

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 10, 2022

Remote meeting via Zoom Webinar

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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, Jen Benham, and Tim Dempsey

Members absent: Carlos Da Silva

Central Office Members participating remotely: Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Maestas, Assistant Superintendent Dr. James LaBillois

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

Adjourn to Executive Session:

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

It was **voted**: to enter into Executive Session and to reconvene in Open Session, for the purposes of:

- 2.1. To discuss negotiations with the Hingham Education Association (HEA) Unit B regarding the reopening of schools, the public discussion of which would be detrimental to the Committee's bargaining position.
- 2.2 To approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on December 20, 2021

Michelle Ayer - aye

Jen Benham- aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Tim Dempsey – aye

Liza O'Reilly - aye

Kerry Ni – aye

Return to Open Session:

Chair Kerry Ni called the meeting back to order at 7:00 PM, and again read the above statement regarding remote meetings.

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

Members absent: Carlos Da Silva

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

Also present: Student Representatives Elijah Webber and Elizabeth Haughty

Visitors: There was no sign in as this was a remote meeting. Kerry Ni stated that 20 people on the call were participating remotely

Harbor Media indicated that they would be recording the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

- Michelle Ayer made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 20, 2021 which was seconded by Nes Correnti
Liza O'Reilly and Kerry Ni proposed edits to the minutes.
- On an amended motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted**: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on December 20, 2021 with the edits proposed

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jen Benham- aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Liza O'Reilly - 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 December 21, 2021

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jen Benham- aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Liza O'Reilly - 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 January 4, 2022

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jen Benham- aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Liza O'Reilly - 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 January 5, 2022

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jen Benham- aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Liza O'Reilly - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

- Minutes of the School Committee Meeting of January 6, 2022
The Committee agreed to table the approval of this set of minutes for the next agenda.

Questions and Comments

- Barbara McAlvin asked when meetings may resume to in-person meetings. She also asked how much Dr. Amante-Jackson has been paid as a consultant.

Superintendent's Report

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

- An updated of COVID positive cases in Hingham Public Schools as of the previous week
- Dr. Maestas noted that extremely cold temperatures are in this week's weather forecast and that Katie Hartman let him know that the buildings will be running as occupied throughout the night to keep the temperature comfortable in the buildings
- An update on the status of obtaining vaccination data for both teachers and students
- The Committee discussed the vaccination data as it is right now and ways parents may be able to get the vaccination information to schools

Questions and Comments from the Community included:

- Rebecca Nodositko asked for clarification to which staff is included in the current vaccination data
- Matt Cosman asked why Hingham is behind in the collection of teacher and student vaccination data
- Wendy Driscoll asked why other towns are able to collect teacher and student vaccination data and Hingham is lagging behind.

Student Communications

- Student representative Elizabeth Haughey suggested using a Google form to submit vaccination data.
- Student representative Elijah Webber reported that with the current state of COVID-related absences for both students and teachers, students are concerned and anxious about mid-term exams. He also reported that the student council is working on a direct portal for students to voice concerns. Elijah also reported that there will be a small ensemble concert this week at the Middle School.

Chair Ni thanked both students and all the students who helped participate in the Superintendent Search process.

Other Communications

Chair Ni stated that the Committee had received emails about the salary rate of paraprofessionals and that the time to address compensation would be next year when updating the contract. She stated that COVID relief funds are already allocated to address student learning.

Unfinished Business

Superintendent Search

Chair Kerry Ni stated that the School Committee is looking forward to working with Dr. Margaret Adams and that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee will be meeting this week to discuss a contract.

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Maestas stated that two members of the School Committee will be needed to be part of the Strategic Plan

Committee and that at the next meeting he will share more details about the teams of people. Dr. Maestas gave the dates for upcoming focus group meetings.

Policy Update

Committee member Jen Benham shared her screen with the proposed interim policy on COVID-19, for the second read of this language. Liza O'Reilly stated that students had raised concerns about grading and asked if school leaders could propose something for the next meeting. Dr. Maestas stated that High School Principal Rick Swanson is prepared to have a proposal that can be reviewed on Thursday. Chair Ni stated that the grading could be discussed at the beginning of this week's budget meeting.

- On a motion by Jen Benham and seconded by Liza O'Reilly
It was **voted**: To approve the update to the general interim policies on COVID-19

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jen Benham- aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Liza O'Reilly - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

Enrollment Update

Dr. Maestas provided an enrollment update for each building, reporting that the overall enrollment in the district is 3,865 students. Dr. Maestas also stated that Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris will be putting together information of enrollments trends of the last few years as part of the budget process.

New Business

Appointments

Chair Ni read the notification of the following appointments: Allison Burton, paraeducator at Hingham High School (effective 12/13/21); Maureen Conner, paraeducator at Foster Elementary School (effective 11/29/21); Jessica DiCesare, part time Accounting Administrative Assistant (effective 12/13/21); Brenna Gilmartin, part-time Assistant Director of Food Services (effective 11/22/21); John Goggin, paraeducator at Foster Elementary School (effective 11/29/21); Christina Grande, paraeducator at Plymouth River Elementary School (effective 12/7/21); Jennifer Iverson, Custodian at Hingham Middle School (effective 12/2/21); Vijisha Mani, paraeducator at East Elementary School (effective 12/2/21).

Resignations

Chair Ni read the notification of the following resignations: Jaye Carlson, Administrative Assistant at South Elementary (effective 1/6/22); Roberta Cosman, Food Service Tech (effective 12/15/21); Kara Gannon, Food Service Tech (effective 12/1/21); James Lombardi, Van Driver (effective 12/17/21); Jacqueline Nolan, Paraeducator at Hingham Middle School (effective 12/23/21); Kristen Stenstrom, Paraeducator at Plymouth River Elementary School (effective 1/4/22)

Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

- Michelle Ayer reported that the METCO meeting this month was postponed and will be rescheduled. She reported that the SEPAC meeting is on January 25th and that the School Building Committee is meeting every-other week.
- Nes Correnti reported that the Sustainable Budget Task Force is meeting weekly, and that the Finance/Capital & Facilities Subcommittee has a meeting this week.

- Tim Dempsey reported that the Special Education Subcommittee will meet this month and that HEF will be meeting this week.
- Liza O'Reilly reported that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee will meet this week. She also stated that the Wellness Subcommittee will be sending out a letter to support groups such as Booster groups and others for feedback about fundraising.
- Kerry Ni reported that the PRS School Council met and discussed the Equity Team, and Title I Funding.

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 8:11 PM

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jen Benham- aye
Nes Correnti – aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Liza O'Reilly - aye
Kerry Ni – aye

Respectfully Submitted By:
Nes Correnti

Documents Included:

	Warrants signed 01.10.22 meeting.pdf	
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	Item 8.4 January 2022 Enrollment Summary.pdf	
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	Item 8.3 Hingham Public Schools General (Interim) Policy on COVID-Related Issues_draft	
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	Item 4.4 01.05.2022 Minutes.pdf	
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	Item 4.3 01.04.2022 Minutes.pdf	
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	Item 4.2 12.21.2021 Minutes.pdf	
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	Item 4.1 12.20.2021 Minutes.pdf	
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	01.10.2022 Agenda.pdf	
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