

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

June 6, 2022 at 6:15 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 6:15 PM by Chair Michelle Ayer
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, Assistant Superintendent Dr. James LaBillois, Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris, Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Suzanne Vinnes

2. Adjourn to Executive Session:

- On a Motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was voted to enter into Executive Session and to reconvene in Open Session, for the purposes of:

2.1. To Approve minutes of Executive Session held on May 9, 2022

2.2 To discuss collective bargaining strategies

To discuss individual contracts of non-union administrators

The public discussion of which would be detrimental to the Committee's bargaining position.

Michelle Ayer – aye

Nes Correnti - aye

Jen Benham – aye

Kerry Ni - aye

Tim Dempsey – aye

Alyson Anderson - aye

Matt Cosman -aye

3. The Open Session reconvened and was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Michelle Ayer

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, Assistant Superintendent Dr. James LaBillois, Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris, Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Suzanne Vinnes

Also present: Executive Assistant Sherry Robertson

Visitors present: Alysia Campbell, Alec Porter, Barbara Lynch, John Daley, Kristen Godfrey, Jamie von Freymann, Susanne Hallisey, Heidi Vigneau, June Gustafson, Deborah Whiting, Kathryn Roberts

4. Approval of minutes

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted**: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 5, 2022 (joint meeting w/student advisory)

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

The Committee discussed the minutes of the meeting held on May 23, 2022 and Nes Correnti made suggestions for edits.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted**: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 23, 2022, as amended

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

5. Questions and Comments

Public Comments and Questions from the Community Included:

- A comment from John Daley about vaccination requirements for field trips and a suggestion that the School Committee consider allowing parents to make the decision rather than have a set policy to which Chair Michelle Ayer stated that there are field trips on this agenda that they will be discussing.

6. Superintendent's Report

Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Maestas began by noting the recent announcement of Assistant Superintendent Dr. James LaBillois, who will be leaving the district to take a new position as Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services for the Brockton Public Schools beginning on July 1, 2022. Dr. Maestas thanked Dr. LaBillois for his years of dedication to the Hingham Public Schools. Chair Michelle Ayer also thanked Dr. LaBillois for his years of service. Incoming, Superintendent Dr. Adams intends to appoint an Interim Assistant Superintendent for the 2022-2023 school year and there will be a full search for a permanent Assistant Superintendent in the upcoming school year.

7. Communications

Michelle Ayer mentioned the number of emails and letters the School Committee members have received from students who are writing as part of a civics class project. Chair Ayer also noted the recent tragedy of the school shooting in Texas stating that the district and the Hingham Police department work closely to ensure that student safety is a top priority. She also stated that a member of the community is organizing to have a group presence at the March 4 Our Lives rally in Boston.

8. Unfinished Business

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Maestas stated that the Strategic Planning Committee has one final meeting this week and will be presenting the Strategic Plan draft to the full School Committee on June 21st.

2022-2023 School Committee subcommittees

Chair Michelle Ayer assigned School Committee members to their subcommittees and liaison roles. Michelle Ayer stated that the list of 2022-2023 subcommittee roles will be posted on the District website soon.

School Committee policy IKFB (Diplomas) (second read)

The Committee approved changes to the Diplomas policy to ensure that students who meet the certificate of attainment under M.G.L. will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. They also approved changes that would allow a current HPS employee the opportunity to present a diploma to a family member who has lived with the graduate.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted**: To approve the proposed changes to policy IKFB

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

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

The School Committee approved changes to policy JICFB - Bullying Prevention, to cite the bullying and cyber-bullying definitions from Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) and to add language to the policy from M.G.L. c. 71B section 3 that support children with disabilities who may be bullied, providing that whenever the evaluation of the IEP team indicates that the child has a disability that affects social skills development or that the child is vulnerable to bullying, harassment or teasing, the IEP will address the skills needed to avoid and respond to bullying, harassment or teasing.

- On a motion by Jen Benham and seconded by Nes Correnti
It was **voted**: To approve the proposed changes to policy JICFB

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

Dr. LaBillois explained that handbooks have not been printed in hardcopies in recent years, and also stated that the principals are meeting this week to discuss handbook updates.

- Community member Barbie Lynch asked about printed copies of Handbooks, and if the community has the opportunity to have a voice in policy. Dr. LaBillois explained that the best way to advocate as a parent is to work with the school council. Ms. Lynch also asked about procedural manuals, to which Dr. LaBillois explained that the procedural manual is currently being worked on to identify which new policies require procedures to be updated.

