

**MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

March 22, 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, Carlos A.F. DaSilva, Libby Lewiecki, Liza O'Reilly, Michelle Ayer, Nes Correnti, Jennifer Benham

Central Office Present: Dr. Paul Austin, Dr. James LaBillois

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

2. On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Carlos A.F. DaSilva, it was **voted**:

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

1. Approving minutes of the Executive Session held on March 15, 2021.
2. To discuss a Memorandum of Agreement with the Hingham Education Association (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  
Carlos A.F. DaSilva  
Libby Lewiecki – aye  
Liza O'Reilly – aye  
Kerry Ni – aye

**The meeting entered into Executive Session at 6:02.**

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 A.F. Da Silva, Libby Lewiecki, Liza O'Reilly, Michelle Ayer, Nes Correnti, and Jennifer Benham

Central Office Present: Dr. Paul Austin, Dr. James LaBillois, Dr. Suzanne Vinnes, John Ferris, and SusanD'Amato

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

4. **Action from Executive Session**

Chair Ni stated that the Memorandum of Agreement with the Hingham Education Association (HEA) Unit A is not ready for a vote at this meeting.

5. **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Carlos AF Da Silva and seconded by Nes Correnti,

It was **voted**: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on March 15, 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

6. **Questions and Comments from the Community Included:**

- Community member Nicole Lytle stated that she is a teacher, but is speaking as a representative of the community not a staff member. Ms. Lytle voiced concern regarding the return to school prior to teachers being fully vaccinated. She stated she is concerned with physical distancing between faculty and students, and worried that families will travel during April vacation.

7. **Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Austin gave a presentation that included:

- Updates of the COVID-19 health data in the community and in HPS
- Updates on the results of staff testing and student pool testing
- COVID-19 testing considerations
- New travel requirements
- Details on increasing in-person learning for all students
- Committee member Liza O’Reilly asked if the reason for the recent quarantine of athletic teams was a result of the teams being exposed by an opposing team, or from one of their own teammates. Athletic Director Jim Quatromoni was on the call and he answered that the reason for the quarantine was exposure from a Hingham teammate in both cases
- Committee member Carlos A.F. DaSilva stated that he has witnessed situations when the mask policy was not being adhered to, and asked for better enforcement by the coaches.

8. **Communications**

8.1 Student Communications: Student Representative Carly Kennedy provided an update from the schools. She stated that there were recent student forums held with the School Committee in which many students participated and shared their enthusiasm about going back to school. Ms. Kennedy described a recent fundraising event during which fifteen High School students participated in the Polar Plunge and raised more than \$6,000 for the Best Buddies organization. She also noted that many student athletes on the Lacrosse team participated in a fundraiser by shaving their heads to support Children’s Hospital, and that students at the High School were surveyed about their heritage as part of a Unity project.

Chair Ni noted that the Committee enjoyed hearing from the students that took part in the forums with the School Committee. Chair Ni also noted that the ACES Committee voted to recommend the FY22 proposed

budget and it will be discussed at this week's Board of Selectmen meeting and the meeting of the Advisory Committee.

9. **Unfinished Business:** There was no discussion under this item.

10. **New Business**

10.1 The School Committee received the Fall II 2020-2021 High School Coaching recommendations.

10.2 The Committee heard a report on the High School Athletic Program:

High School Athletic Director Jim Quatromoni was present along with High School teacher, Dr. Philip Struzziero. Mr. Quatromoni described a survey that was done and focus groups that met as part of a self-study of the Athletic Department, done to better understand the experience of student athletes and to develop better relationships with the student athletes and their families. He explained that this is a preliminary report, and a more detailed report will be presented in June.

Mr. Quatromoni and Dr. Struzziero reviewed the results of the survey and discussed the findings from data obtained from coaches, parents, and student athletes.

Comments from the Committee: Chair Kerry Ni thanked Mr. Quatromoni and Dr. Struzziero for their efforts and for explaining the results of the survey and findings brought about by the focus groups. Committee member Carlos A.F. DaSilva suggested that the opinions of alumni may be helpful. Committee member Liza O'Reilly suggested that it may be beneficial to have focus groups with the student athletes when parents are not also present.

Comments and questions from the public included:

- a question regarding if the student athletes surveyed included Junior Varsity as well as Varsity players
- concerns that the results were too mathematical and perhaps not personal
- a suggestion perhaps Alumni should be considered to participate

10.3 The Committee received the notification of the resignations for the 2020-2021 school year of the following employees:

Administrative Assistant Jeannine Banner (effective 3/12/2021); Paraprofessionals Christopher Johnson (effective 2/26/2021), Nicole Fasoli (effective 3/5/2021), Michelle Grigalunas (effective 3/12/2021) and Kelly Walsh (effective 3/19/2021).

11. **Subcommittee and Project Reports**

- Jen Benham reported that the PTO has been working to assist teachers in obtaining vaccination appointments.
- Nes Correnti noted that in the School Committee packet there are Finance Subcommittee reports as well as warrants signed. She also noted that Kindergarten registration packets are due at the end of March.
- Libby Lewiecki reported that the Community Outreach Subcommittee has an upcoming meeting to hear about a private school called RootPods, and to hear about website development to enhance access for those with disabilities. She also stated that the South School Council has an upcoming meeting.
- Liza O'Reilly reported that the draft of the Master Plan is available to view on the town website. She also stated that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee has a meeting this week with the Bus Driver's Union and will schedule another meeting with HEA.
- Kerry Ni reported that there will be a golf tournament in June to benefit the SNAP program.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Libby Lewiecki

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 8:10PM

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:

- [PDF Agenda Annotated 3-22\\_2021\\_0322.pdf](#) 

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- [PDF Agenda\\_2021\\_0322.pdf](#) 

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- [PDF FY 22 - Budget Update 3.22.21.pdf](#) 

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- [PDF Item 5. 03\\_15\\_21 Minutes.pdf](#) 

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- [PDF Item 7: Superintendent Report\\_2021\\_0322.pdf](#) 

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- [PDF Item 10.1 Coaching Recommendations Fall II season.pdf](#) 

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- [PDF Item 10.2 SCFGOutline.pdf](#) 

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- [PDF Item 10.2 SCPrelimReportFINAL.pdf](#) 

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- [PDF Item 11.1a Finance Subcommittee Update\\_3.2.21.pdf](#) 

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- [PDF Item 11.1b Finance Subcommittee Update\\_3.12.21.pdf](#) 

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- [PDF Item 11.2 Warrants Signed.pdf](#) 