

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

August 9, 2021

Remote via Zoom Webinar

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Kerry Ni.
Chari Kerry Ni read the following statement: 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.

Jenna Manto of the Hingham Journal spoke up to say that she would be recording the meeting.

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

Central Office Present: Assistant Superintendent Dr. James LaBillois, Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Suzanne Vinnos, Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris, and Director of Human Resources Susan D'Amato

Also present: Dr. Gary Maestas

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

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 July 9, 2021

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

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 July 14, 2021, with the addition of comments submitted by Liza O'Reilly

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

Tim Dempsey - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

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 July 21, 2021

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

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 July 22, 2021

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

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 July 23, 2021

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

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 July 26, 2021

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

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 August 3, 2021

Michelle Ayer – aye

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

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

- Rebecca Nidositko asked about future meeting formats and also asked about outdoor learning spaces for students in the fall
- Barbie Lynch commented that there is a parent petition going around in support of making mask wearing optional
- Matt Cosman commented on the hope that the year is able to start without students wearing masks
- Joan Bennet commented that she supports mask wearing to benefit those that are immunocompromised
- Katie McBrine commented as a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding their recommendation that anyone over the age of 2 wear a mask in school, as there is a large number of the school-age population that is not yet eligible for vaccination
- Wendy Driscoll read a statement in support of parent choice regarding mask wearing
- Victor Steele expressed concern for families with high risk individuals if students are allowed to return to school without wearing masks

4. **Communications:**

Chair Ni stated that she had received a parent petition supporting parent choice with regard to masks, and had received a number of calls asking what the policy will be. She stated that the School Committee will be considering all the recent guidelines and will be working on a policy. She also noted a MASC Conference in November for any Committee member who is interested.

5. **Unfinished Business:**

Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Suzanne Vinnes gave a presentation that included:

- An executive summary of the Special Education Program
- Three years of review (2018-2021) detailing Needs Assessment Findings and Programmatic Adjustments and Additions
- The COVID Response
- Special Education Enrollment
- The upcoming 2021-2022 School Year Department Goals and Initiatives

6. **New Business:**

Interim Superintendent

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

It was **voted:** To appoint Dr. Gary Maestas as Interim Superintendent of Hingham Public Schools contingent on the granting of a critical shortage waiver by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and to appoint an Acting Superintendent to serve until such waiver is granted

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

Tim Dempsey - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

2021-2022 School Committee Meeting Schedule

The School Committee agreed to table the discussion of the schedule until the next meeting.

Lane Changes

The School Committee acknowledged having received notification of teacher advancements to the next lane in the salary schedule.

Homeschool Application

Assistant Superintendent Dr. James LaBillois stated that he reviewed the homeschool application that is in the packet and recommends approval.

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

It was **voted**: To approve the homeschool application as submitted

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

7. Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

Michelle Ayer reported that the Building Committee has an upcoming meeting and she will report back next time. She also stated that she hopes to schedule a Special Education subcommittee meeting shortly after the start of school.

Jen Benham reported that the Policy Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for this coming Wednesday, August 11th to discuss recent recommendations from the CDC and DESE regarding mask policy.

Nes Correnti reported that as a member of the Equity Team, she recently attended Restorative Justice training through Suffolk University. She also stated that the Finance Subcommittee met today and noted that the recently signed warrants are in the packet.

Liza O'Reilly reported that the Wellness Subcommittee members are researching other communities and their wellness policies, and will report back in the future. She also stated she will be meeting with the Athletic Director to discuss the intent of the new Wellness Subcommittee.

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

Kerri Ni stated that she, Michelle Ayer, and Nes Correnti will be attending the Select Board and Advisory Meeting this week and will report back.

9. Adjourn:

On a motion by Tim Dempsey and seconded by Michelle Ayer



It was **voted**: To adjourn at 8:20 PM.



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



Tim Dempsey - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

Respectfully Submitted By:
Nes Correnti



Documents Included:



 Agenda_REVISED_2021_0809.pdf 



 Item 2.1 Minutes of July 9, 2021.pdf 



 Item 2.2 Minutes of July 14, 2021.pdf 



 Item 2.3 Minutes Dr. Maestas interview_7.21.21.pdf 



 Item 2.4 Minutes Dr. Andrew Keough_7.22.21.pdf 


 Item 2.5 Minutes Dr. Kris Nash_7.23.21.pdf 


 Item 2.6 Minutes of July 26, 2021.pdf 

 Item 2.7 Minutes of August 3, 2021.pdf 



 Item 5.1 Special Education Program Review August 2021.pdf 

 Item 5.1 Special Education Programmatic Update August 2021.pdf 

 Item 6.2 Proposed 21-22 Meeting Schedule.pdf 

 Item 6.3 Lane Changes to date.pdf 

 Item 6.4 Homeschool Application Grade 1 Student.pdf 

 Item 7 Warrants Signed.pdf 

 Thank you to Paul, Tony Keady and Beth Wilcox 
