

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

September 9, 2019

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Michelle Ayer at 7:10 PM.

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

Central Office Present: Paul Austin, James LaBillois, John Ferris and Suzanne Vinnes.

Visitors Present: Derek Smith, Beth Wilcox, Tony Keady, June Gustafson, Jackie Sansone, Mary Eastwood, Melissa Smith, Emma Quilty

2. Approval of Minutes

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 meeting held on August 12, 2019 with an amended time of adjournment and some additional language proposed by Liza O'Reilly regarding the potential Varsity Softball scoreboard purchase.

3. Questions and Comments None.

4. Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Austin gave the Committee an update on East Elementary flooding. The damaged areas of the building passed inspection, allowing the East Kindergarten class to begin school on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. Dr. Austin thanked all who prepared the school and communicated effectively with the parents in the East community.
- Opening of Schools Report:
 - HHS - Dr. Austin read a statement by HHS Principal Rick Swanson. HHS is off to a good start, with approximately 1300 students enrolled. The Freshman class participated in 9th grade orientation and each grade participated in a grade-level assembly.
 - HMS - Principal Derek Smith gave an update on the start of HMS. The year started off well, with just over 1,000 students enrolled. Several transition activities that took place over the Spring and Summer helped the sixth graders adjust quickly to their new school. Mr. Smith welcomed the new staff members to HMS and highlighted the addition of a new Language Academic Home Base classroom and a new Inclusion Facilitator.
 - East - Principal Tony Keady gave an update. Mr. Keady thanked Service Master for a job well done readying the flood impacted classrooms for the incoming Kindergarteners. Additionally, he thanked the East parent community for help with communication. Principal Keady informed the Committee that East will welcome almost 30 new students this Fall, including 2 new students through the METCO program. The Integrated Preschool students started on Thursday, September 5th and 81 Kindergarten students will start on Tuesday, September 10th. East welcomes two new staff members this year.

- Foster - Principal Beth Wilcox gave an update. Foster is off to a smooth start. The PTO, led by a new Board, hosted an Open House before the start of school. Dr. Wilcox welcomed four new staff members to Foster. Additionally, she highlighted the Foster Green Team's work with Holly Hill Farm and the Foster Walk or Bike to School Day, which will take place on September 27th. "I am a Masterpiece" is the theme of this year's School Improvement Plan. Foster's enrollment is up, increasing from 480 students last year to 493 this Fall, in addition to two new students this week. Dr. Wilcox informed the Committee that the MSBA will visit Foster tomorrow for a site visit.
- PRS - Principal Melissa Smith updated the Committee. PRS is celebrating its 50th Anniversary, with the theme of Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present and Building the Future. PRS welcomes two new staff members and fifteen new families this Fall. For his Eagle Scout project, PRS alumnus Ryan Trinchet painted a sensory path on the playground, which has been very well received by the students. Alumna Jenna Burnett installed a gaga ball pit and Eliza Bastis started an after school Community Service Club for her Girl Scout award. PRS will celebrate a Start With Hello Week to promote a culture of Inclusion.
- South - Principal Mary Eastwood informed the Committee that South Elementary is off to a wonderful start. This Fall South welcomes 15 new families and two new students through the METCO program. The PTO hosted a Welcome Back celebration before the start of school. South also welcomes three new staff members and the KIA preschoolers. Mrs. Eastwood thanked the staff for their hard work to ensure that students had a smooth transition into the school year and informed the Committee that South will continue to celebrate its theme of "Bee Kinder Than Necessary" this year. Additionally, the faculty has begun teaching and reinforcing the "Toolbox" Social/Emotional curriculum. South has added a thirteenth tool: the Humor Tool.
- Dr. Austin thanked all of the Principals for all they did to get the school year off to a smooth start.
- Opening Enrollment - Dr. Austin updated the Committee on enrollment for the 2019-2020 School year. He noted that Out of District enrollment was 51, not 41; there was a typo in the packet. Additionally, he noted that nine students will attend VoTech schools this year, up from five last year.
- Leadership Team Meeting – Dr. Austin gave an overview of the leadership team meeting, which will focus on ensuring equity, safety and security and academic excellence for 2019-2020. Dr. LaBillois gave a recap of the Equity presentation that he delivered at convocation. The leadership team is developing action steps to actualize these goals.
- METCO Social Event - The August 15th Ice Cream Social was a success. METCO has several family events coming up over the Fall. Dr. LaBillois announced that the district will partner with Kathy Lopes, METCO Director of METCO Diversity, Equity and Inclusion on the Hingham Equity Initiative.
- The MSBA will conduct a site visit at Foster Elementary on September 10, 2019. Dr. Schreier will represent the School Committee and will attend with other members of the Foster Building Committee and Administration.

