

## HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 23, 2023

### MEETING MINUTES

School Committee Chair Michelle Ayer called the meeting to order at 7:00PM, and began by reading 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.

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

**School Committee members absent:** 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 Representative Nathan Tesler

**Visitors present:** High School Principal Rick Swanson, Middle School Principal Derek Smith, Foster Elementary School Principal Matthew Scheufele, and HEA co-President Jacqueline Beaupre. There were approximately 18 remote visitors.

#### **Approval of minutes:**

A Committee member made suggested edits to the minutes of January 9, 2023.

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 January 9, 2023 with the amendments as discussed

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the minutes of the School Committee Budget Session II held on January 12, 2023

The Committee agreed to table the minutes of the School Committee Budget Session III held on January 18, 2023 to the next meeting.

#### **Student Communication**

Student Representative Nathan Tesler stated that since the Student Advisory Committee will be meeting with the School Committee this week, he will save most of his news for that meeting. He did report that the annual Unity

Week will be taking place during the first week of February 6<sup>th</sup> organized by the Unity Project, and that it will kick off with an open mic night.

### **Questions and Comments**

There were no questions at this time.

### **Superintendent's Report**

- **Recruitment of Executive Director of Student Services**

Dr. Adams discussed the timeline for the search which was shared in the packet. She stated that the position has been posted and a screening committee will be formed to consist of two staff members, 2 parents/caregivers, 2 students, a principal, a curriculum director, and a School Committee member. She thanked Dr. Suzanne Vinnes for her service to Hingham Schools and her development of programs in Special Education, as she is leaving to take on a new position at the end of the school year.

- **Assistant Superintendent Search**

Dr. Adams thanked Katie Roberts who has been working as Interim Assistant Superintendent and that the timeline for the search is in the Committee's packet. Dr. Adams noted that the screening committee will be formed and will also consist of two parents/caregivers, two students, two staff, one principal, one School Committee member, and a curriculum director.

Dr. Adams noted that after both screening committees have chosen finalists, the community will have an opportunity to meet them and ask questions.

### **Budget Update**

Dr. Adams stated that the next budget meeting is this coming Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, and that she and Director of Business Aisha Oppong will be sharing with the School Committee further reductions in the reduced services budget to reflect the deficit in the town budget. She stated that at this meeting, they will also be presenting the budget for Athletics, Transportation, and Facilities. She also stated that there will be an additional meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss further reductions with the building principals, and that a joint meeting will be held with the Advisory Committee on February 7<sup>th</sup>, to be followed by the public hearing on the budget on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

#### **Foster School Improvement Plan**

Principal Matthew Scheufele gave a presentation reviewing the goals: Improved Communication, Multi Tiered System of Support, Improve Positive Behavior Support Interventions, Improve the Instructional Support Intervention Team (ISIT), 504, and Special Education Process. He detailed ways the goals have been accomplished and discussed ways to continue improving on the current goals. Mr. Scheufele also discussed the current construction related to the building of the new Foster Elementary School, and was happy to report that they are days away from opening the new temporary playground.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the 2022-2023 Foster Elementary School Improvement Plan

### **Hingham High School Program of Studies**

High School Principal Rick Swanson presented the Committee with a memo summarizing the proposed changes in the Program of Studies at the High School and highlighted the key points in the various departments.

In addition to the changes to the course offerings, Mr. Swanson noted that The Art and Industrial Technology departments have made significant progress in developing “Pathways” programs for students with special interest in those fields of study, and that the High School expects to pilot those programs during the 2023-2024 school year and also noted that the High School plans to explore additional “Dual Enrollment” opportunities. Interim Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts stated as an example, that they have had recent discussions with Quincy College, which has a robust dual enrollment program, and they are in the beginning phases of discussion and will have more to talk about in the future about these types of courses.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the Hingham High School Program of Studies for 2023-2024

### **Hingham Middle School Program of Studies**

Middle School Principal Derek Smith present the Committee with proposed changes to the Middle School Program of Studies in the following areas;

- English: Language has been added to allow for the combining of instructional levels in grades 7 and 8 along with the differentiation of assignments and assessments as appropriate.
- Art: Sections of Art 7 (900M) and Art 8 (901M) may be combined into multi-grade classes based on enrollment levels.
- Mathematics: Math 8 and Math 8 with Algebra will be combined into one course with the course name “Math 8”. Math Prep (grades 7 and 8) will be renamed to “Math Lab”, which is similar to grade 6, for consistency.
- Music: Sections of Grade 7 Concert Band (961M) and Grade 8 Concert Band (962M) may be combined into multi-grade classes based on enrollment levels.

