

**HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**October 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

School Committee Chair Michelle Ayer was participating remotely and read the statement regarding remote meetings. Chair Ayer informed the committee that if they lost remote connection during the meeting, then Committee member Kerry Ni would conduct the meeting.

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

**School Committee members present:** Secretary Jen Benham, Kerry Ni, Tim Dempsey, Alyson Anderson

**School Committee members participating remotely:** Chair Michelle Ayer and Vice-Chair Nes Correnti

**School Committee members absent:** Matt Cosman was absent at the beginning of the meeting and joined to participate remotely at 8:14 PM.

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:** Phaedre Sassano, June Gustafson, Jacqueline Beaupre, Amy Jackson

Remote Visitors: There were approximately 9 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 Jen Benham and seconded by Kerry Ni  
It was **voted** to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on October 11, 2022

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

## **Questions and Comments**

There were no public questions or comments at this time.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Adams reported on several news items in the district which included:

- The Hingham Public Schools Fine Arts Department announced that there will be an 83-student production of The Music Man this December.
- The Hingham High School Unified Sports Programs Received a National Banner of Recognition from the Special Olympics.

## **METCO Update**

Dr. Adams introduced METCO Director Amy Jackson who reported that there are 45 students in the district's METCO program, and that she hopes to petition as part of the FY24 METCO grant to increase the number of students next year. She stated that there is now a late bus provided for those students who wish to participate in after school extracurricular activities. She shared her visions for the program, and upcoming workshops for families. Ms. Jackson stated that there will be upcoming workshops that will be provided to students, and that the first one will be focused on internet safety.

At this time, some attendees viewing the meeting on Zoom indicated that there were some technical difficulties with the audio and after trying to make some adjustments with the microphones, Amy Jackson repeated her report from the beginning.

## **Preliminary Budget Calendar FY 24**

Dr. Adams noted the proposed budget meeting calendar that is in the meeting packet which contains the dates of the budget hearings and presentations leading up to the Spring Town Meeting 2023.

## **FY 22 Budget Final Summary Update**

Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong noted the final FY22 Final Budget to Actual Explanations summary in the meeting packet and stated that the Finance/Capital & Facilities Subcommittee has reviewed it as well.

## **South Shore Educational Collaborative Update**

Dr. Adams stated that she recently attended a meeting of the South Shore Educational Collaborative Board of Directors and they reviewed the FY22 financial report and looked at the FY23 budget information which is in the meeting packet.

## **Special Education Increase Out of District**

Dr. Adams noted the information in the packet received from the state's Operational Services Division which indicates an analysis showing an estimated 14% rate of inflation for FY24.

## **Communications**

### **Communications Received by the Superintendent**

Dr. Adams had no further communications to report at this time.

### **Student Communications**

Student Representative Nathan Tesler reported that the Student Advisory Committee has assigned a member as a liaison for each school to take the opportunity to get younger students' perspectives. He also stated that the Student Advisory Committee has been working to spread awareness among students about participation in the Special Town Meeting, if they are eligible to vote.

### **Other Communications**

none

### **Unfinished Business**

none

### **New Business**

#### **Proposed student trip to NY in March 2023**

Hingham High School teacher Phaedre Sassano presented a proposed overnight field trip to NYC. The trip is being offered to music students in grades 9-12. The trip involves attending concert programs at Lincoln Center and the New York Philharmonic, as well as student and faculty performances at Julliard. The trip will take place March 30<sup>th</sup>-April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 via motor coach with a total of 18 students and 3 chaperones. Ms. Sassano provided information regarding costs, trip insurance, and financial aid.

- On a motion by Jen Benham and seconded by Kerry Ni  
It was **voted** to approve the student trip to New York City in March of 2023

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham – aye

Nes Correnti - aye

Tim Dempsey – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

Alyson Anderson – aye

#### **Program Review Process**

Interim Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts explained that the program review process is a multi-year, systemic cycle of improvement. She gave an overview of the program review phases and explained that each review is a two-year process. Ms. Roberts also noted that the meeting packet contained a proposed curriculum program review schedule.

#### **Renaming the Curriculum Subcommittee**

Chair of the Curriculum Subcommittee Tim Dempsey gave a brief background, noting that the Curriculum Subcommittee was new last year, and the committee felt that the name does not explain what they do, as they are not focused on classrooms. He proposed a name change to the Educational Programming Committee.

- On a motion by Tim Dempsey and seconded by Alyson Anderson  
It was **voted** to approve the name change of the Curriculum Subcommittee to now be known as The Education Programming Committee

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham – aye

Nes Correnti - aye

Tim Dempsey – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

Alyson Anderson – aye

#### **2022 Proposed (MASC) Resolutions**

Kerry Ni read the descriptions of each of the 2022 proposed Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Resolutions and the Committee voted on whether to support each one.

