

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

April 25, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Central South Meeting Room – 2nd Floor of Town Hall
210 Central Street, Hingham, MA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Kerry Ni

Members present: Chair Kerry Ni, Vice-Chair Michelle Ayer, Secretary Nes Correnti, Liza O'Reilly, Jen Benham, and Tim Dempsey *Carlos DaSilva arrived at 7:15 PM

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

Also present: Student Representative Elijah Webber, Media and Communications Specialist Heather Kashman, Administrative Assistant Sherry Robertson, Police Chief David Jones

There were four other members of the public present, one person, Alyson Anderson, signed the sign-in sheet.

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 March 21, 2022

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham- aye

Nes Correnti – 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 approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on April 4, 2022

Michelle Ayer – abstained

Jen Benham- aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Tim Dempsey – aye

Liza O'Reilly - aye

Kerry Ni – aye

3. Questions and Comments

There were no questions at this time.

4. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Gary Maestas stated that this coming Saturday the annual Town Meeting will be held at 2:00 PM at Hingham High School. He discussed that this is a busy time of year with new hiring at the schools, noting that Greg Lamothe who had been an interim principal this year at Plymouth River Elementary has been permanently appointed, and that Matthew Sheufele and Johnathan Hawes have been hired for the principal positions at Foster and East Elementary. Dr. Maestas also thanked members of the community for participating in the search process and said that within the coming days, the district will have news regarding the position of Director of Business and Support Services.

5. Communications

Student Communications

Student Representative Elijah Webber reported that there is an upcoming band concert on May 4th at 7:00 PM at Hingham Middle School. He also stated that the Student Advisory Committee is in the election process.

6. Unfinished Business

To discuss the FY '22-'23 Budget and to act as appropriate

Nes Correnti, Chair of the Finance/Capital & Facilities Subcommittee, gave an update on the budget being proposed at the upcoming Town Meeting. John Ferris had made the subcommittee aware of retirements coming at the end of the current school year, which will provide salary savings going forward. The Finance/Capital & Facilities subcommittee proposed revoting the school department budget to be in line with Advisory Committee's budget. Liza O'Reilly suggested after Town Meeting when the budget is known that the Administration itemize to the community what will be in the new budget so that the community knows what's in or not.

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

It was **voted**: To amend the FY23 budget to be in line with the Advisory Committee recommendation of \$61,826,503

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

To discuss the allocation of a sum from the Athletic Revolving Account fund towards a possible renovation of the HHS tennis courts and to act as appropriate

Nes Correnti also reported on revolving funds. Athletic revolving fund had a higher balance than the subcommittee proposed at the end of the FY'21 school year. This was due to federal monies being received for COVID-related expenses. The subcommittee discussed using \$300k of Athletic revolving funds to help fund the warrant article relating to the tennis courts. It was noted that the Field Use revolving fund could be used to fund turf replacement.

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

It was **voted**: To apply \$300,000 from the athletic fee revolving fund toward the renovation of the High School tennis courts

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

To discuss the 2022-2023 school year calendar and act as appropriate

Dr. Maestas stated that he will be having a discussion with the HEA in the coming days to discuss the calendar, so the Committee agreed to table the discussion until next time.

Business Director Update

Dr. Maestas reported that there will be news regarding this position this week.

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Maestas stated that there is an upcoming Strategic Planning meeting this Thursday, April 28th.

To discuss proposed amendments to HPS Policy Section D (second read) and to act as appropriate

Chair of the Policy Subcommittee Jen Benham stated that at the last meeting, Section D was discussed, and she noted some suggested language changes. Committee members also suggested some changes in the language.

- On a motion by Jen Benham and seconded by Liza O'Reilly

It was **voted**: To accept the revised Policy Section D with the proposed changes

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham- aye

Nes Correnti – aye

Carlos DaSilva - aye

Tim Dempsey – aye

Liza O'Reilly - aye

Kerry Ni – aye

7. New Business

To discuss a Memorandum of Understanding between the Hingham Public Schools and the Hingham Police Department (first read)

Jen Benham stated that the Policy Subcommittee has been working with Police Chief Jones to update the memorandum of understanding. She reported that they reviewed the language, mission statement, the selection process of a School Resource Officer, organizational structure, and worked on updates to coordinate with Massachusetts General Law. The Committee discussed the importance of the schools having a positive relationship with the Police Department and that this memorandum is supposed to be updated yearly. Chief Jones was present and thanked the Committee and stated that he is looking forward to working together and reviewing the memorandum annually. Chair Ni stated that this item will go on the next agenda for the second read.

To discuss a letter of agreement between the Hingham Public Schools and the Hingham Police Department regarding HPD comfort animals on HPS property (first read)

Jen Benham stated that the Policy Subcommittee has been working on a policy to allow a comfort animal in control of the School Resource Officer or a trained secondary handler. The Subcommittee also recommends a review after six months. The Committee discussed feedback they have received from members of the community. The Committee agreed to refer to the dog as a "comfort dog" instead of "therapy dog." The Committee discussed getting the opinions of students, and how having the dog may impact the SRO's schedule and responsibilities. Student Representative Elijah Webber offered to do a student survey.

