



April 27, 2021

Dear HPS Families,

Thank you to those who were able to attend last night's School Committee meeting, which included Dr. Austin's update on COVID-19 and in-person learning, an update on the work of the District's Equity team, a report on the District's Seal of Biliteracy results, and a report on the District's Math curriculum. Additional details are outlined below and a full recording of the meeting will be available on the [Harbor Media School Committee playlist](#).

Please see the end of this email for a list of upcoming meetings, including Town Meeting on May 8 at 2:00 P.M. (rain dates May 15 and May 16) which will decide next year's budget.

### **April 26 School Committee Meeting Highlights**

Superintendent's Report:

- Dr. Austin gave an update on the [District health metrics](#) and the most recent results of staff PCR and student pooled testing. The number of cases during the week prior to April break were slightly higher than the previous week and the District continues to monitor cases in the school community. Many students participated in the pooled testing offered at the end of April break. The testing identified one positive pool, which contained one positive case.
- On April 21, the Governor announced [revised guidelines](#) on close contacts, effective immediately. Close contacts who are exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom or on the bus are not required to quarantine unless they were within 3 feet of the COVID-19 positive individual for a total of 15 minutes during a 24-hour period, provided that both individuals were masked during the exposure. This does not apply if someone was identified as a close contact outside of the classroom or bus (e.g., in sports, extra-curriculars, lunch, etc.). All other close contacts must follow the standard protocol for when a close contact may return to school.
- Dr. Austin reminded attendees of the importance of continuing to adhere to mitigation protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and our community to allow for a successful continuation of full in-person learning.
- Dr. Austin gave an update on the in-person learning plan for secondary students. As of Monday, April 26, all HPS students attend school five days per week. Grades 1-8 attend 5 full days per week. Grades 9-12 may attend 5 full days per

week. HHS students may attend their directed studies remotely, with parent consent. In the near future, the MA Commissioner of Education is expected to end the hybrid learning option at the High School level, at which point all in-person students should plan to attend full days. As in past years, Seniors will be allowed early dismissal at the end of the school day if they do not have a scheduled class.

- ***Update: on April 27 the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education eliminated the hybrid learning option for High School students as of May 17. You can read the new guidance [here](#).***
- You can view Dr. Austin's full report [here](#).

#### Equity Team Update

- Dr. Labillois updated the Committee on the work of the Equity team. To date, the team:
  - Defined an equity vision for the District
  - Conducted a SWOT (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis with feedback from the leadership team, District faculty and staff, the District's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), and the District's Parent-Teacher Organization (PTOs)
  - Participated in a Leadership Team introductory training with Kathy Lopes, METCO
  - Held Summer and school year book groups
  - Conducted an Elementary classroom library audit & book selection
  - Conducted implicit bias training (March 2020)
- Moving forward, the team will:
  - Conduct a series of Courageous Conversations with affinity groups in the District
    - Students, families and alumni can sign up to participate in the Courageous Conversation series [here](#).
  - Oversee the District's Equity Audit
  - Meet regularly to discuss implementation and roll-out strategy relative to the District's developing Equity and Inclusion Plan
  - Office of Student Services working with DESE on Disproportionality Planning
  - Continue to participate in the Harvard Graduate School of Education [RIDES](#) (Reimagining Integration for Diverse and Equitable Schools) Program, led by Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson (HPS Coach) & Dr. Lee Teitel, which focuses on a systematic cycle of improvement
  - Participate in the [Suffolk University Center for Restorative Justice Partnership](#)
- You can view the updated Equity page on the HPS website [here](#).

#### District Seal of Biliteracy Results:

- HPS World Languages Director Erica Pollard presented the District Seal of Biliteracy results. The State Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by state-approved districts that recognizes high school graduates who attain high

functional and academic levels of proficiency in both English and a world language after studying and attaining proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation.

- The District tested 82 students in Chinese, Spanish, French and Latin.
  - 1 student received the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction (ACTFL advanced low)
  - 41 students received the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy (ACTFL intermediate high)
  - 45 students received the LOC Bilingual Achievement Award (ACTFL intermediate mid)
  - 26 students received the LOC Bilingual Attainment Award (ACTFL intermediate low)
- You can learn more about the HPS World Languages program [here](#). The School Committee congratulates the students who participated and the staff and families who supported them!

### Math Curriculum Report

- Math Department Director Dave Jewett presented a report on the HPS Math Curriculum. Changes to the department since the 2016 update include:
  - The [Massachusetts Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks](#) were updated in 2017, providing the department an opportunity to re-examine the progression of standards across elementary, middle, and high schools.
  - A computer based MCAS 2.0 required substantial professional development to ensure that students had the necessary digital tools, skills, and technology language.
  - Several new Math courses were added:
    - Introduction to Computer Science
    - Advanced Placement Computer Science A – Coding
    - Level 3 Algebra 1 Quadratic Emphasis in Grade 8
    - Level 3 Pre-Algebra for Grade 7
    - Accelerated College Preparatory Sequence
    - New Special Education Math Classes
    - Grade 6 Title I Math Support
- Goals of the Math Department include:
  - Implementing a consistent tiered system of support at elementary and middle school levels that entails a structured alignment of staffing and consistent tools used for monitoring and intervention.
  - Stabilize a long-term plan for the Computer Science Program at the secondary level that consists of multiple curricular offerings and the staffing to meet the student need.
  - Establishment of a Math Department based website.
  - Exploration and potential development of an accelerated gifted and talented sequence for mathematics learners.
  - Make decisions about long-term use of technology in the mathematics classroom.
  - Evaluate the Accelerated College Prep Sequence.

- Determine a solution for the future of common assessment practices.
- The full report will be available on the [HPS Math Department Website](#).

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

If you have questions or concerns, please email your [School Committee members](#).

### **Upcoming Meeting Details**

#### **Office Hours with the School Committee**

Tuesday, April 27 @ 7:00 PM

Meeting ID: 815 0036 8478

Passcode: HPS

Website: <https://zoom.us/join>

#### **Special Education Parent Advisory Council Forum**

Monday, May 3 @ 7:00 PM

Hingham Middle School

#### **Town Meeting**

Saturday, May 8 @ 2:00 PM

Turf Field

Hingham High School

#### **School Committee Meeting**

Monday May 10 @ 7:00PM

Agenda with Zoom information will be posted [here](#).

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