

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

October 5, 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. There were no participants that advised that they were recording the session.

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

Central Office Present: Paul Austin, James LaBillois, Suzanne Vinnes, John Ferris, Susan D'Amato

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

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 On a motion by Carlos AF Da Silva and seconded by Michelle Ayer,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on September 21, 2020

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jennifer Benham - aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Carlos AF Da Silva – aye

Libby Lewiecki – aye

Liza O'Reilly – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

3. Questions and Comments

Chair Ni provided time for questions or comments on topics that were not included on the School Committee agenda. There were no questions or comments.

4. Superintendent's Report

4.1 Dr. Austin provided an update on the reopening of schools. Phase Two of Hybrid Learning began on September 29, 2020 and is going well. Dr. Austin advised that the community needs to continue to follow health protocols in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. He notified the community that there is a need for paraprofessionals and substitute teachers across the district. Dr. Austin provided an update on enrollment based on 10/1/2020 data. For K-12, the district has 324 fewer students compared to 10/1/2019. The greatest deficits were at the K-2 levels. The percentage of students that opted for full remote learning is approximately 10%. Dr. Austin advised that there were 128 students who applied for home school and reviewed the breakdown of applicants, by grade. Dr. Austin also shared a Health Metric Update that will be posted on the HPS website that provides the latest Hingham COVID-19 data as well as Health Protocol reminders. Dr. Austin advised that communication

is being sent out when there are cases of COVID-19 in the school community. He also stated that the administration is continuing to focus on the learning needs of the younger learners, particularly the K-1 population.

A community member requested guidance for when there is an asymptomatic child in a house that has other family members that are symptomatic. Dr. Austin responded that he hoped that family members would keep the asymptomatic children home while the family is waiting for test results and that the student would participate in remote learning. The community member suggested that the administration include that guidance in the school's communications. There was also a request that the administration provide more context in the communications that are distributed to notify the community of a positive COVID-19 test.

5. **Communications**

- 5.1 Dr. Austin advised that there is a new format for the school calendar that includes a supplemental cultural calendar. Michelle Ayer added that the purpose of the cultural calendar is to make the community and staff aware of cultural or religious holidays for planning and scheduling purposes.

6. **Unfinished Business**

None

7. **New Business**

- 7.1 Liza O'Reilly, Chair of the Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee, provided an update on the Memorandum of Agreement with the Hingham Education Association (HEA) Unit A regarding the reopening of schools and the 2020-2021 School Year. She advised that the agreement is a supplement to the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hingham School Committee and the Hingham Education Association and also builds off of the two Memorandums of Understanding that were reached with the HEA in the spring of 2020. Ms. O'Reilly reviewed the schedule of negotiations and noted that one of the unique challenges of the negotiations was the scheduling of the legal representatives on both sides, who also represented other school districts. Because every school district in the state was conducting negotiations at the same time, the scheduling challenges extended the timeline for completion of the negotiations. Ms. O'Reilly explained that the School Committee had already discussed the agreement in Executive Session, as is permitted by open meeting law, and that the HEA had already ratified the agreement.

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

It was

Voted: To ratify the Memorandum of Agreement by and between the Hingham School Committee and the Hingham Education Association Unit A regarding the Reopening of Schools and the 2020-2021 School year as a supplement to the 2020-2023 Collective Bargaining Agreement and also including the COVID Exposure Procedure.

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jen Benham – aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Carlos AF Da Silva – aye
Libby Lewiecki – aye
Liza O'Reilly – aye
Kerry Ni – aye

Ms. O'Reilly advised that the Committee was not taking public questions or comments on the Agreement at this time. She used screen sharing to display the Agreement and advised that it would

be posted on the Hingham Public Schools website. Questions on the Agreement can be directed to Dr. Austin, Chair Kerry Ni, or Liza O'Reilly.

- 7.2 The Committee considered nineteen Home School applications. Dr. Austin stated that he had reviewed the applications and they meet the standards for home instruction. He commented that the overall number of home school applications is higher than normal due to the COVID-19 situation. He recommended approval of the applications by the School Committee.

On a motion by Carlos AF Da Silva and seconded by Michelle Ayer,

It was

Voted: To approve the Home School applications for the nineteen students as recommended by the Superintendent.

