

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 15, 2021

Remote meeting via Zoom

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Kerry Ni called the meeting to order at 6:00 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. No other participants indicated that they would be recording the meeting.

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

Central Office Present: Paul Austin

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

2. On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Michelle Ayer, it was

Voted: To enter into Executive Session and to reconvene in Open Session for the purposes of:

- a. Approving minutes of the Executive Session held on March 8, 2021
- b. Discussing strategy related to collective bargaining negotiations with HEA Unit A

the public discussion of which may be detrimental to the Committee's bargaining position.

Michelle Ayer - aye
Jennifer Benham - aye
Nes Correnti - aye
Libby Lewiecki – aye
Liza O'Reilly – aye
Kerry Ni – aye

The meeting entered into Executive Session at 6:03.

3. Chair Ni reconvened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Chair Ni re-read the above statement regarding remote meetings and recording and advised that 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, Suzanne Vinnes, John Ferris, Susan D’Amato

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

4. Approval of Minutes

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 March 8, 2021

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jennifer Benham - aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Carlos AF Da Silva – aye

Libby Lewiecki – aye

Liza O’Reilly – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

5. Unfinished Business: None

6. New Business:

6.1 Dr. Austin shared a proposal for the increased in-person learning for secondary students. The presentation included:

- Reasons to bring students back to in-person learning, including the order from the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education regarding an end to the hybrid learning model
- A proposal of a phased-in approach to a full in-person learning model for grades 6-8, and grades 9-12
- Reasons supporting the phased-in approach
- Challenges to consider such as physical distancing in class, during lunch, and in elective classes
- Noting the risks involved with a return to in-person learning, and the mitigation steps to be taken to address the risk of COVID-19 transmission among students and staff

Committee member Michelle Ayer stated that she and Committee member Kerry Ni hosted student forums remotely and noted that the students were engaged in the sessions, and excited to return to school. The Committee also asked questions about changes to student schedules, and the percentage of students involved in the pool testing.

Questions and Comments from the Community included:

- Concerns about physical distancing of students and the mixing of cohorts
- Questions regarding the frequency and early morning scheduling of pool testing, as well as the funding for the testing
- Questions regarding remote learning for High School students and if remote students would have the same teacher as those choosing in-person learning
- A question asking if there is flexibility in the start date of in-person learning
- Concerns about bus safety with regard to physical distancing

On a motion by Carlos AF Da Silva and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was

Voted: To approve the Administrative Proposal for Increasing In-Person Learning as recommended by the Superintendent.

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jennifer Benham - aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Carlos AF Da Silva – aye

Libby Lewiecki – aye

Liza O’Reilly – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

6.2 Dr. Austin reviewed a presentation that provided an update on the FY22 Budget. The presentation included:

- A review of the budget guiding principles.
- A summary of changes to the Budget since 1/7/21. The preliminary budget after changes is now \$61,362,019, which is an increase of 8.16%.
- A review of all budget adjustments

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

It was

Voted: To approve the Proposed Budget of \$61,362,019 to be presented at Town Meeting for FY 2022

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jennifer Benham - aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Carlos AF Da Silva – aye

Libby Lewiecki – aye

Liza O’Reilly – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

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

None

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

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 8:23PM



Michelle Ayer – aye
Jennifer 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:

 [Agenda_2021_0315.pdf](#) 

 [Item 4 - Minutes of the March 8 2021 Meeting.pdf](#) 

 [Item 6.1 Administrative Proposal for Increasing In-Person Lea...](#) 

 [Item 6.2 FY 22 - Budget Update 3.15.21 \(1\).pdf](#) 