

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE
October 11, 2022 7:00PM
MEETING MINUTES

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

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

School Committee members participating remotely: none

This meeting incorporated the use of the OWL camera to broadcast the meeting via Zoom.

Central Office Members present: Superintendent Dr. Margaret Adams, Interim Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts, and Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong

Also present: Executive Assistant Sherry Robertson, and Student Advisory Representative Nathan Tesler

Visitors present: State Representative Joan Meschino and Senator Patrick O'Connor, Middle School Principal Derek Smith, Mark McCulloch, June Gustafson, Jacqueline Beaupre

Remote Visitors: There were approximately 12 people participating remotely.

Michelle Ayer read the following statement for those participating by zoom. This meeting is being offered remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. Attendees were advised that the meeting and all communications during the meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.

Any participant who wished to record the meeting was asked to 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. Chair Ayer advised that the Harbor Media was recording the session. No other participants indicated that they would be recording the meeting.

Approval of minutes

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted** to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on September 12, 2022 with the changes discussed

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 Tim Dempsey and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted** to approve the minutes of the Special Education Subcommittee meeting held on June 2, 2022

Michelle Ayer – aye
Jen Benham – aye
Tim Dempsey – aye

Questions and Comments

There were no public questions or comments at this time.

Legislative Update from Senator Patrick O'Connor and State Representative Joan Meschino

Representative Meschino and Representative O'Connor gave a presentation that included:

- FY 23 Budget recap
- Recent Accomplishments of the Legislature
- Legislation of Interest
- The Foster School and MSBA grant

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Adams began by acknowledging recent news in the district including:

- Five Hingham High School students recently received national recognition by the College Board, the organization that oversees SAT examinations and Advanced Placement (AP) programs across the country.
- The Boston Globe Holmes Award, given to a Division 2 athletic program, has again been awarded to the Hingham High School Athletic program for the 4th year in a row. Hingham High's Varsity Athletic program ranked 1st out of all Division 2 schools in Massachusetts with a winning percentage of 75.25.
- Hingham Public Schools (HPS) and the HPS Fine Arts Department have announced the schedule for the concerts of the year. The first concert this winter begins with the Hingham Middle School Chorus Concert on Tuesday, December 6th.

METCO Update

Dr. Adams stated that the METCO update will be ready for the next meeting on October 24th.

Foster Contingency

Superintendent Dr. Margaret Adams reviewed her memo to the School Committee detailing contingency plans in the event that the proposal to build a new Foster Elementary School is not passed at the upcoming Special Town Meeting on November 1st. The Committee discussed the importance of getting this information out to the families in the district.

State Accountability Report

Dr. Adams gave a presentation explaining the state's accountability system. She stated that the MCAS results came in recently and the data will be presented at a School Committee meeting in November. Interim Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts discussed achievement and ongoing screening and assessments.

October 1st Enrollment Data

Dr. Adams reviewed the latest enrollment numbers per grade, noting the overall total of students in the district is 3,801.

Staffing Update

Dr. Adams reviewed a memo from Director of Human Resources, Susan D'Amato, noting the recent positions filled, as well as several budgeted positions that are not yet filled. The Committee asked questions about the unfilled position of District Data Analyst.

Update on Homeschooling

Dr. Adams updated the Committee on the number of home school applications that have been approved so far this year, which is a total of five and that there are two applications pending.

Regulations for Booster and Support Organizations

Dr. Adams reviewed her memo to the Committee which outlined the regulations for Booster and Support Groups. The memo included regulations and procedures, financial expectations, fundraising, donations and expenditure of funds, and recommended practices.

Bullying Prevention/Intervention Plan

Dr. Adams and the Committee discussed the district's Bullying Prevention/Intervention Plan. Dr. Adams reported that there is a new form to anonymously report bullying, and that staff has been informed. Dr. Adams also stated that the plan matches the state's guidelines. Kerry Ni stated that some of the dates within the text of the plan are outdated and that we're supposed to update the plan every couple of years. Ni asked if there is an intention of refreshing it and getting the public involved and doing a needs assessment. Jen Benham and Michelle Ayer also agreed they would like to see a fuller process of the plan given that it is part of the strategic plan. Dr. Adams did note that the current plan does meet the requirements of the Department of Education and the immediate need was to make sure people knew their responsibilities around procedures and investigations.

Communications

Communications Received by the Superintendent

Dr. Adams had nothing further to report.

Student Communications

Student Representative, Nathan Tesler, reported that the Student Advisory Committee met and that the students discussed policies. He stated that there is a band concert on October 18th.

