**MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

August 19, 2020

**Remote meeting via Zoom**

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Kerry Ni called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. She stated that the meeting was being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. Attendees were advised that the meeting and all communications during the meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. Any participant who wished to record the meeting was asked to notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.

Members Present: Kerry Ni, Carlos AF Da Silva, Libby Lewiecki, Michelle Ayer, Nes Correnti, Jennifer Benham

Central Office Present: Paul Austin

Visitors Present: No sign in as this was a remote meeting.

2. To review a general (interim) policy on COVID-19 related issues. First read.

Chair Ni advised that the purpose of the 8/19/2020 meeting was to complete a first read of a group of COVID-19 related policies. The Committee will not be voting on the policies at today’s meeting and will post them on the Hingham Schools website to allow for public comment. The purpose of the interim policies is to provide the Superintendent and Administration the tools they need to act quickly to an ever-changing situation. The policies will be included in one document that will be in place during COVID-19 and will automatically expire at the end of the State of Emergency, as declared by the Governor. The policy gives the Superintendent the authority to carry out the School Reopening Plan that was approved on 8/6/2020. The goal of the policy document is to:

1. Ensure the safety and health of students, faculty, staff, and all persons who may come in contact with them
2. Provide the most effective educational services as possible to students under the circumstances
3. Authorize changes to operating protocols, as needed, to open and operate schools effectively
4. Conduct district business and operational functions of the district as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible
5. Allow the Superintendent and staff to act quickly to carry out the back-to-school plan, and
6. Facilitate the re-establishment of a safe and productive school day and year.

These policies provide the Superintendent the flexibility to amend district policies, the school calendar, and graduation requirements with the approval of the School Committee. The policy also includes a face covering policy, recreation, travel, and self-quarantine policies.

Committee member Jen Benham questioned whether a change should be made to the mask policy exception to include band as an exception. Chair Ni responded that it was a good suggestion and that the Committee should consider Chorus and Drama as well.

Chair Ni advised that the plan will be to approve the policies on the September 9, 2020 meeting.

Resident Sarah Jacobson asked if it was possible to restrict the types of face coverings and provide clarification on mask breaks. Chair Ni advised that the policy on types of face coverings follows CDC guidance.

Chair Ni advised that the policies would be put on the School Website so that community members can review them and contact the School Committee with questions.

3. On a motion by Libby Lewiecki and seconded by Michelle Ayer,

It was

**Voted**: To Adjourn at 7:08 PM.

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham – aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Carlos AF Da Silva – aye

Libby Lewiecki – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

Respectfully Submitted By:

Libby Lewiecki

Documents Included:

