

**Minutes of the Hingham School Committee
June 21, 2021**

Hingham School Department, 220 Central Street
Remote Access via Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Kerry Ni.

The meeting was held in person, and was also available on Zoom to allow for remote participation.

Members Present: Kerry Ni, Michelle Ayer, Nes Correnti, Jennifer Benham, and Tim Dempsey

Central Office Present: Superintendent Dr. Paul Austin, Assistant Superintendent Dr. James LaBillois, Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris, and Director of Human Resources Susan D’Amato

Visitors Present: June Gustafson, Patricia Wanty, Alisa Zimmerman, Nancy Flanagan, Beverly Vernon, Jen Van Gelder Gallagher

2. **Executive Session:**

On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Michelle Ayer 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 May 24, 2021.
2. To discuss a Memorandum of Agreement with the Hingham Education Association (HEA) Unit A
3. To discuss a Memorandum of Agreement with the Food Service Workers’ Union
4. To discuss Memorandums of Agreement with non-union administrators Mary Eastwood, Derek Smith, Beth Wilcox, and Suzanne Vignes
the public discussion of which would be detrimental to the Committee’s bargaining position.

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jennifer Benham – aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Kerry Ni - aye

3. **Open Session:** The Open Session reconvened and was called to order at 7:00 PM by Kerry Ni.

- 3.1 Action from Executive Session:

1. On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti,
It was **voted:** To approve an amendment to the HEA Unit A Memorandum of Agreement to add four personal days to be available in perpetuity, with the limitation that multiple days will not be utilized in the 2021-2022 school year, in addition a joint statement between Dr. Austin and HEA Unit A memorializing this agreement will be delivered to HEA members.

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jennifer Benham – aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Kerry Ni - aye

2. To consider a Memorandum of Agreement with the Food Services Union and act as appropriate.
Chair Ni stated that they are not yet ready to act on this item, and that the Committee will address

this at a future meeting.

3. Dr. Austin recommended the approval of the contracts of Mary Eastwood, Principal of South Elementary School, Derek Smith, Principal of Hingham Middle School, Beth Wilcox, Principal of Foster Elementary School, and Suzanne Vinnes, Director of Student Services.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti,

It was **voted**: To approve the terms of the contracts for Mary Eastwood, Derek Smith, Beth Wilcox, and Suzanne Vinnes as recommended by the Superintendent

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jennifer Benham - aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Kerry Ni - aye

4. **Approval of Minutes**

4.1 On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham,
It was **voted**: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on June 7, 2021

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jennifer Benham - aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Tim Dempsey - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

5. **Questions and Comments from the Community:**

- Eliza Burns called in with a question regarding the license status of the Superintendent
- Wendy Driscoll commented regarding children wearing masks indoors during summer programs

6. **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Austin gave a presentation that included:

- Recognition of retiring teachers

7. **Communications**

7.2 Chair Ni stated that the mask policy will be discussed this evening. She also stated that she had received several emails regarding the status of Dr. Austin's Massachusetts temporary license and explained that his license is still valid because of the COVID extension, and that Dr. Austin is completing the steps for professional licensure status and that they are confident that this will be accomplished within the necessary time frame.

8. **Unfinished Business:**

8.1 FY' 21 Financial Update: Director of Business John Ferris updated the Committee on the current status of the FY 21 budget, discussing the money from the CARES Act. If we receive all the CARES reimbursement the district has submitted, could have a positive variance of \$800k - \$1 million. Mr. Ferris noted that he will have more details soon.

9. **New Business**

9.1 To discuss a proposed Field Trip to Santa Fe in April 2022, and act as appropriate: Dr. Austin discussed the proposed trip to Santa Fe organized by Rose Papuga at the High School through the Fine Arts Program, and recommended approval
On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti,

It was **voted:** To approve the field trip to Santa Fe in April 2022

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jennifer Benham - aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Tim Dempsey - aye

Kerry Ni – aye

- 9.2 **To declare piano as surplus:** John Ferris explained Music Teacher Brian Cincotta let him know that there was a donor who would like to give a Baby Grand piano was to the High School, and it is better than the one they have, so they would like to request the old one to be the extra one as surplus and to see if it could be sold

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Michelle Ayer

It was **voted:** To declare the Yamaha Conservatory C3 Piano, serial number F 5280924 currently located at Hingham High School surplus and sell it to the highest bidder or otherwise dispose of it at the least cost to Hingham, where such disposal may include a donation to a non-profit or other organization.

