

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

April 26, 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, Liza O'Reilly, Michelle Ayer, Nes Correnti, Jennifer Benham

Central Office Present: Superintendent Paul Austin, Ph.D.

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

2. Executive Session: 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

1. To discuss strategy regarding negotiations with the Bus Drivers and Food Service Workers associations for collective bargaining agreements for 2020-2023
2. To discuss strategy regarding negotiations with HEA Unit A regarding an MOA for the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year
3. To discuss strategy regarding negotiations with non-union personnel for contract negotiations

the public discussion of which would 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. DaSilva, 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 Susan D’Amato

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

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 On a motion by Carlos AF Da Silva and seconded by Jennifer Benham,
It was **voted**: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on April 5, 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

4.2 On a motion by Carlos AF Da Silva and seconded by Jennifer Benham,
It was **voted**: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on April 12, 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. Questions and Comments from the Community included

- A request to make a greater shift to full in-person learning and questions about the quarantine policy when planning for the fall of 2021
- A statement of support for the proposed budget
- A request for information with regard to the plan for the fall of 2021
- A question regarding the continuation of the student pool testing
- A concern of spacing and the ability for students to remain socially distant at the Foster Elementary School, and a question as to whether rental space will continue to be in use next year
- A question about the end of the day study periods at the High School

6. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Austin gave a presentation that included:

- COVID-19 Update
- New “close-contact” rules regarding quarantine
- Update on Increase of In-person Learning
- Information regarding the establishment of a Reopening Committee to prepare for the 2021-2022 School Year.
- SSEC Update to the School Committee: Dr. Austin stated that this information was in the packet, and it was not discussed as there were no questions.

7. Communications

- 7.1 Student Communication: Carly Kennedy: Ms. Kennedy reported that today was the first full day back for students. She stated that today marks the kick-off to the spring sports season, and that the National Honors Society Induction Ceremony was held in person before vacation. She also noted that the Unity Project Team organized a game of catch in honor of Jackie Robinson, in an effort to promote unity and inclusion. Ms. Kennedy also shared that there is a new therapy dog on the premises at the High School. She stated that the Student Council was able to meet in person, and that the class of 2021 recently held a voter registration drive.
- 7.2 Communications Received by the Superintendent: none
- 7.3 Other Communications: Chair Ni noted receipt of a memo from the Climate Action Committee explaining a warrant article for the upcoming Town Meeting.

8. Unfinished Business

- 8.1 Equity Team Update: Dr. LaBillois gave an update on the work of the Equity team that included
- An update of the status of the Equity Audit being done
 - Details about the Harvard RIDES program (Reimagining Integration for Diverse and Equitable Schools)
 - Information about a partnership with Suffolk University's Center for Restorative Justice
 - Steps being taken such as the review of policies and handbooks, and professional development planning
- 8.2 Update on FY '21 Operating Budget: Director of Business and Support Services, John Ferris reviewed the FY'21 Operating Budget, discussing spending and savings during the course of the 2020-2021 School Year.

9. New Business

- 9.1 Report of the District Seal of Biliteracy Results: World Languages Director Erica Pollard gave a presentation that detailed student progress with regard to the State Seal of Biliteracy, which is an award given to students who attain high levels of proficiency in both English and a World Language.
- 9.2 Report of the District Math Curriculum: Director of Mathematics Dave Jewett gave a presentation detailing the progress of the math program since the introduction of Everyday Math and the alignment to the Massachusetts Frameworks four years ago. Mr. Jewett also described the course offerings available to middle and high school students, and discussed strengths of the district's math curriculum.
- 9.3 To consider proposed policy manual Section I (Instruction)
On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,
It was **voted:** To approve Section I in form
- Michelle Ayer – aye
Jennifer Benham - aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Carlos AF Da Silva – aye
Libby Lewiecki – aye
Liza O'Reilly – aye
Kerry Ni – aye
- 9.4 To consider policy manual section K: Chair Ni noted this was the first read. There were no comments or questions at this time.

9.5 Timeline to begin in-person School Committee meetings:
The Committee discussed a willingness to return to in-person meetings as soon as it is possible. Chair Ni noted that community engagement has increased with remote access to meetings, and in the future it will be important to work with the town and Harbor Media to continue that access. Chair Ni stated that she would reach out to the town to find out if any planning has begun regarding a return to in-person meetings.

9.6 To hear the proposed per diem rates including extended school year services wages.
Dr. Austin and Director of Business and Support Services, John Ferris explained the increases in the proposed per diem rates.

On a motion by Carlos AF Da Silva and seconded by Michelle Ayer,
It was **voted**: To approve the per diem rates 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

9.7 The School Committee received notification of the resignation of Paraprofessional Karen McGourty (effective 4/13/21) and Paraprofessional Andrew Rubino (effective 4/1/2021).

10. Subcommittee and Project Reports/ Warrants Signed

Michelle Ayer reported that the High School Advisory Council meeting will be held this week and that they are hoping to schedule a Special Education Subcommittee meeting soon, and that next Monday May 3rd is the SEPAC Town Hall at the Hingham Middle School.

Nes Correnti noted the finance warrants signed that are in the packet, and she stated that the East School Council met on April 14th.

Carlos DaSilva reported that the Capital and Facilities Committee recently met. He stated that the Foster School project discussion is moving along as is the discussion of the replacement of the Plymouth River School windows.

Jen Benham stated that the Foster School Council has a meeting scheduled on May 5th.

Libby Lewiecki stated that the South School Council is meeting this week.

Liza O’Reilly stated she gave the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee report during the Executive Session, and she also reported that the Middle School Council will be meeting tomorrow.

Kerry Ni reported that the Policy Subcommittee hopes to have a meeting the following week.

11. Other items not reasonably known 48 hours in advance of the meeting

Dr. Austin noted that this week was Administrative Assistants Appreciation Week and thanked them for all their hard work. He also acknowledged that next week is Teacher Appreciation Week and he noted that this year was one with unprecedented challenges, and he is thankful for all that the teachers have done for the students. Dr. Austin encouraged people who need to register a child for Kindergarten to please do so as soon as possible.

12. Adjourn

On a motion by Carlos AF DaSilva and seconded by Michelle Ayer

It was
Voted: To Adjourn at 10:02 PM

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:

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-  [Agenda Revised_2021_0426.pdf](#) 

 -  [Annotated Agenda_2021_0426 \(2\).pdf](#) 

 -  [Item 4.1 04_05_21 Minutes.pdf](#) 

 -  [Item 4.2 04_12_21 Minutes.pdf](#) 

 -  [Item 6 Superintendent's Update_\(Draft\) 2021_0426.pdf](#) 

 -  [Item 8.1 Equity Update 4.26.21.pdf](#) 

 -  [Item 8.2 Forecast April 2021.pdf](#) 

 -  [Item 8.2 Incremental Covid Spending April 2021.pdf](#) 

 -  [Item 9.1 Seal of Biliteracy Results 2020-21.pdf](#) 

 -  [Item 9.2 Mathematics Program Review 2021.pdf](#) 

 -  [Item 9.2.a Mathematics Program Review 2021 Appendix.pdf](#) 

 -  [Item 9.3 I Section.pdf](#) 

 -  [Item 9.4 K Section.pdf](#) 

 -  [Item 9.6 Proposed Per Diem Rates for FY 22 V2.pdf](#) 

 -  [Item 10 Warrants Signed.pdf](#) 

 -  [SSEC Update.pdf](#) 