

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

May 23, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom Webinar

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Michelle Ayer, as the senior member of the Committee, at which time she read the following statement regarding remote meetings:

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.

Harbor Media indicated they would be recording the meeting.

Members participating remotely: Chair Kerry Ni, Vice-Chair Michelle Ayer, Secretary Nes Correnti, Jen Benham, Tim Dempsey, Alyson Anderson, and Matt Cosman

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 Vignes

Also present remotely: Student Representative Elijah Webber, Media and Communications Specialist Heather Kashman, and Executive Assistant Sherry Robertson

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

Michelle Ayer stated that she will have to leave the meeting shortly for personal reasons. She welcomed new School Committee Members Alyson Anderson and Matt Cosman.

Election of School Committee Officers

Michelle Ayer explained the ballot for School Committee offices which was shared on the screen.

- On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted** to elect Michelle Ayer as Chair of the School Committee

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jen Benham – aye
Nes Correnti - aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Kerry Ni – aye
Alyson Anderson – aye
Matt Cosman – aye

- On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Alyson Anderson
It was **voted** to elect Nes Correnti as Vice-Chair of the School Committee

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham – aye
Nes Correnti - aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Kerry Ni – aye
Alyson Anderson – aye
Matt Cosman – aye

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Kerry Ni
It was **voted** to elect Jen Benham as Secretary of the School Committee

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jen Benham – aye
Nes Correnti - aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Kerry Ni – aye
Alyson Anderson – aye
Matt Cosman – aye

Michelle Ayer left the meeting at this time (7:12 PM) and Vice-Chair Nes Correnti took over as chair of the meeting. Nes Correnti read a statement regarding the Select Board's proclamation of May 23rd to be Maddie's Promise Day in memory of former student Maddie McCoy who passed away from cancer. Nes Correnti read a statement from Mrs. Harrington at Plymouth River Elementary encouraging acts of kindness in Maddy's memory.

Approval of minutes

The Committee agreed to hold the minutes of the meeting from May 5, 2022 as there was not a quorum of members present who had been in attendance.

- On a motion by Jen Benham and seconded by Kerry Ni
It was **voted**: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on May 9, 2022

Jen Benham – aye
Nes Correnti - aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Kerry Ni – aye
Alyson Anderson – abstained
Matt Cosman - abstained

Questions and Comments from the community included:

- A comment from a student voicing an opinion that the middle school dress code is unfair to female students and asked that the current dress code be changed and that student members have an opportunity to participate in the important discussion.
- A question about the School Committee Policy Manual on the website

Superintendent's Report

Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Maestas thanked Kerry Ni for her work as School Committee Chair for the past two years. He noted that the next meeting will be his last meeting. Dr. Maestas discussed a move relative to the Pre-K Kids

in Action program which will be moved to East Elementary and the RISE program will be moving to South Elementary. Dr. Suzanne Vinnes explained the reasons for this change. The two elementary school RISE programs, K-2 and 3-5, will be combined into one location so that the students partaking in the program won't have to move to a new elementary school in the middle of their elementary experience. The change does impact the KIA Pre-K students who will be moved to East. KIA Director Jackie Sansone was present remotely and explained that there are typically 20 children in the KIA pre-k program and this benefits those that go to East Elementary integrated preschool in the afternoon.

Student Communications

Student Representative Elijah Webber stated that this would be the last meeting he will be attending and he thanked the School Committee for the opportunity this year. He stated that he felt the experience was very valuable and hopes that they continue this tradition of having student input at each meeting. He reported that the class of 2022 has dedicated a memorial bench at the High School.

The Committee members thanked Elijah for his participation this year and wished him well in the future.

Other Communications: none

Unfinished Business

Budget Update for FY'22

Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris gave an update on the FY'22 Budget. The presentation included details of future action to be taken regarding unspent ESSER funds, information about capital projects that are underway or planned, funding from grants, as well as special education tuition and how that affects the budget. The Committee asked questions and discussed remaining FY'22 funds.

School Committee policies A-L to ensure that policies incorporate gender inclusivity (second read) Jen Benham explained the changes to the policies to make the language gender inclusive. She explained that when policies are updated, the new policy is sent to the MASC and they update the full manual. The full manual is linked to our website. She recognized confusion on the title on the HPS website that seemed to indicate it was not as current, but she explained that it is linked to the MASC website where it includes the recent version of all policies. A community member on the call asked how to get a printed copy of the policy manual.