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham – aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Carlos AF Da Silva – aye

Libby Lewiecki – aye

Liza O'Reilly – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

- 7.3 The Committee received notification of the appointments for the 2020-2021 school year of Meaghan Foote – Long Term Substitute Grade 1 at East Elementary; Elizabeth Vuckovic – Speech Language Pathologist at Plymouth River School; Alison Costa - Grade 5 Teacher at Foster School; Olivia Richards – Science Teacher at Hingham High School; Maureen Nauyokas – Paraeducator at HMS; Michaela Connors – Paraeducator at Foster School; Susan Carey – Paraeducator at HMS; Amanda Lawlor – Paraeducator at Foster School, and Lisa White – Executive Assistant to the Director of Student Services.
- 7.4 The Committee received notification of advancements on the salary scale on September 1, 2020 of Jamie von Freymann to M; Magdalena Ross to M+30; Susanne Hallisey to M+60.

8. **Subcommittee and Project Reports**

Michelle Ayer advised she will be scheduling a Special Education Subcommittee meeting and that she has discussed subcommittee goals with Dr. Vinnos. Ms. Ayer also acknowledged that today was World's Teachers' Day and commented on the fantastic professional educational staff of the district. She advised that the staff is exhibiting tremendous courage and fortitude this year and thanked them for all that they are doing.

Nes Correnti advised that Hingham Education Foundation (HEF) has an upcoming meeting. She also provided an update from the September 22, 2020 Finance Subcommittee meeting. The Town of Hingham was allocated \$3.3 Million dollars from the Plymouth County Cares program for COVID-related expenses. The Town must submit all eligible reimbursements by December 30, 2020. The items need to be ordered, received, and expenses incurred by 12/30/2020 to be eligible for reimbursement. Ms. Correnti provided a breakdown of the \$688,000 that was submitted to date. There are projections for up to \$3 Million in total school reopening costs. Ms. Correnti also advised that the district is looking for additional space through short term lease options. There are no additional transportation costs and no nursing hires. Ms. Correnti provided an update on the FY21 budget, expenditures and revenues. She advised that she has been appointed to sign warrants and that there were a group of warrants that she had recently signed that were included in the School Committee packet. The next Finance Subcommittee meeting will be held with the full participation of the School Committee on October 21, 2020 at 5:30.

Carlos Da Silva advised that the Capital and Facilities Subcommittee will be meeting on October 27, 2020. He also advised that he forwarded several flyers from SNAP (Special Needs Athletic Partnership) to the Committee and Dr. Austin.

Libby Lewiecki advised that the Community Outreach Subcommittee is in the process of scheduling a morning and an evening Coffee with the Superintendent and will advertise them as soon as possible.

Liza O'Reilly advised that the Master Plan Subcommittee met to continue to refine the goals of the Master Plan. There will be a public forum held on October 28, 2020 to share a draft of the Master Plan and to receive public comment.

Kerry Ni advised that the Policy Subcommittee met on October 1, 2020 to continue reviewing the Instruction Policies and, upon completion, will provide the document to the school staff for input and feedback. The Subcommittee will meet on October 14, 2020 to review Section D of the policy (Financial Management). Chair Ni also advised that she and Michelle Ayer joined the All Town PTO meeting. Invited to that meeting were the PTO presidents, and representatives from the Hingham Education Foundation, METCO, and SEPAC. The PTO presidents advised that the parents have started to re-engage and are sharing best practices. The Hingham Education Foundation is looking into teacher and administrator grants. Coffees were held over the summer with METCO. SEPAC has an upcoming Rights & Responsibilities Workshop; dates and times will be posted on their Facebook page.

Carlos Da Silva advised that on October 6, 2020 there would be a presentation by the Hingham Recreation Department regarding a study that was completed on Field and Court updates.

9. **Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting.**

Chair Ni advised that a member of the School Committee would be appointed to the Equity Taskforce and that interested members should notify Chair Ni.

Chair Ni advised that Carlos Da Silva has volunteered to represent the Hingham School Committee at the MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) Convention on November 7, 2020.

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

It was

Voted: To adjourn at 7:42 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

Documents Included:

My Drive > SC 10/5/2020 ▾ 👤

Name ↑

	Agenda_2020_1005.pdf 👤
	Annotated 10-5-20 SC Agenda v2).pdf 👤
	Item 2.1 Minutes for Approval for meeting held on 2020_0921.pdf 👤
	Item 7.1a- Hingham MOA Final Draft 9.25.20 v2.pdf 👤
	Item 7.1b-Hingham MOA Final Draft 9.25.20 - highlights noted v2.pdf 👤
	Item 7.1c- COVID Exposure Procedure_Final 9.18.20 (1).pdf 👤
	Item 7.2 Home School Applications.pdf 👤
	Item 8 - Finance subcommittee update 8.7.20.pdf 👤
	Item 8 - Finance subcommittee update 9.22.20.pdf 👤
	Item 8 - Incremental Expense Projections (1).xlsx 👤
	Item 8 - Warrants.pdf 👤
