

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

August 3, 2021

Remote meeting via Zoom

Call to Order

School Committee Chair Kerry Ni called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. She stated that this meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.

Members Present: Kerry Ni, Nes Correnti, Carlos A.F. DaSilva, Liza O'Reilly, Jennifer Benham, and Tim Dempsey

Central Office Present: Assistant Superintendent Dr. James LaBillois

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

Executive Session

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Carlos DaSilva,

It was **voted**: To enter into Executive Session and to reconvene in Open Session, for the purpose of discussing Memorandums of Agreement with the Interim Superintendent and non-union administrators the public discussion of which would be detrimental to the Committee's bargaining position.

Jennifer Benham - aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Carlos A.F. DaSilva – aye

Tim Dempsey - aye

Liza O'Reilly – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

Call to Order: Return to Open Session at 7:00 PM

Chair Ni called the meeting to order and again read the above statement regarding remote meetings. Chair Ni welcomed members of the Select Board and Advisory Committee.

Jenna Manto from the Hingham Journal was on the call and indicated that she would be recording the meeting.

Members Present: Kerry Ni, Nes Correnti, Carlos A.F. DaSilva, Liza O'Reilly, Jennifer Benham, and Tim Dempsey

Members absent: Michelle Ayer

Central Office Present: Assistant Superintendent Dr. James LaBillois, Director of Business and

Support Services, John Ferris, and Director of Human Resources, Susan D’Amato

Select Board Members Present: Joe Fisher, Bill Ramsey, Liz Klein

Select Board Chair Joe Fisher called the meeting to order stating that this is a continuation of their meeting that began at 6:30 this evening.

Advisory Committee Members Present: Julie Strehle, George Danis, Nancy MacDonald, Davalene Cooper, Kristen Dziergowski, Matthew Goulet, Robert Curley, Sarah Melia, Dave Anderson, Evan Sheehan, Tina Sherwood

Julie Strehle called the meeting of the Advisory Committee to order.

Action from Executive Session:

On a motion by Liza O’Reilly, and seconded by Nes Correnti

It was **Voted:** To approve the agreement for Amanda Donovan as Interim Principal of East Elementary School for the period of August 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, at a \$139,000 annual salary prorated for the 11-month period that she is working, and an additional \$1,000 paid for her attainment of a Doctorate Degree, and an additional stipend of \$2,200 for the supervision of the integrated preschool and intensive kindergarten programs housed at East School.

- Jennifer Benham - aye
- Nes Correnti – aye
- Carlos A.F. DaSilva – aye
- Tim Dempsey - aye
- Liza O’Reilly – aye
- Kerry Ni – aye

Plymouth River Elementary School Windows Project

The School Committee was joined by the Hingham Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee in a discussion about the Plymouth River Windows project, and the need to vote an Appropriation for the Project from the School Department’s Appropriated FY 22 Operating Budget. Director of Business and Support Services, John Ferris clarified that the money is in the budget and that the appropriation will help satisfy a requirement of the MSBA to ensure that the money is there to obtain authorization for the project. Select Board Chair Joe Fisher stated that this is not an action item for the Board tonight, but added that the Board is supportive of this appropriation. Advisory Committee Chair Julie Strehle stated that the Advisory Committee joined tonight’s meeting for informational purposes, and supports the Select Board, the School Committee and administrative teams’ work to facilitate this solution to the satisfy the conditions of the MSBA.

On a motion by Liza O’Reilly, and seconded by Nes Correnti

It was **Voted:**

Whereas, the Town of Hingham 2021 Annual Town Meeting approved a total appropriation of \$62,810,611.00 for the Town of Hingham Public School Department for Fiscal Year 2022; and

Whereas, the Town of Hingham School Committee has the authority under M.G.L. c. 71, § 34 to determine its expenditures within said total appropriation; and

Whereas, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”) requires confirmation of an available appropriation to cover the costs of the Plymouth River Elementary School Windows Project in order to approve said project for eligible reimbursement under the MSBA’s Accelerated Repair Program; and

Whereas, the Town of Hingham School Committee wishes to confirm the appropriation and availability of sufficient funds to cover the costs for the Plymouth River Elementary School Windows Project;

Now, therefore, the Town of Hingham School Committee hereby adopts the following vote:

That the Town of Hingham School Committee hereby appropriates an amount not to exceed \$3,993,600.00 from its total Fiscal Year 2022 School Department Budget for the purpose of paying the costs of a windows replacement project at the Plymouth River Elementary School located at 200 High Street, Hingham, MA 02043. The project would replace necessary doors and windows and make other repairs or replacements as necessary to meet the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”) requirements, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto. This proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational programs, and for which the Town has applied for a grant from the MSBA, said amount to be expended under the direction of the Town of Hingham School Committee in consultation with the 2017 School Building Committee. The Town of Hingham School Committee acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA’s Board of Directors votes to invite the Town of Hingham to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the Town of Hingham incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town of Hingham.

Jennifer Benham - aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Carlos A.F. DaSilva – aye
Tim Dempsey - aye
Liza O’Reilly – aye
Kerry Ni – aye

Ray Estes of the School Building Committee was on the call and raised a question about the language within the motion. After a discussion, the School Committee agreed to amend the motion.

On a motion by Liza O’Reilly, and seconded by Nes Correnti

It was **Voted**: to amend the motion that the said amount not to exceed \$3,993,600.00 be expended under the direction of the 2017 School Building Committee in consultation with the Town of Hingham School Committee

Jennifer Benham - aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Carlos A.F. DaSilva – aye
Tim Dempsey - aye
Liza O’Reilly – aye
Kerry Ni – aye

At 7:13 PM the Select Board voted to adjourn

At 7:14 PM the Advisory Committee voted to adjourn

On a motion by Nes Correnti, and seconded by Tim Dempsey

It was


Voted: To Adjourn at 7:15 PM

Jennifer Benham - aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Carlos A.F. DaSilva – aye
Tim Dempsey - aye
Liza O’Reilly – aye
Kerry Ni – aye

Respectfully Submitted By:
Nes Correnti

Documents Included:

 Agenda_2021_0803.pdf 

 Draft - School Committee Vote (BD149083xB04F6).docx 