FY23 Budget Update

- Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris discussed the FY '23 budget, noting recent retirement notifications and the restructuring in some departments , and how those changes affect the budget. He also discussed the increase in costs for regular expenses.
- John Ferris requested authority to allocate potential excess funds to the Special Education Reserve Fund. The School Committee will take this up at the 6/21 meeting.

At this time, Nursing Coordinator Heidi Vigneau asked for consideration on if money in the budget can be used to make the floating nurse position permanent. Dr. Maestas acknowledged the hard work of the school nurses, and explained that items to be presented as part of the budget are discussed in October, and therefore is not something that can be added at this time, as it is not a practice to add staff with money that is left over and that staffing needs should be addressed at the time of the development of the budget. He stated that he will be sure to make Dr. Adams aware of the needs of the district. Members of the committee floated the idea of potentially using ESSER funds for this position. This will be discussed by the finance subcommittee as to if the use of ESSER funding could be considered an appropriate use of the funds.

9. New Business

Proposed field trip to New York City in October of 2022

Foreign Language Director Erica Pollard was in attendance and described the trip, noting that it is to occur over the long weekend in October and that it may be more financially accessible than some other longer trips.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Alyson Anderson
It was **voted**: To approve the proposed trip to New York City in October of 2022

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

Proposed student trip to Costa Rica in February of 2023

Teacher Alysia Campbell was in attendance and described the trip, explaining that it is science based and students will have the opportunity to do research, have adventures, and conduct a service project.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted**: To approve the proposed trip to Costa Rica in February 2023

Michelle Ayer – aye

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

Proposed field trip to France in April of 2023

Teacher Alec Porter was in attendance and described the trip, explaining that this will be an exchange trip where some students from France will be coming this fall, and then in April, the Hingham students will go to France and stay with host families. Mr. Porter explained that this is done through a company that has been used in years past and that there are opportunities for financial assistance available.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted**: To approve the proposed trip to France in April of 2023

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

Proposed field trip to Argentina in April of 2023

Erica Pollard described the trip, explaining that this trip is intended to be more language focused, specifically those students studying Spanish. Ms. Pollard stated that she will be sure to get more information for students regarding options for financial assistance.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Alyson Anderson
It was **voted**: To approve the proposed trip to Argentina in April of 2023

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

New hires, retirements & resignations

Michelle Ayer stated that they have not received notifications since the last meeting.

10. Subcommittee and Project Reports and Warrants Signed

- Tim Dempsey reported that the Special Education Subcommittee met last week, that the Hingham Education Foundation has completed their grant process, and that the Hingham Arts Alliance will be hosting an event on June 12th called “Arts on the Green.”
- Jen Benham reported that SNAP has their annual event this Friday at South Shore Country Club and that tickets were still available for purchase. She also reported that the facilities master plan

committee is meeting next week.

- Nes Correnti stated that there was a Finance subcommittee meeting last week, and that there are signed warrants in the packet

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

Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris discussed the opportunity to purchase three Special Education vans. He explained that this purchase would save money, as it would be cheaper than leasing the vans.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted**: To approve the Bid Award to Quality Van Sales in the amount of \$158,156 for the purchase of three Special Ed 7D vans to be funded from FY 2022 Year End Funds.

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

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Kerry Ni
It was **voted**: To adjourn at 9:00 PM

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



Respectfully Submitted By:
Jen Benham

Documents Included:

 05.23.2022 Minutes 

 05.23.2022 Minutes.pdf 

 06.06.2022 Agenda revised 



 06.06.2022 Agenda revised.pdf 



 06.06.2022 Agenda.pdf 



 Item 4.1 Minutes of the May 5 2022 SC and SAC joint meeting .pdf 

 Item 8.3 IKFB - DIPLOMAS 



 Item 8.3 IKFB - DIPLOMAS.pdf 



 Item 8.4 JICFB - BULLYING PREVENTION 



 Item 8.4 JICFB - BULLYING PREVENTION.pdf 

 Item 9.1 NYC October 2022.pdf 

 Item 9.2 Costa Rica February 2023.pdf 

 Item 9.3 France April 2023.pdf 

 Item 9.4 Argentina April 2023.pdf 

 Item 10 Warrants.pdf 

 Item 11 48 hours_.pdf 
