



Jun 6, 2022

Dear HPS Families,

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend last night's School Committee meeting. Below is a quick summary of the meeting, more specifics will be available in the full meeting minutes. Meeting minutes are posted for the public after they are approved by the Committee in a future meeting. In the interim, we are sharing the below highlights to help keep the community informed of decisions and topics discussed in meetings.

### Upcoming Meeting Details

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#### Special School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 21 @ 7PM School Department Conference Room, 220 Central Street

- Review of recommendations of the Strategic Plan Committee and draft of 2022-2025 HPS Strategic Plan
- Final observations and recommendations of Interim Superintendent, Dr. Gary Maestas

### June 6th School Committee Meeting Highlights

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A full recording of the meeting is available on the [Harbor Media](#). We have included timestamps below so you can skip ahead to these discussions.

- [\(7:20\)](#) Dr. Maestas announced that Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jamie Labillois has submitted his resignation to take a position as Assistant Superintendent of Student Services in Brockton Public Schools. Dr. Maestas thanked Dr. Labillois for his significant contributions to HPS during his six years in the district. Incoming Superintendent Dr. Adams intends to appoint an Interim Assistant Superintendent for the 2022-2023 school year, and will conduct a full search for a permanent Assistant Superintendent.
- [\(9:57\)](#) Dr. Maestas congratulated Shayna Miller and Sarah Cassidy's classes at Hingham Middle School and Foster Elementary School's 5th grade class led by parent volunteer Christin Eigenmann, who were [recognized](#) for outstanding environmental actions as members of the "Green Team," a statewide environmental education program sponsored by the Executive Office of Energy

and Environmental Affairs and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

- [\(19:40\)](#) Strategic Plan Update
  - The Strategic Plan Committee added one additional meeting on June 7th. This meeting will finalize the initiatives that are being prioritized to address over the next 3 years.
  - A plan draft will be presented to the full School Committee at the June 21st meeting.
- [\(22:00\)](#) Subcommittee Assignments
  - Members were assigned their new committees and liaison roles. These will soon be updated for 2022-2023 on the [School Committee website](#).
- [\(27:45\)](#) The School Committee approved changes to the policy on Diplomas to allow current employees of HPS to present a diploma to a relative or student who has lived with the family, and to clarify that students who meet the certificate of attainment under Massachusetts Department of Education regulations will be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony.
- [\(48:10\)](#) The Committee approved changes to the Bullying Prevention policy to clarify definitions under Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), and emphasize the MGL provision to ensure a team meeting was automatically scheduled if there were any incidences of bullying related to a child on an IEP or 504 plan.
- [\(1:13:41\)](#) Business and Support Services Director John Ferris gave an update on the FY '23 budget projection
  - The School Department is on target to support vital additional positions in the FY '23 budget, including a Fine Arts Director and Central Office support, while still working within the 0.06% budget increase approved by the Advisory Committee, Select Board, and Town Meeting.
  - The budget is able to support these expenses based on recent retirements, restructuring in some departments, and the use of variance funds from 2022 to defray initial estimated costs.
  - An earlier projected surplus for FY '22 has decreased significantly, as excess funds have been dedicated to capital projects and are used to cover sharply increasing supply and energy costs.
  - Mr. Ferris requested authority to allocate some possible excess funds to the Special Education Reserve Fund, which is specifically earmarked to cover special education expenses that arise after the School Department annual budget is approved. The Committee will take this up at the 6/21 meeting.
  - Use of \$158,136 was approved to purchase 3 new special education vans. This expense will be paid for with funds from budget year 2022 which will help decrease the remaining variance. These were allocated for in the 2022-2023 budget so using funds from the prior year allows these monies to be reallocated for other needs in the upcoming budget year.
  - A representative for the school nurses from Foster offered comments and a request for consideration for a floating nurse to become a full time position. This will be taken up by the finance subcommittee for further discussion regarding if this would be appropriate consideration for ESSER fund usage.

- [\(1:33:43\)](#) The Committee approved HHS field trips to New York City, Costa Rica, France, and Argentina.
  - All trips will defer to following individual location guidelines re: COVID safety measures.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

If you have questions or concerns, please email your [School Committee members](#).