**MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Community Forum**

August 5, 2020 – 7:00 PM

**Remote meeting via Zoom**

1. **Call to Order**

Libby Lewiecki, Chair of the Community Outreach Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 7:01. 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, 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 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 COVID-19 test response time and contract tracing
* A question regarding the protocol for quarantine if someone tests positive for COVID-19
* A question regarding the items that will most impact our ability to implement the recommended plan (e.g., hiring, union negotiations)
* A request from a teacher as to when teachers will have access to classrooms
* A question re students receiving IEP services and when they would receive those services
* A question regarding what products will be used for cleaning and the safety of those products.
* A question regarding the plan for Preschool students
* A question regarding the timeline for determining the final plan for eligibility for bus transportation and determining the student’s cohorts
* A question on the feasibility study and whether bandwidth within the schools was tested to determine if the infrastructure will support fully remote learning.
* A question on how we can come up with a creative solution to support working parents while their children are learning remotely
* A comment on whether the administration had considered the upcoming flu season and whether COVID-19 vaccines could be required in the future
* A question on whether there is flexibility for a family to transition between fully remote and hybrid models
* A question regarding synchronous learning and whether students that live-stream into a classroom will have the ability to ask questions of their teachers
* A question regarding the 9/28 decision point and whether that is the date that Phase 2 starts or the date that the start date for Phase 2 is announced
* A question from a teacher who asked if teachers would be able to bring their own children to school, and how much flexibility there will be if teachers are sick or their children are sick.

**4.0 Adjourn.**

On a motion by Michelle Ayer

It was

**Voted**: To Adjourn the Community Outreach Subcommittee at 8:26 PM

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

It was

**Voted**: To Adjourn the full School Committee at 8:27 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