

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

October 18, 2021

Remote meeting via Zoom Webinar

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Kerry Ni at which time she read the following statement regarding remote meetings.

CHAIR COMMENT: 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 participating remotely: Chair Kerry Ni, Vice-Chair Michelle Ayer, Secretary Nes Correnti, Liza O'Reilly Carlos DaSilva, Jen Benham, and Tim Dempsey

Central Office Members participating remotely: Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Maestas, Assistant Superintendent James LaBillois, Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris, Executive Director of Student Services Suzanne Vinnes, and Director of Human Resources Susan D'Amato.

Also participating remotely: Select Board member Joe Fisher

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

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 Planning Workshop held on October 2, 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 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 October 4, 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 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 October 7, 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

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:

- Recent COVID-19 data of the number of positive cases in the schools within the past week
- Details regarding software that has been purchased to work with the state database to obtain vaccination information for students and teachers
- Information regarding student pool testing being done by CIC Health.
- an update on the progress of the hiring of a District Communications Specialist
- an update on the process of the development of a Strategic Plan, noting that an RFP has been sent out to find a facilitator

Chair Kerry Ni proposed taking agenda items out of order at this time to accommodate Select Board Member Joe Fisher who was in attendance to vote on a contract, and the Committee had no objections to the suggestion.

Discussion of the MOA between the Hingham School Committee and the MA Laborer’s District Council, Local 1139

Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee Chair, Liza O’Reilly explained that the Memorandum of Agreement is with the Food Service Workers’ Union, and explained details of the agreement. She explained that there are 28 staff members and they have already ratified the agreement. Select Board member Joe Fisher asked for clarification regarding the salary scale. Director of Business and Support Service John Ferris added that the employees did a great job during the pandemic and acknowledged the supply chain issues being experienced currently. Vice Chair Michelle Ayer praised Food Service Director Kim Smyth for her work, noting the challenges to the program caused by the pandemic. John Ferris also stated that they are in the process now of trying to hire a new Assistant Manager for the program.

- On a motion by Liza O’Reilly and seconded by Michelle Ayer
It was **voted:** To ratify the Memorandum of Agreement between the Massachusetts Laborer’s District Council, Local 1139 and the Hingham School Committee for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jen Benham- aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Carlos A.F. DaSilva - aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Liza O’Reilly - aye
Kerry Ni – aye
And Select Board member Joe Fisher - aye

School Committee Subcommittee Functions and Goals

Chair Kerry Ni explained that the different Subcommittees have met and drafted a list of functions and goals for each.

- **Curriculum Subcommittee:** Members: Kerry Ni (Chair), Nes Correnti, and Tim Dempsey. Chair Ni read the proposed functions and goals of the Curriculum Subcommittee, noting that it is a newly formed Subcommittee

this year.

- **Finance/Capital & Facilities Subcommittee:** Members: Nes Correnti (Chair), Jen Benham, and Carlos DaSilva. Nes Correnti read the proposed functions and goals of the Finance/Capital & Facilities Subcommittee, highlighting the newly added functions.
- **Policy Subcommittee:** Members: Jen Benham (Chair), Kerry Ni, and Liza O'Reilly. Jen Benham reviewed the proposed goals and functions, noting that a new policy manual was drafted last year.
- **Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee:** Members: Liza O'Reilly (Chair), Michelle Ayer, and Kerry Ni. Liza O'Reilly reviewed the functions and goals and suggested updates.
- **Special Education Subcommittee:** Members: Michelle Ayer (Chair), Jen Benham, Tim Dempsey. Michelle Ayer reviewed the goals and functions of the subcommittee, noting that they work collaboratively with the Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Suzanne Vinnos.
- **Wellness Subcommittee:** Members: Liza O'Reilly (Chair), Michelle Ayer, and Nes Correnti. Liza O'Reilly read the goals and functions of the newly formed subcommittee.
- On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted:** To accept the proposed functions and goals of the Subcommittees of the School Committee with proposed edits

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham- aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Carlos A.F. DaSilva - aye

Tim Dempsey – aye

Liza O'Reilly - aye

Kerry Ni – aye

2021-2022 Superintendent Goals

Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Maestas reviewed his goals for the school year which included:

- Development of a Strategic Plan
 - Budget
 - New superintendent
 - Foster
 - Communication enhancement
- On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted:** To accept the Superintendent goals as presented

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham- aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Tim Dempsey – aye

Liza O'Reilly - aye

Kerry Ni – aye

*Carlos DaSilva had momentarily left the meeting and did not vote on this item.

2021-2022 School Committee Goals

The Committee collectively edited a google doc on a shared screen depicting the draft of the goals.

- On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Carlos DaSilva
It was **voted**: To accept the proposed functions and goals of the Subcommittees of the School Committee with proposed edits

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

Chair of the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee Liza O'Reilly updated the committee reporting that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee met with representatives from NESDEC to review the process. She noted that they reviewed the candidate profile and have created an updated draft. Ms. O'Reilly discussed the formation of a screening committee and the process that will be used to identify how they will choose participants.