- On a motion by Jen Benham and seconded by Kerry Ni
It was **voted:** To approve the proposed changes to the policies A-L

Jen Benham – aye
Nes Correnti - aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Kerry Ni – aye
Alyson Anderson – aye
Matt Cosman - aye

School Committee policy KBE (PTO/Booster relations) (second read)

Nes Correnti proposed tabling this item, as there were some items that came up at the last meeting in the Wellness Subcommittee report that were not reflected in the changes.

New Business

Hingham Sports Partnership: Wellness center at Hingham High School

Representatives from the Hingham Sports Partnership Kevin Quilty and Ray Estes were present remotely and discussed the proposed wellness center to be created out of a former storage building at the High School. They stated that they

feel that fundraising can be done to support this project, and discussed the drawings of the proposed building that were shown on the screen. Mr. Quilty stated that at this point they are looking for the Committee's permission to proceed. The Committee members asked questions, and thanked Mr. Quilty and Mr. Estes for their work on this project and discussed the positive outcomes this project would have for students. The School Committee agreed to proceed with the project.

School Committee policy IKFB (Diplomas) (first read)

Jen Benham explained that the Policy Subcommittee had been looking at getting more clarity around participation in the district's commencement ceremony. Tim Dempsey asked a question regarding in-school suspensions, and MCAS requirements. Dr. Maestas stated that to participate, a student has to have met all graduation requirements. Jen Benham explained that this is the first read of the suggested changes.

School Committee policy JICFB (Bullying Prevention) (first read)

Jen Benham explained that the Policy Subcommittee wanted to look at the definitions of the words bullying and cyber-bullying, and cite those sources of the definitions, as well as add language regarding where bullying is prohibited in relation to cyber bullying. She also discussed language changes relative to state law as it pertains to students on an IEP.

Home school applications

Dr. Maestas stated that he has reviewed both homeschool applications, one for a grade 7 student and one for a grade 6 student for the remainder of the school year, and that he recommends approval as the applications meet the requirements. Tim Dempsey asked if this approval carries over to the next year, to which Dr. Maestas stated that they do not, the approval is for this school year only.

- On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Alyson Anderson

It was **voted**: To approve the homeschool applications for a student in student in grade 7 as presented in the packet for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year

Jen Benham – aye
Nes Correnti - aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Kerry Ni – aye
Alyson Anderson – aye
Matt Cosman - aye

- On a motion by Jen Benham and seconded by Tim Dempsey

It was **voted**: To approve the homeschool applications for a student in grade 7 and a student in grade 6 as presented in the packet for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year

Jen Benham – aye
Nes Correnti - aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Kerry Ni – aye
Alyson Anderson – aye

Matt Cosman - aye

Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

- Tim Dempsey reported that the Special Education Subcommittee meeting had to be rescheduled, and is upcoming on Thursday, and that the Hingham Unity Council had a nice event this past Sunday. ● Jen Benham reported that the Policy Subcommittee met recently, last week.
- Kerry Ni reported she attended the Middle School Council meeting today and they talked about updating the handbook, and the grade 8 field trip
- Nes Correnti reported there are warrants in the packet

Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting: none

- On a motion by Jen Benham and seconded by Kerry Ni
It was **voted**: To adjourn at 9:06 PM

Jen Benham – aye
Nes Correnti - aye
Tim Dempsey – aye
Kerry Ni – aye
Alyson Anderson – aye
Matt Cosman - aye

Respectfully Submitted By:
Jen Benham

Documents Included:

 05.23.2022 Agenda.pdf 

 Item 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 Ballot 05.23.2022.pdf 

 Item 2.1 Minutes of the May 5 2022 SC and SAC joint meeting .pdf 

 Item 2.2 Minutes of the May 9, 2022 SC meeting.pdf 

 Item 6.1 Hingham FY 2022 Budget Forecast May 23 2022 Rev II.pptx 

 Item 6.2 School Committee Policies A-L, to ensure that policies incorporate gender inclusivity.pdf 

 Item 6.3 draft KBE - SCHOOL PARENT_BOOSTER ORGANIZATIONS_EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS.pdf 

 Item 7.1 Cost Estimate Hingham High School Workout Facility 3.30.22.pdf 

 Item 7.1 HHS WORKOUT FACILITY PRICING SET.pdf 

 Item 7.1 The Deck (Before and After-Conceptual Rendering).pdf 

 Item 7.4 IKFB - DIPLOMAS.pdf 

 Item 7.5 JICFB - BULLYING PREVENTION.pdf 

 Item 7.6 Home school application grade 7.pdf 

 Item 7.7 Home school application grade 6.pdf 

 Item 8 Warrants.pdf 
