

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

September 20, 2021

Remote via Zoom Webinar

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Kerry Ni.

Chair 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.

Members Present: Chair Kerry Ni, Vice-Chair Michelle Ayer, Secretary Nes Correnti, Liza O'Reilly Carlos DaSilva, Jen Benham, and Tim Dempsey

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

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

Harbor Media indicated that they would be recording the meeting, as well as Jenna Manto from the Hingham Journal.

Approval of Minutes:

- On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted:** To approve the minute of the School Committee meeting of September 8, 2021

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham- aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Carlos A.F. DaSilva - aye

Tim Dempsey – aye

Liza O'Reilly - aye

Kerry Ni – aye

Approval of the minutes of the joint meeting with the Select Board and Advisory Committee held on September 14, 2021 were tabled until the October 4, 2021 meeting because all members did not have the draft minutes to review

Questions and Comments from the Community included:

There were no comments or questions at this time.

Superintendent's Report:

Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Maestas gave a report that included:

- Information about the test-and-stay program for COVID testing in schools
- An update on COVID data in the schools, and information as to how that will be reported weekly
- Information regarding this year's Open Houses, noting that they are to be virtual this year

Communications:

Kerry Ni stated that the new HPS Policy Manual is complete and is available online.

Face Covering Policy:

The School Committee discussed the proposed changes that had been discussed at the last meeting with regard to masks during music classes and physical education classes to ensure consistency with the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Dr. Maestas and John Ferris stated that if the students need specialty masks for band, that those can be made available.

- On a motion by Jen Benham and seconded by Michelle Ayer
It was **voted:** To approve the changes to policy EBCFA (Face Coverings)

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

Driver’s Education Program:

Hingham High School Principal Rick Swanson introduced Denise Stanley, who will be running the Driver’s Education Program at the High School. Mrs. Stanley explained that COVID had shut the program down for a while. She stated that raising the price to align with other driving schools in the area would help the program continue. The School Committee discussed the importance of keeping the program, and asked questions about financial assistance for students who may qualify and the financial accounting of the program. Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris voiced support for the rate increase.

- On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted:** To approve the proposed rate increase to \$800.00 for the Driver’s Education Program

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

Su Escuela:

The School Committee acknowledged having received a memo from the Assistant Superintendent, Dr. James LaBillois, recommending the approval for Su Escuela to operate an in-person grade 6 program.

- On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted:** To allow Su Escuela to operate an in-person grade 6 program

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

Kerry Ni – aye

Declaration of Surplus:

Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris explained the surplus of Social Studies textbooks. He stated that they no longer have value and asks that they be declared surplus to dispose of in the least costly manner.

- On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted:** To declare surplus the old text books as detailed and authorize the Director of Business to dispose of them at the least cost to Hingham.

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

John Ferris also explained that the Schools are in possession of a 2002 Chevy pick-up truck that had originally been handed down by the DPW. He explained that it is no longer useful or safe, based on its deteriorated condition.

- On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted:** To Declare as surplus a 2002 Chevy Pick-up Vin # 1GBHK24U02E170553 and direct the Director of Business and Support Services to offer it for sale to the highest bidder, or otherwise dispose of it at the least cost to Hingham.

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

Update from the School Building Committee:

Ray Estes and Linda Hill were present from the School Building Committee. Mr. Estes updated the Committee on the status of the Plymouth River Elementary School Windows Project, discussing required ADA upgrades. Mr. Estes also updated the Committee on the Foster School Building Project, stating that they now have an architect on board, and had a recent kickoff meeting with the MSBA to discuss the schedule. Mr. Estes stated that they plan to have visioning sessions with administrators, faculty, PTO, and parents and plan to have a webpage to keep the public updated. He stated that the hope is for a Fall 2024 opening.

South Shore Educational Collaborative:

- On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted:** To appoint Dr. Gary Maestas to the Board of Directors of the South Shore Educational Collaborative

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jen Benham- aye
Nes Correnti – aye

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

Superintendent Search Process:

The Committee discussed the next steps in the search for a permanent superintendent . Chair Kerry Ni explained that NESDEC (New England School Development Council) had assisted in the hiring of the previous superintendent and since it had not been two complete years, they are still under a warranty for which NESDEC will grant certain services. She stated that NESDEC recommends holding a workshop, since there are three new School Committee members who were not part of the previous search process. Chair Kerry Ni recommended that the School Committee follow a similar process as the previous search by having the Salary & Negotiations subcommittee coordinate the initial stages of the search process and the Committee agreed by consensus.

Subcommittee Descriptions:

Chair Kerry Ni asked each subcommittee to review and develop descriptions and goals. The Committee agreed to add this to the meeting agenda on October 18, 2021.

Student Outreach Coordinator:

The Committee discussed the importance of student input in the School Committee process. Chair Kerry Ni appointed Vice-Chair Michelle Ayer as the Student Outreach Coordinator.

Homeschool Application:

Dr. Maestas recommended the approval of the applications in the packet for two students.

- On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted**: To approve the Homeschool applications as recommended by the Superintendent for two students (grade K and grade 1) for the 2021-2022 school year

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

Lane Changes

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

Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

Michelle Ayer reported that the monthly METCO parent meetings with the Superintendent will begin on October 6th. Nes Correnti reported that there are warrants in the meeting packet, and that the Finance/Capital and Facilities Subcommittee had a meeting today, and that she is the liaison for the Sustainable Budget Task Force, and will be reporting back after they have met.

Carlos DaSilva reported that the Climate Action Committee will be meeting on September 22nd and that he will be attending the South School Council meeting on September 29th.

Tim Dempsey reported that the Hingham Education Foundation had a recent meeting and that their fall fundraiser will be taking place on September 24th.

Jen Benham reported that she recently attended the SNAP meeting and they discussed all the summer programs that took place, and noted that their soccer and football programs will be starting up.

Liza O'Reilly reported that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee will be meeting this week for negotiations with the HEA.

Kerry Ni reported that the Plymouth River School PTO has a meeting this week, and the Plymouth River School Council has a meeting on October 18th.

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

none

Adjourn:

- On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted**: To adjourn at 8:11PM

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen 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:

 09_08_21 Minutes.pdf 

 09.20.21 Agenda.pdf 

 Item 6.1 EBCFA-DRAFT.docx.pdf 

 Item 6.2 Driver's Education Proposal.pdf 

 Item 7.1 Su Escuela Approval Memo.pdf 

 Item 7.2 Motion to Declare Surplus Social Studies Books For September 20,2021.pdf 

 Item 7.2 Surplus Vehicle 2002 Chevy PU - Surplus.pdf 

 Item 7.5 HinghamMA 2018 Superintendent Search Timeline 2.pdf 

 Item 7.5 NESDEC 2021 Superintendent Search Agreement.pdf 

 Item 7.6 Subcommittee Functions.docx.pdf 

 Item 7.8 Home School Application.pdf 

 Item 7.9 Lane Changes to date.pdf 

 Item 8 Warrants Signed.pdf 