HPS Vaccination Data Collection

Chair Kerry Ni noted the DESE guidance of schools reaching an 80% vaccination rate in order to consider allowing masks to be optional. Dr. Maestas reported that the district still needs to do the work of collecting student vaccination data. He explained that once the data is collected it has to be validated. Dr. Maestas also stated that the district has purchased software that is able to interface with the state database to collect the information, and explained that it will need to be updated continually, as more students get vaccinated. Tim Dempsey suggested reconvening the group of experts from the medical field sometime in the future to discuss the possibility of removing masks and to answer questions. Nes Correnti stated that she would like to see the mask policy remain until the younger students are eligible for vaccination. Liza O'Reilly stated that she feels the removal of masks may add stress for some students. Michelle Ayer noted that the Student Advisory Committee will be meeting soon and it would be helpful to get students' perspectives. Dr. Maestas reported that he has spoken to several families whose children are concerned that if they remain unvaccinated and have to wear a mask, that they will be singled out among their peers. Dr. Maestas also noted that it will be a difficult task for the schools to enforce who should be wearing a mask.

2021-2022 School Committee Report Schedule

The Committee discussed the proposed schedule and debated which reports may be best to go to subcommittees to create more efficiency. Dr. LaBillois discussed the time frame of some of the reports, noting those that would require the collection of assessment data.

The Committee agreed to continue this discussion at the next meeting.

MASC Delegate Assembly

Chair Kerry Ni appointed Carlos DaSilva as the Hingham School Committee delegate to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Delegate Assembly

*Vice-Chair Michelle Ayer left the meeting at this time. (9:23 PM)

2021 Proposed MASC Resolutions

Chair Kerry Ni shared on the screen the proposed MASC resolutions for this year and read each one.

- On a motion by Carlos DaSilva and seconded by Tim Dempsey
It was **voted**: To vote in favor of resolution #1 regarding dedicated funding for school based clinics and

services

Nes Correnti – aye
Carlos A.F. DaSilva - aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Liza O’Reilly - no
Kerry Ni – no

*Jen Benham was briefly off the call and did not vote on this item.

- On a motion by Carlos DaSilva and seconded by Tim Dempsey
It was **voted**: To vote in favor of resolution #2 which relates to WIFI/Internet access

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

- On a motion by Liza O’Reilly and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted**: To vote in favor of resolution #3 related to the IDEA Full Funding Act

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

- On a motion by Tim Dempsey and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted**: To vote in favor of resolution #4 related to recess

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

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Liza O’Reilly
It was **voted**: To vote in favor of resolution #5 related to zero-tolerance policies

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

- On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted**: To vote in favor of resolution #6 which is related to alternatives to MCAS

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

- On a motion by Carlos DaSilva and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted**: To vote in favor of resolution #7 related to School Committees and receivership

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

- On a motion by Carlos DaSilva and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted**: To vote in favor of resolution #8 related to electric school buses

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

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Carlos DaSilva
It was **voted**: To vote in favor of resolution #9 regarding prohibiting the use of Native American mascots

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

Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

- Jen Benham reported that she had recently participated in a Foster School visioning session and that the Policy Subcommittee had a meeting during the previous week.
- Nes Correnti reported that there are signed warrants in the packet, and that the Equity working group recently met.

- Carlos DaSilva reported that the Climate Action Committee has an upcoming meeting and has also created two subcommittees
- Tim Dempsey reported that the SEPAC had a guest speaker to discuss Dyslexia
- Liza O'Reilly reported that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee will be meeting this week with the HEA, and that the Wellness Subcommittee met last week
- Kerry Ni reported that the PRS School Council had a meeting and that the Curriculum Subcommittee met recently. She also reported that there is a Hingham Unity Council talk on Wednesday.

Adjourn:

- On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted:** To adjourn at 9:43 PM

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:

 10.18.21 Agenda.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 2.1 10_02_21 Minutes Saturday Workshop.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 2.2 10_04_21 Minutes.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 2.3 10_07_21 Minutes.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 6.1 Finance Cap Functions and FY22 Goals [↗](#)

 Item 6.1 Finance Cap Functions and FY22 Goals.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 6.1 Policy Subcommittee proposed goals for 2021 [↗](#)

 Item 6.1 Policy Subcommittee proposed goals for 2021.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 6.1 Proposed Curriculum Subcommittee Function & Goals.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 6.1 Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee 2021-2022 Goals.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 6.1 Special Education Subcommittee goals [↗](#)

 Item 6.1 Special Education Subcommittee goals.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 6.1 Wellness Subcommittee proposed goals [↗](#)

 Item 6.1 Wellness Subcommittee proposed goals.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 6.2 DRAFT - Full School Committee Goals [↗](#)

 Item 6.2 Full School Committee Equity Goals [↗](#)

 Item 6.2 Full School Committee Equity Goals.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 6.2 Interim Superintendent Goals.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 7.1 Draft MOA 6.20.21 V1 - JF Scales DOCK.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 7.1 Pay Rate Percentage Increases FY 22 - FY 24.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 7.1 Summary Cost of Contract FY 22 - FY 24.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 7.2 CLA - Schedule - Hingham Suggestion (1).pdf [↗](#)

 Item 7.4 MASCO 2021 Resolutions.pdf [↗](#)

 Item 8 Warrants Signed (2).pdf [↗](#)
