'Reilly supported closing all buildings on election day, but asked that since the administration can anticipate the closing, that they consider a professional development day to make good use of that time. Michelle Ayer clarified that the primary and general elections fall during different school years.

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

It was

Voted: To close all schools on the Primary election day, March 3, 2019. 6 votes in favor and 1 opposed (Libby Lewiecki).

7. New Business

- 7.1 The Committee heard a Green Team presentation about a water bottle and straw initiative. The Committee heard from Elementary students from the Green Teams of the various schools: John Borowiecki, Maggie DeYoung, Kimya Howell Rachel Kolets, Charlotte McViney, Caroline Silva, and Ian Uiterwyk. The Green Teams shared their research about how plastic damages the environment and advocated for a reduction or elimination of single use plastic water bottles and plastic straws in Hingham schools. They outlined their efforts to educate their classmates and asked that Hingham Schools be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Michelle Ayer congratulated the students on a well-done presentation and stated that the Committee would need input from Kim Smyth, Director of Food Services about any possible policy change. Nes Correnti inquired whether there were hydration stations at all the schools. The students then shared some ideas to reduce straws. Michelle Ayer pointed out that many of the PTOs sell single use plastic water bottles as part of their fundraising efforts. It was agreed that the Policy Subcommittee would research the feasibility of reducing or eliminating single use plastic water bottles and plastic straws.
- 7.2 The Committee heard a presentation from METCO. Hingham METCO Director, Carols Perez introduced METCO CEO Milly Arbaje-Thomas. Ms. Arbaje-Thomas shared the history of the METCO program and a video which gave an overview, including the strengths and challenges of the program.

Comments: Liza O'Reilly emphasized the importance of the history of the program, that it was in response to school segregation and racial isolation. Michelle Ayer remarked that the METCO Program benefits both the METCO students and the suburban students. Carlos DaSilva remarked that Hingham is supportive of the METCO program and had allocated money in the budget for a METCO bus. Dr. Galo stated that the district goal was to increase the number of students in the program from 40 to 50 and that the district currently has 53 METCO students.

Ms. Arbaje-Thomas clarified that funding for the METCO program is heavily subsidized by per pupil spending from the sending district, a line item for METCO funding, Chapter 70 Funding and supplemental subsidies for English Language Learners and students requiring Special Education services. Additionally, she recommended forming a Friends of METCO organization on a district level. The role of this group would be fundraising to supplement activities for the students and to strengthen ties between the Boston and Hingham families. She emphasized that full acceptance and understanding of the program must happen at the district level and will be accomplished by grass roots advocacy of parents. Michelle Ayer commented that Hingham has parents motivated to form a group and that they would appreciate a blueprint, or guidance, on how to be successful.

- 7.3 The Committee heard the Family and Consumer Science Department Program Review. Lauren Beischel gave an overview of the Family and Consumer Science Department. There have been several changes since the last Program review. The 6th grade curriculum was revamped to include budgeting and etiquette. In 7th grade the department piloted Future Smart, a financial literacy program. The High School fashion course Fashion Flair was renamed Exploring Fashion. The child development preschool tuition increased from \$150 to \$250. Strengths of the program include well qualified staff, professional development, continuous assessment of the curriculum and a sufficient and supportive program budget. Recommendations for improvement include increasing the number of 6th and 8th grade sections to accommodate growing enrollment, requiring a Foods and Nutrition course for graduation, making Child Development I and II courses year long courses and increasing funds to maintain safe equipment.
- 7.4 The Committee received and reviewed the Proposed Personnel Rates for Facilities for FY'20. John Ferris gave an overview of the proposed personnel rate increase for organizations renting Hingham Public Schools facilities. Administration is proposing a rate increase of 2% to cover the personnel rate increase and an increase of rates for the Hingham Middle School Auditorium for Category 3 renters (companies, businesses, individuals, AAU, 501 organizations and camps).

Comments and Questions: Ed Schreier asked for examples of Category 3 renters. Mr. Ferris cited dance recitals. He reiterated that the HMS auditorium is a coveted resource and that the increase would provide tax payer compensation for the wear and tear of extra activities. Liza O'Reilly inquired when personnel rates were last assessed. Mr. Ferris stated that he believed it was five years ago, when the multipurpose field was installed, followed by annual 2% increases to track payroll expenses. Liza O'Reilly suggested taking another look at all fees.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the Proposed Personnel Rates for Facilities for Fiscal Year 2020.

- 8. 48 Hour Items:** Ed Schreier congratulated the Hingham High School Boys lacrosse team for defeating Newton South 13-3.

9. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Ed Schreier gave an update on the signed Warrants.

Libby Lewiecki reported on the South School Council. South is appreciative of the Tool Box social emotional learning tools and curriculum, as well as the two additional Math tutors.

Community Outreach: Libby Lewiecki reported they will meet on Tuesday, June 4th.

Salary and Negotiation: Liza O'Reilly reported that they met on Friday, May 24th to review pay rates for individual hourly employees for FY '20. Additionally, Salary & Negotiation will review the Drivers Education program costs and bring a report to the full Committee.

SEPAC: Kerry Ni reported on the May 22nd meeting. The new Board was elected. There will be a final business meeting in June. Additionally, SEPAC will host a meeting with Department Directors about the impact of the leveling process on students with disabilities.

SNAP: Kerry Ni reported that the SNAP Summer Program and Buddy Week at Sunset Point Camp registrations are open for students with disabilities. Additionally, the SNAP End of Year Cocktail Party will take place on Friday, June 7th at the South Shore Country Club.

Ed Schreier extended gratitude to Service Master for helping with extensive cleaning after the fire at Hingham High School.

Long Range Planning : Carlos DaSilva noted that a meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4th at 5PM.

Carlos DaSilva informed the Committee that the High School Council will meet on Wednesday, June 5th.

Special Education Subcommittee: Michelle Ayer stated that they will schedule a meeting in early Summer.

Michelle Ayer reminded the Committee that there would be a retirement reception for Dr. Galo on Wednesday, June 5th from 2-6PM at Hingham Middle School.

Libby Lewiecki shared a copy of this year's Hingham High School Yearbook with the School Committee, on behalf of HHS parents.

10. Adjourn

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

It was

Voted: To adjourn to Executive Session at 9:30 p.m., not to return to Open Session, for the purposes of reviewing non-union administrator contracts and discussing strategy related to the collective bargaining (Unit A) process, the public discussion of which may be detrimental to the Committee's bargaining position.

Michelle Ayer - aye

Carlos DaSilva – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

Ed Schreier – aye

Liza O'Reilly – aye

Libby Lewiecki – aye

Nes Correnti - aye

Respectfully Submitted By:
Kerry Ni

Documents Included:

[Agenda 6-3-19.pdf](#) 

[Item 2.1 5-20-19 Minutes.pdf](#) 

[Item 5.1 Facility Dept Report April & May.pdf](#) 

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

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

[Item 7.1 East School Green Team.pptx](#) 

[Item 7.2 METCO Presentation.pptx](#) 

[Item 7.3 Family & ConSci Program Review.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.4 Proposed FY 20 Facilities Personnel Rate...](#) 

[Item 9 Warrants Signed.pdf](#) 

[SC FYI - HS Solar Panels.pdf](#) 

[SC FYI Galo Public Reception Invite.pdf](#) 

[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](#) 
