

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

July 26, 2021

In person meeting with Remote Access via Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Kerry Ni.
The meeting was held in person, and was also available on Zoom to allow viewers to ask questions remotely.
Members Present: Kerry Ni, Michelle Ayer, Nes Correnti, Liza O'Reilly, Carlos A.F. DaSilva, and Jennifer Benham
Members Absent: 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: Raymond Estes, Linda Hill, Doris McCann
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti,
It was **voted:** To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on June 21, 2021

Michelle Ayer – aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Liza O'Reilly - aye
Carlos A.F. DaSilva - abstained
Jen Benham - aye
Kerry Ni – aye
3. **Questions and Comments from the Community:**
There were no questions at this time.
4. **Superintendent's Report:**
Dr. Austin made a statement thanking all members of the Hingham Public School Community for their support during his tenure, and for their well wishes as he and his family return home to Maine.
5. **Communications:**
Chair Ni stated that the Committee has received several questions this week with regard to whether or not masks will be required in school in the fall. She stated that the School Committee is not taking a position on this issue at this time, as they will continue to wait for guidance from DESE.
6. **Unfinished Business:**
Preliminary FY 2021 Budget Close: Director of Business and Support Services, John Ferris discussed the FY '21 Budget, noting specifics related to reimbursement from the CARES Act, and adjustments to be made that will offset the current negative balance.

7. **New Business**

7.1 **Interim Superintendent Candidates**

The School Committee discussed the candidates that interviewed for the Interim Superintendent position and on a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Carlos DaSilva,
It was **voted**: To offer a contract for the Interim Superintendent position to Dr. Gary Maestas

Michelle Ayer – aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Liza O’Reilly - aye
Carlos A.F. DaSilva - aye
Jen Benham - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

7.2 **Operating Protocols**

The School Committee noted the Operating Protocols that were in the meeting packet and
On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti,
It was **voted**: To adopt the School Committee Operating Protocols for the 2021-2022 School Year

Michelle Ayer – aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Liza O’Reilly - aye
Carlos A.F. DaSilva - aye
Jen Benham - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

7.3 **HR Update**

Director of Human Resources Susan D’Amato discussed the district’s efforts to fill vacancies with the most qualified candidates, noting that there have been 61 job postings for 21-22.

7.4 **Declaration of Surplus**

Director of Business John Ferris submitted information regarding a surplus of math textbooks.
On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti,
It was **voted**: To declare the math textbooks as surplus

Michelle Ayer – aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Liza O’Reilly - aye
Carlos A.F. DaSilva - aye
Jen Benham - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

7.5 **Driver’s Education Deficit**

Director of Business and Support Services, John Ferris explained the reasons that the Driver’s Education Program has a deficit. The School Committee members discussed the program and the desire to get more information and proposals that would keep the program going and to make it more sustainable. Doris McCann, a driving instructor in the program, spoke in support of finding ways to keep it in place. John Ferris recommended the use of the Building Revolving fund to cover the current deficit.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti,
It was **voted**: To approve the use of the Building Revolving Fund account to cover the deficit.

Michelle Ayer – aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Liza O'Reilly - aye
Carlos A.F. DaSilva - aye
Jen Benham - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

The Committee then discussed the benefits of the program and the desire to keep it running, if possible. The Committee agreed that they would like to get more information and hear proposals and business plans at a future meeting.

7.6 Wheel Chair Accessible Bus

Director of Business and Support Services, John Ferris explained that the district needs a wheelchair accessible bus, and discussed the details of the cost of the lease.

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

It was **voted**: To authorize the Director of Business and Support Services to enter into a five-year lease with DATTCO for a big yellow bus with wheelchair accessibility at an amount not to exceed \$15,000 annually.

Michelle Ayer – aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Liza O'Reilly - aye
Carlos A.F. DaSilva - aye
Jen Benham - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

7.7 Foster and PRS Projects

Vice Chair of the Foster School Building Committee, Ray Estes reported that the Committee is currently engaged in choosing an architect and the goal is to update the public again in August. Director of Business and Support Services, John Ferris updated the Committee on the progress of the Plymouth River Elementary School Windows Project, and explained that a vote needs to take place so the funding will be in place when the approval comes in. Mr. Ferris stated that Town Counsel John Coughlin is drafting the language for a vote. The School Committee agreed to have a vote at the next meeting.

7.8 Homeschool Applications

Dr. Austin recommended that the School Committee approve the two Homeschool Applications on the agenda, one for a student in grade 1, the other for grade 2.

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

It was **voted**: To approve the Homeschool applications for a student in grade 1, and another in grade 2, as recommended by the Superintendent for the 2021-2022 school year.

Michelle Ayer – aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Liza O'Reilly - aye
Carlos A.F. DaSilva - aye
Jen Benham - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

7.9 Band/Orchestra Field Trip in March of 2022 to Nashville

Dr. Austin stated that the proposed field trip submitted by Brian Cincotta, Secondary Music

Coordinator, will be for approximately fifty students. The School Committee discussed the trip and inquired about a cancellation policy, recommending that the refund policy should be clear in the event of a cancellation.

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

It was **voted**: To approve the field trip for the Band/Orchestra students to Nashville in March of 2022.

Michelle Ayer – aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Liza O'Reilly - aye

Carlos A.F. DaSilva - aye

Jen Benham - aye

Kerry Ni – aye

7.10 **Lane Changes**

The Committee noted having received a list of faculty members that have obtained the credits needed for advancement on the salary scale.

7.11 The Committee acknowledged having received the notification of the resignation of Bianca George, School Counselor (effective 7/1/2021)

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

Jen Benham reported that there will be a meeting on August 26th of the Foster School PTO.

Carlos DaSilva reported that the Climate Action Committee will be scheduling a meeting soon.

Liza O'Reilly reported there will be an upcoming Salary and Negotiations meeting and they plan to meet with the Personnel Board in the future.

Nes Correnti stated that there are signed warrants in the meeting packet, and that a Finance Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled soon.

Michelle Ayer reported that the Special Education Subcommittee plans to schedule a meeting to be held before school starts.

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

There were no additional items.

10. **Adjourn:**

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Michelle Ayer

It was **voted**: To adjourn at 8:59 PM.

Michelle Ayer – aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Liza O'Reilly - aye

Carlos A.F. DaSilva - aye

Jen Benham - aye

Kerry Ni – aye

Respectfully Submitted By:
Nes Correnti

Documents Included:

 [Agenda_2021_0726.pdf](#) 

 [Annotated 7-26-21 SC Agenda.pdf](#) 

 [Item 2 06_21_21 Minutes.pdf](#) 

 [Item 6.1 Preliminary Budget Close 7.26.21.pdf](#) 

 [Item 7.2 DRAFT Hingham School Committee Operating Protocols.pdf](#) 

 [Item 7.3 HR Update](#) 

 [Item 7.4 To Declare Books Surplus.pdf](#) 

 [Item 7.5 Drivers Ed Deficit.pdf](#) 

 [Item 7.6 Bus Purchase - Wheelchair Accessibility.pdf](#) 

 [Item 7.8 Homeschool Application AG Grade 1.pdf](#) 

 [Item 7.8 Homeschool Application JB Grade 2.pdf](#) 

 [Item 7.9 Music Field Trip in March 2022.pdf](#) 

 [Item 7.10 Notification of Lane Changes.pdf](#) 

 [Item 8 Signed Warrants.pdf](#) 