Other Communications

none

Unfinished Business

none

New Business

Trip to NYC in December 2022

Dr. Adams explained that this is a trip that was previously approved last spring, and that the dates have changed from October to December. The trip is focused to enhance the curriculum for the students studying Chinese and will include visits to many art museums and cultural performances and festivals.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted** to approve the student trip to New York City in December of 2022.

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

Trip to NYC in April 2023

Hingham High School teacher, Alysia Pelliccia was present to describe the trip to the Committee. She noted the material in the packet that explains the itinerary of the Broadway experience as well as information about financial aid available and trip insurance.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted** to approve the student trip to New York City in April 2023

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

Grade 8 trip to Washington D.C. in April 2023

Middle School Principal Derek Smith was present along with Middle School Teacher Mark McCulloch. Mr. Smith explained that this year the trip will be a little earlier to avoid the crowds and the heat that they experienced last year on this trip as they went close to the end of the school year in 2022. Mr. Smith also noted that this year the group intends to fly, rather than travel by bus. He answered questions about financial assistance and explained day trips and activities that are provided for the students that choose not to go on the trip.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted** to approve the grade 8 trip to Washington, D.C. in April of 2023

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

Surplus of Materials

Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong stated that the surplus materials include books from the Hingham High School library that are in poor condition and no longer support the curriculum. She also stated that there are VHS tapes from the South Elementary School that are no longer in use and have no monetary value.

- On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted** to declare as surplus VHS cassettes and High School library titles listed and to authorize the Director of Business and Support Service to dispose of the books and cassettes 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

Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

- Alyson Anderson reported that the Plymouth River Elementary School Council will be meeting on October 25th and that the Climate Action Planning Committee will be meeting this week.
- Matt Cosman reported that the East Elementary School Council will be meeting on October 18th.
- Tim Dempsey reported that the Special Education Subcommittee is planning a meeting at the end of October. He also reported that the Hingham Education Foundation will be having its annual Fall Event on October 14th, and a Spelling Bee on November 6th. He also stated that the SEPAC Board met on October 6th and that Dr. Adams and Dr. Vinnes attended.
- Nes Correnti reported that the Capital/Finance & Facilities Subcommittee met today and that the Sustainable Budget Task force met on September 26th. She stated that the Foster Elementary School Council met on September 21st, and noted that there are signed warrants in tonight's meeting packet.
- Jen Benham reported that there was a SNAP meeting on September 13th.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee met on October 6th.
- It was also noted that there would be School Committee office hours the following week.

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

None

Kerry Ni noted that the MASC Resolutions would be discussed at the next meeting on October 24th.

- On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Jen Benham at **9:18 PM**
It was voted to Adjourn to Executive Session not to return to Open Session for the purposes of:

a. To approve minutes of the executive sessions held on June 6 (joint session with Select Board, Advisory Committee, and Personnel Board); June 22 and July 14

b. Discussing strategy related to collective bargaining negotiations with HEA Unit AA (Administrators) the public discussion of which may be detrimental to the Committee's bargaining position

Respectfully Submitted By:
Jen Benham

Documents Included:

Name ↑

 10.11.2022 Agenda.pdf 

 Item 2.1 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on September 12, 2022.pdf 

 Item 2.2 Special Ed minutes 6_2_2022.pdf 

 Item 5.0 HHS Students College Board Recognition - Press Release HPS.pdf 

 Item 5.0 HPS Holmes Award 4th Year In a Row - Press Release.pdf 

 Item 5.0 HPS Release A Year's Worth of Music - Press Release.pdf 

 Item 5.2 Contingency Plans Foster.pdf 

 Item 5.3 22 Accountability Presentation.pdf 

 Item 5.3 2022 Accountability Data - Hingham (01310000).pdf 

 Item 5.3 Accountability Summary.pdf 

 Item 5.3 Glossary Reporting Terms.pdf 

 Item 5.4 October 1, 2022 Enrollment Summary.pdf 

 Item 5.5 Staffing Update.pdf 

 Item 5.6 Homeschooling Update.pdf 

 Item 5.7 Regulations for Booster and Support Organizations.pdf 

 Item 5.8 Districts-Bullying-Prevention-Plan-2022-2023.pdf 

 Item 5.8 Update on Bullying Prevention Plan.pdf 

 Item 8.1 Previously approved trip to NY_date change.pdf 

 Item 8.2 Proposed Student Trip to NYC In April 2023_Broadway.pdf 

 Item 8.3 Proposed Grade 8 Trip to Washington D.D. In April 2023.pdf 

 Item 8.4 Surplus - Library Material -10-11-22.pdf 

 Item 8.41 Surplus South VHS Cassettes.pdf 

 Item 8.42 Library Weeding Log HS.pdf 

 Item 9 Warrants.pdf 