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jennifer Benham - aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Tim Dempsey - aye

Kerry Ni – aye

- 9.3 **SEPAAC update:** Jen Van Gelder Gallagher gave an presentation regarding the role and activities of the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAAC) to advocate for students with disabilities in Hingham Public Schools.

- 9.4 **To approve field management plan as recommended by the Town of Hingham Recreation Department**

Jen Benham explained that the Policy Subcommittee met on June 11th to discuss the Hingham Outdoor Recreation Facilities Permit, noting that the Hingham Recreation Department is becoming central to the permitting process and the turf maintenance protocols. She stated that the subcommittee recommends three changes to the facilities permit.

Recreation Director Mark Thorell was present and explained that the Department is looking forward to working with the School Department and to having more resources to maintain and improve the fields in town.

On a motion by Jen Benham and seconded by Kerry Ni

It was **voted:** To allow the Hingham Recreation Department to assume responsibility for the School Department field maintenance and permitting process as recommended by the field study performed by Weston and Sampson

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jennifer Benham - aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Tim Dempsey - aye

Kerry Ni – aye

- 9.5 To receive notification of resignations: The Committee noted the list of resignations from the 2020-2021 school year that was in their meeting packet

9.6 To discuss the process of the Evaluation of the Superintendent: Chair Ni discussed the Committee's availability and also noted the evaluation rubric that was in the Committee's packet. The Committee discussed a timeline and agreed on the meeting to be held on August 9, 2021 for the formal evaluation.

10. **Subcommittee and Project Reports/ Warrants Signed**

Jen Benham reported that she attended a SNAP meeting and they discussed upcoming summer programs.

Nes Correnti reported that the signed warrants are in the meeting packet.

Michelle Ayer reported that the Building Committee has been meeting regarding the Plymouth River School's window project and the Foster School Building Committee has upcoming meeting to select and hire project architects. She also reported that the METCO parent coffee took place and that hopefully something in person can be held this summer, and that the High School Council met and discussed safety, green initiatives, and bringing the community back together.

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

On a motion by Michelle Ayer, and seconded by Nes Correnti

It was voted: To change the School Committee appointee to the Foster School architect selection process from Michelle Ayer to Jen Benham

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jennifer Benham - aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Tim Dempsey - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

Chair Ni explained that the current face mask policy needs to be rescinded in order to follow the new CDC and DESE guidance regarding allowing facemasks to be optional.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer, and seconded by Nes Correnti

It was voted: To rescind the mask policy 1.3

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jennifer Benham - aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Tim Dempsey - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

12. **Adjourn**

On a motion by Michelle Ayer, and seconded by Nes Correnti

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 8:04 PM

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jennifer Benham - aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Tim Dempsey - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

Respectfully Submitted By:
Nes Correnti

Documents Included:

 [Agenda_2021_0621.pdf](#) 

 [FY21 Retire-Resign List.xlsx - Sheet1.pdf](#) 

 [Item 4.1 06_07_21 Minutes.pdf](#) 

 [Item 8.1 Summary Cares Filing 6.21.21.pdf](#) 

 [Item 9.1 Proposed Field Trip to Santa Fe.pdf](#) 

 [Item 9.2 Grand Piano.pdf](#) 

 [Item 9.3 SEPAC Annual Report presentation 2020_21](#) 

 [Item 9.3 SEPAC Annual Report presentation 2020_21.pdf](#) 

 [Item 9.4 2021TownFieldMap\(5.11\).pdf](#) 

 [Item 9.4 2021TownOfHinghamOutdoorRecreationalFacilityPermit.pdf](#) 

 [Item 9.6 Superintendent's Evaluation Rubric.pdf](#) 

 [Item 10 Warrants Signed.pdf](#) 

 [Item 11 Face Mask Policy \(to rescind\).pdf](#) 
