

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

December 16, 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 in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording. Chair Ni advised that the Harbor Media was 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, John Ferris

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

2. The Committee reviewed a licensing agreement for the former St. Jerome's School in Weymouth. Dr. Austin advised the Committee that they had a licensing agreement in their packet that had been reviewed by the town attorneys. He advised that the Board of Selectmen had already approved it, contingent upon the approval of the School Committee at this meeting. The agreement goes through July 31, 2021 in order to allow time to clean and pack up at the end of the school year. John Ferris added that that the district has a cleaning company ready to begin cleaning and that the district has purchased technology equipment that is currently stored at the Middle School. Comcast will complete their connections around January 6, 2021.

Liza O'Reilly questioned Section 10 of the agreement regarding snow removal. Mr. Ferris advised that the Parish would complete the snow removal and the district will reimburse the Parish. Ms. O'Reilly also questioned why the Town Administrator receives notices required by the license agreement and not the Superintendent. Mr. Ferris advised that the license is the town's obligation and that the town's attorneys have been guiding the process for the licensing agreement.

Michelle Ayer requested that Dr. Austin and Mr. Ferris provide a general overview to the community regarding the rationale for securing St. Jerome's. Dr. Austin advised that the building fit the size criteria that the district needed. Additionally, the building had new windows, furniture in place, and technology in place. Mr. Ferris added that the building's proximity to the Foster School was an added benefit. Dr. Austin added that because this facility was a school building, it met much of the district's criteria, including classrooms with SMART Boards, handicap accessibility, and an office with intercom system.

Carlos Da Silva questioned the \$17,000/month cost, which he had expected to be approximately \$7,000. Additionally, he expected that the building would have been cleaned prior to the district's receipt of the building so that the district could make use of building as quickly as possible. Mr. Ferris responded that he was not aware of any prior discussion of a rent as low as \$7,000. He advised that the going rate was between \$6 - \$10 per foot. This property was approximately \$6.80/ft. He advised that the Parish was not willing to invest money into the building because this is a short term lease for a building that they will not continue to use. Mr. Ferris advised that he felt the rate was fair. The cleaning will be a COVID reimbursable expense and he has Service Master prepared to clean. Mr. Ferris estimated that the total cost to get the building ready, including cleaning and technology, would be approximately \$100,000 with an additional \$50,000 in operating costs to run the school through the end of the school year. Dr. Austin added that he needs to identify staff for the building.

Chair Kerry Ni asked if additional information would be provided at the 12/21/20 School Committee meeting on how the space at St. Jerome's will be used. Dr. Austin confirmed that he intends to provide additional information at that meeting.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the licensing agreement between the Archdiocese of Boston and the Town of Hingham as provided in the School Committee Packet.

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

3. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Dr. Austin advised that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) voted unanimously to invite Hingham into the Feasibility Phase of the Foster School project. The MSBA also voted to accept the Plymouth River School into the Accelerated Repair Program for the replacement of windows. Dr. Austin thanked the community members who have supported this effort and stated that this was a great win for the town. There was additional discussion regarding the timeline for the project.

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

It was

Voted: To adjourn at 7:24 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:

Name

 St. Jerome School License (BD144884xB04F6)-Signed by Town.pdf 
 Revised License (School) (BD144730xB04F6) Final 12.15.20 (2).docx 
 Agenda_2020_1216.pdf 