

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

June 21, 2022 at 7:00PM

Location: Hingham Town Hall

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

School Committee members present: Chair Michelle Ayer, Vice-Chair Nes Correnti, Secretary Jen Benham, Kerry Ni, Tim Dempsey, Alyson Anderson, and Matt Cosman

Central Office Members present: Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Maestas, Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris

Visitors present: Donna Maclellan, Bob Curley, June Gustafson, Raymond Estes, Liza O'Reilly, Carlos DaSilva, Julie Strehle, Susan Wetzel, Dr. Margaret Adams, Aisha Oppong

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Michelle Ayer.

Chair Michelle Ayer acknowledged that this is Dr. Gary Maestas' last meeting, and Dr. Maestas thanked the School Committee for the opportunity to serve as Interim Superintendent for the past year.

Proprietary specifications for the Foster School Project

Ray Estes from the School Building Committee detailed items that the committee has deemed proprietary items and stated that they are asking for the School Committee's approval to include the proprietary items in the submission to the MSBA.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Kerry Ni
It was **voted** to approve the following proprietary items to be included in the Foster Elementary Project specifications to meet the district's operation and security needs: access control management system, video management system, exterior intercom system, and the hardware keying system

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

Strategic Plan Presentation

Dr. Maestas thanked the Strategic Planning Committee and the consulting group Teaching Learning Alliance for their work to create this three-year plan. Dr. Maestas explained the process and the phases of the plan, as well as the mission statement.

Dr. Maestas went on to introduce all of the initiatives within the plan and explained the process of how the plan is put into place. He stated that this presentation and the full strategic plan will be available on the district website for the public to read.

The Committee asked questions related to the timeline of communication for the community, the mission statement and the process. Julie Strehle from the Advisory Committee was present and asked about a staffing audit. Dr. Maestas stated that he recently completed a staffing audit which he will be sharing with the School Committee this week.

Other comments/questions from the community included:

- Liza O'Reilly made points based on her work on the Strategic Plan Committee and stated that the plan includes the needs of the district that the community has been advocating for.
- Barbara Lynch asked about community input before the plan is approved, to which the Committee explained that focus groups were held over the past several months as a way to receive input from a variety of stakeholders.
- Carlos DaSilva stated that during his time as a School Committee member he had been advocating for diversity training for all staff and is pleased to see that it is included in the plan.
- Susan Wetzel asked a question about the procedure manuals.
- Committee member Jen Benham was monitoring the questions that were being submitted via YouTube, and read the questions which included a question about curriculum review regarding equity and a question about procedures being updated, and about how focus groups were organized. There was also a question about the tiered emotional support system.

Approval of minutes

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Kerry Ni
It was **voted** to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on June 6, 2022

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

Questions and Comments

There were no questions or comments at this time.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Maestas stated the COVID numbers are down considerably. He again thanked the School Committee and the Hingham Community for the opportunity to serve as Interim Superintendent this past year.

Communications

Dr. Maestas mentioned that he and members of the School Committee have been receiving letters and emails from students as part of a civics project, in which the students are advocating for change in their educational system. Chair Michelle Ayer also thanked the students for the letters.

Unfinished Business

Updates on the FY 22 and FY 23 budgets

John Ferris, Director of Business and Support Services, updated the committee as the FY 22 budget is ending. He stated that the FY 23 budget is in good shape. Vice Chair Nes Correnti asked about transferring some remaining funds to the Special Education fund, as was discussed at the last meeting but a vote had not been taken.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted** to approve the transfer of up to \$100,000 to the special education reserve fund to be used for unanticipated, unbudgeted, and/or extraordinary costs associated with out-of-district tuitions and/or transportation

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

New Business

School Committee summer meeting schedule: The Committee discussed the upcoming summer meetings and agreed to keep the July 25th meeting, and to keep both August 8th and August 22nd on the schedule for now.

Declaration of surplus

John Ferris, Director of Business and Support Services, discussed that there is a surplus of foreign language textbooks that have no value.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted** to declare surplus the foreign language books as detailed above and authorize the Director of Business and Support Service to dispose of the books at the least cost to Hingham.

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

John Ferris discussed that outgoing Assistant Superintendent, James LaBillois would like to purchase the school laptop that he had been issued. He stated that he conferred with Technology Director, Joe Andrews to determine the value of the laptop.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted**: To declare surplus of the Apple Macintosh Laptop MacBook Pro Computer currently used by outgoing Assistant Superintendent and authorized purchase by James LaBillois at a price of \$1,839.20. The funds received will be deposited into the Town's general fund.

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

Matt Cosman – aye

Notification of any new hires, retirements & resignations

The Committee acknowledged the list that was included in their packet.

Potential use of HPS fields to host July 4th fireworks display

Chair Michelle Ayer stated that the Lions Club has decided to postpone the fireworks until the Fall and therefore there is no need to discuss this agenda item.

Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

- Matt Cosman reported that the East School Council had met and they discussed the East School Improvement Plan.
- Alyson Anderson stated that the Hingham Arts Alliance recently had an event at Derby Street, and that the Climate Action Planning Committee had a community engagement session last week.
- Tim Dempsey stated that the Special Education and Curriculum Subcommittees had previously discussed the idea of merging those two subcommittees and this will continue to be discussed. He also stated that the development of the Hingham Human Rights Commission is coming together.
- Kerry Ni stated that the Middle School Council met and discussed the School Improvement Plan
- Jen Benham reported that the SNAP board met during the previous week and they discussed the success of their recent annual fundraiser.
- Nes Correnti noted that there were warrants in the packet, and reported that the Foster School Council met and discussed the Foster School Improvement Plan.
- Michelle Ayer stated that the High School Council met recently.

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

None

Adjourn



- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted** to adjourn at 9:41 PM



Michelle Ayer – aye
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:



 Strategic Plan Docs



 4.1 Minutes of the June 6, 2022 SC meeting. pdf.pdf 


 06.21.2022 Agenda revised.pdf 


 06.21.2022 Agenda.pdf 

 Item 2 Hingham Foster Proprietary Items 6 17 22.pdf 

 Item 9.2 Declaration of Surplus for MAC laptop Computer.pdf 

 Item 9.2 Foriegn Language Books to Decommission 6.21.22xls... 

 Item 9.3 new hires_resignations.pdf 

 Warrants.pdf 