Matt Cosman asked questions with regard to leveling students for courses. Dr. Adams stated that leveling is not being eliminated, but that students of different levels may be combined to make appropriate class sizes. Mr. Smith explained that while students may be in a combined class, they will be recommended for a level of instruction which would be differentiated accordingly.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the Hingham Middle School Program of Studies for 2023-2024

### **Next Generation Learning Challenges Grant**

Interim Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts explained the Innovative Schools Grant–Casco Bay Grant. She stated that the Hingham Public Schools has received a grant from the Innovative Schools Initiative, organized by the national nonprofit organization Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC), with funding from the Barr Foundation. The grant will provide funding for a team of HPS educators to explore innovative pathways at Casco Bay High School in Portland, Maine. The grant will fund up to \$750 per team member to cover travel and substitute expenses related to the site visit, for a maximum district total of \$4500.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to accept the Next Generation Learning Challenges Grant in the amount up to \$4,000.

### **MOU re: Comfort Dog (second read)**

Jen Benham, Chair of the Policy Subcommittee reviewed the changes discussed at the last meeting in the letter of Agreement between the Hingham Public Schools and the Hingham Police Department regarding a comfort dog in the schools.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the changes to the letter of agreement between the Hingham Public Schools and the Hingham Police Department.

### **Homeschooling Policy Update (second read)**

Jen Benham reviewed the proposed policy changes that were discussed at the last meeting to add the following language: "The School Committee delegates the approval of home instruction to the Superintendent. Any approval or rejection of an application by the Superintendent is subject to review by the Committee."

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the changes to Policy IHBG- Home Schooling

### **METCO Expansion**

Dr. Adams explained the request to expand the Hingham Public Schools METCO program's student enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year. The proposal is to expand the program from 50 students to an additional 30 students for a total of 80 students. Matt Cosman asked about the timing of the request, expressing concern with staffing and space if the override does not pass. Community member Barbie Lynch also expressed concern regarding space in the schools. Dr. Adams stated that the schools presently have the space capacity and staffing that would be needed to absorb the increase. The grant also allows the program to sustain itself.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the request to increase the number of students in the METCO program

### **Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed**

- Matt Cosman reported that the East School Council met last week and that they discussed the budget and ways to create community awareness. He also stated that they discussed an emergency response plan that was recently practiced.
- Alyson Anderson reported that the Plymouth River School Council will be meeting this week and that the Hingham Human Arts Alliance will be having a fundraiser on March 11<sup>th</sup>, and that the Climate Action Planning Committee will be holding a meeting on Thursday and will be attending an upcoming School Committee meeting to provide an update.
- Tim Dempsey reported that there will be a meeting of the Special Education Subcommittee on February 9<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.
- Kerry Ni reported that the HMS council will meet January 30<sup>th</sup>, and that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee has been meeting to discuss a Successor contract with Unit B the paraprofessionals and will be meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> to negotiate with HEA Unit A.
- Jen Benham reported that the South School Council is meeting next Wednesday. She also reported that SNAP held a meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>, and they will be having their Pizzapalooza in March.
- Nes Correnti reported that the Foster School Council will be meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>, that the Sustainable Budget Task Force will be meeting this week.
- Michelle Ayer reported that Unity Week begins February 6<sup>th</sup> and some grants were received to help fund the week's events. Their next meeting is on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong explained needed updates to the South Elementary Playground to ensure accessibility as required by ADA law.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to provide approval for the upgrade to the South Elementary School Playground to be updated through an application of Town Emergency Funds to ensure immediate access of the full playground to our current students with mobility challenges.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to adjourn at 9:13 PM

Respectfully Submitted By: Jen Benham

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[PDF](#) 01.23.2023 Agenda\_revised.pdf 


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[PDF](#) 01.23.2023 Agenda.pdf 


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[PDF](#) 2.1 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on January 9, 2023.pdf 


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[PDF](#) 2.2 Minutes of the School Committee Budget Session II held on January 12, 2023.docx (1).pdf 


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[PDF](#) Item 4.1 Executive Director of Student Services Search.pdf 


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[PDF](#) Item 4.1 Executive Director of Student Services.pdf 


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[PDF](#) Item 4.2 Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instr. JD.pdf 


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[PDF](#) Item 7.1 Foster Elementary School Improvement Plan 22-23 Updated 12\_20\_22.pdf 


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[PDF](#) Item 7.1 Foster School Committee Presentation (1).pdf 


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[PDF](#) Item 7.2 Program of Studies Memo 2023-2024.pdf 


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[PDF](#) Item 7.2 Program of Studies.pdf 


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[PDF](#) Item 7.3 HMS Program of Studies Memo 2023-2024.pdf 


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[PDF](#) Item 7.4 Casco Bay Agenda.pdf 

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[PDF](#) Item 7.4 Innovative Schools Grant (Casco Bay)--MEMO JANUARY 2023.pdf 


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[PDF](#) Item 7.5 DRAFT - LETTER OF AGREEMENT REGARDING HINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT COMFORT ANIMALS IN HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS-2.docx.pdf 

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[PDF](#) Item 7.6\_IHBG - HOME SCHOOLING.docx.pdf 

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[PDF](#) Item 7.7 METCO School Committee.pdf 

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[PDF](#) Item 9 South Elementary School Playground Updates for ADA compliance.docx.pdf 

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