5. Communications

- 5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: Dr. Austin presented the July and August Facilities Report and thanked the Maintenance staff for all of their continued work on the school facilities. Liza O'Reilly inquired about how the water damage at East Elementary will be paid for. Mr. Ferris responded that our insurance company will work with the vendor's insurance company to cover the cost.

- 5.2 Student Communications: Emma Quilty presented on behalf of Hingham High School Student Council. Freshman Orientation went well; 60 members of student government and others volunteered to make the event a success. The HHS Botany Club harvested lettuce which was served in the cafeteria. The various HHS sports teams are competing to Slash the Trash at the High School. HHS teacher Livvy Kates competed in the Ironman World competition held in France.
- 5.3 Other Communications:
- Liza O'Reilly presented an update on the Hingham Master Plan Committee. The Committee will meet for the first time on September 18th. A key objective of the Committee is community outreach. The Committee will hold focus groups to get input from all stakeholders. Information about the Master Plan Committee, including the schedule of focus groups, is available on the Town of Hingham website. Carlos DaSilva clarified that this is a town wide Master Plan Committee, which is different than the Hingham Public Schools Master Plan.
 - Michelle Ayer received a communication from June Gustafson, President of the Hingham Education Association, requesting to start contract negotiations. Michelle will respond with some proposed dates.

6. Unfinished Business

- 6.1 The Committee received the revised Superintendent's goals for 2019-2020.

On a motion by Carlos DaSilva and seconded by Kerry Ni,

It was

Voted: To adopt the Superintendent's goals for the 2019-2020 school year as presented.

- 6.2 Liza O'Reilly updated the Committee on the hiring process for legal counsel by reviewing the process so far and sharing feedback received from the reference checking process. The Administration recommended hiring Murphy, Toomey, Hesse & Lehane, LLP because of their level of support and expertise available across several different practice areas.

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

It was

Voted: To enter negotiations with Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane LLP to represent the Hingham School Committee and Hingham Public Schools. Dr. Austin will contact the firm.

- 6.3 The Committee received an update from Carlos Da Silva on behalf of the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee regarding the purchase of a solar powered scoreboard for the Varsity softball field at Hingham High School. The Long Range Planning Committee visited neighbors abutting the softball field to explain the plan to install a scoreboard and hear any concerns. John Ferris reported that on consultation with Mary Savage-Dunham, Hingham Director of Community Planning, a site plan waiver is unnecessary because this project will cost less than \$20,000. Consequently, the project can go immediately to the permitting process. Carlos Da Silva stated that the Long Range Planning Committee recommends not asking the Boosters for support for this project because there is money available in the Hingham High School Fields Fund. Liza O'Reilly pointed out that the HHS Baseball boosters have funded many field enhancements for the baseball fields and that it would be equitable for the Softball boosters to support

this enhancement. Carlos Da Silva responded that there is \$148,000 available in the HHS Field Fund, which is designated to be used on field enhancements. Michelle Ayer noted that this discussion raised two issues: 1) should we fund the purchase of a scoreboard for the Varsity Softball field and 2) the larger discussion about how we as a town are paying for various sports and activities.

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

It was

Voted: To authorize the Business Manager to proceed with applying for a permit to install a solar powered scoreboard at the Varsity Girls Softball Field and to spend the amount of \$17,710. Liza O'Reilly was opposed.

7. New Business

7.1 The Committee received the proposed School Committee Special Reports Calendar for 2019-2020.

7.2 The Committee received the Fall 2019 High School coaching recommendations.

7.3 The Committee reviewed plans for the September 22, 2019 School Committee planning meeting. Michelle Ayer requested that the Subcommittee Chairs bring goals for their committees to the meeting to help develop an overall vision and goals for the Committee. John Ferris requested that Committee members think about their budget priorities for the upcoming year. Other topics to be discussed are the District's focus on Equity, how other District initiatives, such as technology and the website, factor into the budget, fees and facilities planning.

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

It was

Voted: To declare as surplus approximately 200 Biology textbooks, 68 Chemistry textbooks, 25 VCR's at HHS, 21 VCR's at Foster School and various obsolete audiovisual equipment at HHS, and to dispose of them at the least cost to taxpayers.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the home school application of Emmet Doran (Grade 2) for the 2019-2020 school year.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the home school application of Cosette Yungton (Grade 10) for the 2019-2020 school year.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the home school application of Annelise Ling (Grade 2) for the 2019-2020 school year.

