**MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**Community Forum**

August 5, 2020 – 9:30AM

**Remote meeting via Zoom**

1. **Call to Order**

Libby Lewiecki, Chair of the Community Outreach Subcommittee, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. 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 9:30.

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 request that the School Committee and Administration come up with a more creative solution for the reopening of schools
* A question on how the teachers would support the remote cohort while teaching the live cohort and a recommendation for an AM/PM cohort structure for Elementary students
* A question on the use of television as part of the remote learning
* A request for a timeline for identification of cohorts
* A question regarding the process for students who were identified for 504 plans
* A question regarding the remote process for High School students
* A question regarding the process for Elementary Students who choose to be completely remote
* A question on the best method to influence feedback on the vote to the School Committee
* A request to use Wednesdays for in-person learning rather than for deep cleaning of the schools
* A comment that the Director of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) advised that it is in the public health interest that students return to in-person learning
* A question regarding Cohorts and the movement of those Cohorts in the Middle School
* A question on whether the remote Cohort was being live-streamed into the classroom
* A comment on the reduced length of the day for K-5 students and a request to consider a longer day
* A request for information regarding the communication thus far with the Hingham Education Association
* A question regarding the timeline for notification of cohorts and teacher assignments for elementary students
* A request to maximize the time that the students are in school once they are present at school and a question on whether the teachers will be in the school building or teaching from a remote location.
* A request to define the cohorts as quickly as possible to allow parents to prepare, and a question on how the Cohorts will be determined
* A question on families’ ability to transition from fully remote to return to in-person learning

**4.0 Adjourn.**

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

It was

**Voted**: To Adjourn at 10:44 AM.

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