**MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Community Forum**

August 5, 2020 – 4:30 PM

**Remote meeting via Zoom**

1. **Call to Order**

Libby Lewiecki, Chair of the Community Outreach Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. As the meeting was being held with the full participation of the School Committee, Ms. Lewiecki asked that Kerry Ni call to order the full School Committee. Kerry Ni, Chair of the School Committee, called the meeting of the full School Committee to order at 4:30. PM.

Subcommittee Chair Libby Lewiecki 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. The Hingham Current advised that they were recording the meeting.

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

Central Office Present: Paul Austin, Suzanne Vinnes, Susan D’Amato, James LaBillois

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

1. **Review of the Reopening Plan**

Dr. Austin read an opening statement. He stated that robust and healthy debate is needed in time like these and different opinions can bring us to the best resolution for the opening of schools. Dr. Austin advises that he would present the School Committee with three options to open the school – fully remote, fully open, or a hybrid version of the both. Dr. Austin thanked the people that worked together to develop a plan and advised that he would recommend at the School Committee meeting on 8/6 a hybrid phased-in opening of schools. He advised this will probably not be a final plan and that it will be adjusted, as needed based on new data. He said that a full report will be sent to the community this evening. Dr. Austin advised the importance of adhering to health measures to open schools successfully.

Dr. Austin reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that included the following:

* Facilities Subcommittee
  + Feasibility Study – Capacity considerations
  + PPE, Cleaning Protocols, transportation, airflow/ventilation
* Instruction Subcommittee
  + Instructional Model – Learn from Anywhere
  + Phased Re-entry
  + Robust In Person/Hybrid/Remote Learning
  + Professional Development & Technology Infrastructure
  + Structure of Cohorts; alternating half-weeks; sample schedules
* Special Education Subcommittee
  + Provision of Service
  + Level of Student Need

1. Dr. Austin opened the meeting for questions from the community. Community member questions and concerns included:

* A question regarding the teacher’s exposure to both Cohort A and Cohort B and the need to complete the deep cleaning between the cohorts
* A question re the receipt of Chromebooks for 6th graders
* A question regarding students who are on IEPs and their placement in cohorts
* A question on student accountability and grading; and the intended use of optional assignments
* A comment that the Mass Teachers Association indicated in the spring that remote learning does not allow for equity among students and a question as to why we would move forward with remote learning if the number of COVID-19 cases is very low.
* A comment that communication between parents and teachers will be critical going forward
* A comment that the process in the spring differed from one teacher to another and a request for consistency among teachers
* A question as to whether students in Cohort A/B would be mixed in with both Cohort A and Cohort B
* A comment that the reduced day for High School students is not in the students’ best interest
* A question on how the administration/School Committee will respond to the emailed questions and comments
* A question on the Cohorts and whether all students will have an in-person experience in Phase 2 of the plan
* A question on whether live-streamed classes can be recorded to resolve technology issues that may arise on the students end
* A question on whether there is the potential for the reduced day to be lengthened
* A question regarding the potential for an orientation for rising 9th graders
* A question regarding the return of Chromebooks for rising 9th graders
* A question regarding the schedule for synchronous learning during remote learning and the difficulty for working families to manage the timeframes
* A request for consistency amongst teachers, particularly with respect to the technology used.

**4.0 Adjourn.**

On a motion by Nes Correnti, and seconded by Michelle Ayer

It was

**Voted**: To Adjourn the Community Outreach Subcommittee at 5:47 PM

On a motion by Michelle Ayer, and seconded by Liza O’Reilly

It was

**Voted**: To Adjourn the full School Committee at 5:47 PM.

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham – aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Carlos AF Da Silva – aye

Libby Lewiecki – aye

Liza O’Reilly – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

Respectfully Submitted By:

Libby Lewiecki