- 7.8 The Committee received notification of the appointments of Katherine Day, Special Education teacher at HHS; Charlene Egan, Special Education teacher at Foster School; Sonia Keller ep Naeveke, French teacher at HHS; Allison Lizotte, English teacher at HMS; Louise Roper, Special Education teacher at South School, and Amanda Ross, English teacher at HHS; all effective August 26, 2019.
- 7.9 The Committee received notification of the appointments of Suzanne McIntyre as the Central Office receptionist, effective August 12, 2019; James Young, Custodian at East School, effective August 1, 2019; Christine White, Administrative Assistant to the Department Directors at HHS, effective August 19, 2019; Karen Toomey, Financial Assistant at Central Office, effective August 20, 2019; Kids in Action teacher assistants Rachel Anderson, Maria Brady, and Mary Gustowski, effective August 26, 2019; Peter Maloof, Language Lab Technician at HHS, effective August 28, 2019; Susan Mackay, Office Assistant at HMS, effective August 19, 2019; and paraeducators Mitchell Cameron and Samuel Curatola at East School, Emily Kuhn at Foster School, Jeffrey West and Kaitlin White at HHS, and Heather Ivil and Krystal Rich at HHS, effective August 29, 2019; and Rebecca Lynch, Reading Tutor at South School, effective August 26, 2019.
- 7.10 The Committee received notification of advancements on the salary scale on September 1, 2019 of Amanda Burnaby to M30; Patrick Callahan to M30; Jessica Cheung to M; Brian Cincotta to M15; James Conley to M; Brian Conroy to M30; Ryan Eschauzier to M30; Amanda Harding to M15; Lakshmi Hobson to M30; Allison Lizotte to B15; Caitlin McInnes to M15; Bradley Santarpia to M30; and Stacey Turner to M15.
- 7.11 The Committee received notification of the full year leave of absence for 2019-2020 of Emily Toney, grade 1 teacher at South School.
- 7.12 The Committee received notification of the resignations of paraeducators Samantha Dykes at HHS, Karen Kazaolias and Gini Goodwin of Foster, and Alyssa Baldwin at PRS, all effective August 26, 2019; and Catherine Shaw, administrative assistant at Central Office, effective August 23, 2019.

8. 48 Hour Items: None.

9. Subcommittee and Project Reports

- Nes Correnti reported that the East School Council will meet in late September/early October
- Nes Correnti reported that METCO Director Carols Perez will meet with Nes Correnti and Michelle Ayer.
- Libby Lewiecki reported that Community Outreach will meet on September 17th at 8:30AM.
- Libby Lewiecki reported that HEF will meet on September 17th at 7:15PM.
- Liza O'Reilly reported that Salary and Negotiations will schedule a meeting soon.
- Ed Schreier updated the Committee about the organization of the Concession Stand at HHS.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Policy Subcommittee will meet on September 17th at 1:15PM.
- Carlos Da Silva reported that the priorities for Long Range Planning are Foster, Plymouth River and the overall Master Plan.
- Michelle Ayer stated that she would meet with Dr. Vinnes, Director of Student Services, to discuss goals and logistics of the Special Education Subcommittee, and then would schedule a meeting.

10. **Adjournment**

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

It was

Voted To adjourn at 8:59PM.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Kerry Ni

Items Included in Packet:

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| 9-9-19 Agenda.pdf | 👤 |
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| Item 2.1 8-12-19 Minutes.pdf | 👤 |
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| Item 4 9-5-19 Enrollment.pdf | 👤 |
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| Item 5.1 Facility Dept August & September Repor... | 👤 |
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| Item 5.3 Master Plan Committee.pdf | 👤 |
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| Item 6.1 New Superintendent Goals 2019-2020.pdf | 👤 |
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| Item 6.3 Varsity Softball Scoreboard.pdf | 👤 |
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| Item 6.3 Varsity Softball Update as of 9-9-19.pdf | 👤 |
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| Item 7.1 Special SC Reports 19-20.pdf | 👤 |
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| Item 7.2 Fall 2019 Coaching Appointments.pdf | 👤 |
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| Item 7.4 Surplus Declaration.pdf | 👤 |
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| Item 7.5 Homeschool application Doran 2019-20... | 👤 |
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| Item 7.6 Homeschool application Yungton 2019-... | 👤 |
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| Item 7.7 Homeschool application Ling 2019-... | 👤 |
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| Item 9 Warrants Signed.pdf | 👤 |
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