Questions/Comments from the community included:

- A concern that the having the dog may interfere with the SRO's responsibilities, and a question about why the dog is considered a comfort dog

Chair Kerry Ni explained that the dog provides comfort by being present and can be helpful to de-escalate situations for students. Chief Jones added that the SRO Officer Ford is the primary handler, and a dog such as this is a common tool to build trust and positive relationships with students.

To discuss four additional vacation days being added to the Central Office and Principals' vacation banks in lieu of vacation days not taken in the 2020-2021 school year and to act as appropriate

Chair of the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee Liza O'Reilly explained that this request is to add 4 vacation days to the vacation bank for certain Central Office staff members and Principals in lieu of vacation days not taken in the 2020-2021 school year because of COVID-19 responsibilities. The four extra days would go to the staff members who remain with HPS including John Ferris, Jamie LaBillois, Suzanne Vignes, Susan D'Amato, Rick Swanson, Derek Smith and Mary Eastwood. The request was from the end of Paul Austin's tenure.

Susan D'Amato clarified asked to clarify that it would be allowed for these employees to roll over these days if they are unused at the end of the fiscal year.

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

It was **voted**: To apply 4 additional vacation days for perpetual roll over to the vacation bank of John Ferris, Jamie LaBillois, Suzanne Vignes, Susan D'Amato, Rick Swanson, Derek Smith and Mary Eastwood

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

To receive a homeschool application for a student in grade 3 for May – June 2022 and act as appropriate

Dr. Maestas stated that he has reviewed the homeschool application for the 3rd grade student and recommends approval as the application meets all required guidelines.

- On a motion by Michelle Ayer seconded by Nes Correnti

It was **voted**: To receive the homeschool application for the student in grade 3 for the months of May and June 2022, as recommended by the superintendent

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

To receive notification of recent resignations or retirements

Chair Kerry Ni noted the notification in the meeting packet and thanked those employees for their service to Hingham Public Schools.

8. Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

- Tim Dempsey reported that he will schedule the next Special Ed subcommittee meeting. He noted Hingham Pride will be hosting an upcoming fundraiser on Friday, the Hingham Pride Prom. Hingham Pride appreciates all the work from the teachers and wanted to offer tickets at a discount. The Hingham Education Foundation fundraiser is this coming Saturday.
- Jen Benham stated that she recently attended the Foster School Council meeting. She also stated that the Policy Subcommittee has an upcoming meeting on Wednesday, April 27th. She attended the SNAP Board

meeting. There will be the annual golf tournament fundraiser in June and a cocktail party at the South Shore Country Club.

- Liza O'Reilly reported that the Hingham Middle School Council meeting has been postponed to May. She also reported that the Wellness Subcommittee met on April 13th and is working on a list of recommendations to promote unity and equity in the athletic department. She stated that the Policy Subcommittee is going to be reviewing how booster groups report their fundraising.
- Nes Correnti stated that The Finance/Capital & Facilities Subcommittee will meet on May 9th.
- Michelle Ayer noted this Thursday, April 28th, the Foster School Design team and the School Building Committee are hosting an informal forum about the new Foster School design. There will be a joint meeting with the Student Advisory Council and the School Committee for anyone who can attend on May 5th. High School Council is meeting Wednesday, April 27th. The next METCO family meeting is coming up on May 4th.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Plymouth River School Council will meet on May 9th and the PTO on May 11th. She stated that since town elections will be held on May 14th, there will be an orientation for new School Committee members on May 16th.
- Carlos DaSilva reported that the Climate Action Committee has contracted with Energyz and that on April 29th the committee will participate in Cohasset's Ecofest. He also reported that the South School Council will meet on April 29th.

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

None

10. Adjourn

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

It was **voted**: To adjourn at 8:05 PM

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

Respectfully Submitted By:
Nes Correnti

Documents Included:

 04.25.2022 Agenda revised.pdf 

 Agenda 04.25.2022.pdf 

 DRAFT - LETTER OF AGREEMENT REGARDING HINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT COMFORT ANIMALS IN HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

 Item 2.1 03.21.2022 Minutes.pdf 

 Item 2.2 Minutes 04.04.2022.docx 

 Item 6.3 2022-2023 DRAFT Calendar- Option B (Monthly PD - conference releases).pdf 

 Item 6.6 SECTION D- HPS POLICY MANUAL -Draft 02_04_2022 .pdf 

 Item 7.1 2021 SRO MOU DRAFT 11.5 public input draft.docx (1).pdf 

 Item 7.1 HPS_and_HPD_MOU.pdf 

 Item 7.3.pdf 

 Item 7.4 Home School Application.pdf 

 Item 7.5 Retirements and Resignations.pdf 