- On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Jen Benham  
It was **voted**: To vote in support of resolution #1 as proposed by the MASC Board of Directors related to sanctuary laws for transgender students

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

- On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Jen Benham  
It was **voted**: To vote in support of resolution #2 related to the increasing of the maximum balance allowed by the Special Education reserve fund

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

- On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Jen Benham  
It was **voted**: To vote in support of resolution #3 related to membership of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

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

- On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Jen Benham  
It was **voted**: To vote in support of resolution #4 related to preserving local governance of Massachusetts schools

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

- On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Jen Benham  
It was **voted**: To vote in support of resolution #5 related to personal financial literacy education

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

Alyson Anderson – aye

Committee member Matt Cosman joined remotely at this time (8:14PM).

The Committee discussed resolution #6 which related to a regional school assessment reserve fund, and agreed that since Hingham did not belong to a regional district they would not vote against nor in favor of the resolution.

- On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Jen Benham  
It was **voted**: To vote **No Action** with regard to resolution #6 which is related to the establishment of a regional school assessment reserve fund

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham – aye

Nes Correnti - aye

Tim Dempsey – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

Alyson Anderson – aye

Matt Cosman - aye

### **FY 23 Connecting Activities Grant**

Dr. Adams reviewed the information about the grant from the South Shore MassHire South Shore Workforce Board. Dr. Adams stated that the grant is for \$7,000 and is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. She stated that activities funded include career development education, a job fair and career exploration event, as well as a community service day.

- On a motion by Jen Benham and seconded by Kerry Ni  
It was **voted** to approve the partnership between the Hingham Public Schools and the City of Quincy/South Shore MassHire South Shore Workforce Board and accept the \$7,000 grant

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham – aye

Nes Correnti - aye

Tim Dempsey – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

Alyson Anderson – aye

Matt Cosman - aye

### **METCO Grant**

Dr. Adams stated that the Hingham Public Schools has been awarded three mini-grants for \$1,800, \$1,500, and \$1,000 provided by METCO Headquarters and that the grants will provide culturally-oriented school performing arts activities through Dialogues on Diversity.

- On a motion by Jen Benham and seconded by Kerry Ni  
It was **voted** to accept all three grants from METCO

Michelle Ayer – aye

Jen Benham – aye

Nes Correnti - aye

Tim Dempsey – aye

Kerry Ni – aye

Alyson Anderson – aye

Matt Cosman - aye

### **Declaration of Surplus**

Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong explained that the school librarians are working their way through materials that are no longer in use and the list in the packet is of books and cassettes that are out of circulation, or damaged. Dr. Adams noted that some of these books listed are almost 20 years old.

- On a motion by Jen Benham and seconded by Kerry Ni  
It was **voted** to declare as surplus the High School Library titles listed and to authorize the Director of Business and Support Services 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**

- Matt Cosman reported that the East Elementary School Council recently held its first meeting and the focus was on drafting a School Improvement Plan
- Alyson Anderson reported that the Hingham Arts Alliance had its annual Arts Walk this past weekend, and noted that the drama department has an upcoming performance of The Music Man. She also reported that the Plymouth River Elementary School Council has a meeting this week.
- Tim Dempsey reported that there is a SEPAC event this week at the Library which is a conversation with a guest speaker about Dyslexia. He also reported that the Special Education Subcommittee will be meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup> and that the Hingham Education Foundation had a successful event at the Paragon Boardwalk and will be having its Spelling Bee on November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee is meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> and on November 1<sup>st</sup>. She also reported that the Middle School Council will be scheduling a meeting soon.
- Jen Benham reported that she attended the South School PTO meeting last week and will be attending the South School Council meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Nes Correnti reported that there are warrants in the packet. She also reported that the Foster Elementary School Council will be meeting this week.
- Michelle Ayer reported that the High School Council met last week. She also encouraged the community to attend the upcoming Special Town Meeting.

### **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 8:44PM

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:

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 [2.1 Minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on October 11, 2022.pdf](#) 

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 [10.24.2022 Agenda.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 4.0 HPS Fine Arts Department presents an 83-student production, The Music Man - Press Release.pdf](#)

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 [Item 4.0 Unified Sports PR.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 4.1 METCO School Committee .pdf](#) 

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 [Item 4.2 Budget Calendar FY24.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 4.3 Final Summary FY22 - Budget to Actual - Discussion Document.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 4.3 Summary Final FY22 Budget to Actual.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 4.4 SSEC Update to SC.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 4.5 CIF\\_MemoFY24.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 7.1 proposed student trip to NY March 2023.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 7.2 HPS--Suggested Protocol for Program Review.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 7.4 MASC\\_2022\\_Resolutions-Report.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 7.5 FY23 Connecting Activities Hingham Contract - Unsigned.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 7.6 METCO Grant School Committee .pdf](#) 

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 [Item 7.7 Surplus - Library Material -10-24-22.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 7.7 WeedingLogReportfrom - HS - 10-24-22.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 8 warrants.pdf](#) 