

## HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 9, 2023

### MEETING MINUTES

#### **Called to Order at 6:15**

School Committee Chair Michelle Ayer called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM, 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

#### **Central Office Members present:**

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

It was **voted** to adjourn to executive session for the purpose of :

- 2.1 To discuss strategy related to collective bargaining negotiations with HEA Unit B (Paraeducators), the public discussion of which may be detrimental to the Committee's bargaining position.
- 2.2 To Approve minutes of the School Committee Executive Session held on October 11, 2022

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

#### **Reconvene: 7:00 PM**

School Committee Chair Michelle Ayer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, 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, Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Suzanne Vines

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

**Visitors present:**

Hingham High School Principal Rick Swanson and Fine Arts Director Joann Bellis

**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 with the Advisory Committee held on November 29, 2022 with the changes discussed.

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

The Committee discussed the minutes of the meeting held on December 12, 2022. Kerry Ni suggested edits to include the vote that was taken to approve the East Elementary School Improvement Plan.

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 December 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 Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on January 5, 2023

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 at this time.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Adams noted the enrollment update that is in tonight's packet. She also mentioned the upcoming Kindergarten information session for families on January 11<sup>th</sup>, and a recent flyer that has gone out with information about the pre-K Spanish immersion program.

### **Student Communication**

Student Representative Nathan Tesler mentioned that the Hingham High School Boy's Hockey team will be having a game on the Winter Classic Ice at Fenway Park.

### **Massachusetts DESE Grant: World Languages**

Dr. Adams reported that the Hingham Public Schools was successful in its application for a grant from DESE to support of proficiency-based outcomes in languages other than English. The intended outcomes of the grant are for districts improve programs by supporting world language faculty to access the World Languages Framework Implementation Series, and for districts to provide appropriate time and environment to engage in ongoing collaboration toward aligning or developing district curriculum to align to the 2021 Massachusetts World Languages Curriculum Framework. Hingham Public Schools has been awarded \$9,375 to meet these goals.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to accept the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Grant for the purpose of funding summer teaching workshops to continue curriculum development and alignment with the Massachusetts World Languages curriculum framework in the amount of \$9,375.00.

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

### **Mass Cultural Council FY23 STARS Residency Grant Award**

Dr. Adams reported that the Hingham Public Schools was successful in its application for a visiting artist grant offered by the Mass Cultural Council through its STARS Residency Grant Proposal Program totaling \$3,250. Hingham's grant award will be used to facilitate a five-day workshop series with a visiting artist. This workshop will be run at Hingham High and will impact 58 students across grades 10-12.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to accept the grant provided by the Mass Cultural Council through its STARS Residency Grant Proposal Program in the amount of \$3,250.00.

Michelle Ayer - aye  
Jen Benham - aye  
Nes Correnti - aye

Tim Dempsey - aye  
Kerry Ni - aye  
Alyson Anderson - aye  
Matt Cosman – aye

#### **Cape Cod Bank 5 Educational Mini-Grants**

Dr. Adams reported that the Hingham Public Schools was successful in its application for two Cape Cod 5 Educational Mini-Grants from Cape Cod Bank. Hingham Public Schools was awarded grant funding totaling \$769.00. The first Hingham grant award, in the amount of \$280.00, will be used to purchase an additional spectrophotometer for Hingham High School's Science Department. The second grant, in the amount of \$489.00, was awarded to Hingham, in order to fund the Endangered Turtle Project at Hingham Middle School.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to accept the Cape Cod Bank Educational Mini-Grants totaling \$769.00.

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

#### **DESE OAPL WPI Storyline Professional Development Initiative**

Dr. Adams reported that the Hingham Public Schools was successful in its application for funding from the DESE OAPL initiative which provides reimbursement to districts for substitute-related expenses in support of science professional development. Massachusetts educators can enroll in these courses for free and the district will also receive teacher substitute reimbursement upon completing the course. At the completion of the OAPL course, Hingham Public Schools will be awarded a substitute stipend totaling \$6,000.00.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to accept the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Professional Development Initiative Grant in the amount of \$6,000.00.

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

#### **DESE Financial Literacy Grant**

Dr. Adams reported that the Hingham Public Schools was successful in its application for a grant offered by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The Financial Literacy Planning and Implementation Grant is to support districts in the selection and/or development of materials, curriculum, professional development and in-person or virtual experiential learning related to financial literacy. Hingham Public Schools was awarded grant funding totaling \$10,345.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to accept the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Financial Literacy Planning and implementation Grant in the amount of \$10,345.

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

#### **DESE Genocide Education Grant**

Dr. Adams reported that the Hingham Public Schools was successful in its application for a grant offered by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The Genocide Education Grant is meant to support the teaching of the history of genocide, as per Chapter 98 of the Acts of 2021, which states, "Every school district shall, for the purpose of educating middle and high school students, provide instruction on the history of genocide consistent with the content standards articulated in the history and social science curriculum framework." Hingham Public Schools was awarded grant funding totaling \$6,100.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to accept the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Genocide Education Grant in the amount of \$6,100.00.

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

#### **Proposed changes to MOU on comfort dog at HHS**

Dr. Adams stated that she recently met with Chief Jones and Principal Rick Swanson to review last year's Memorandum of Understanding and to draft procedures. Principal Swanson was present and talked about a student survey that was done resulting in feedback that was overwhelmingly positive. The Committee asked questions about Officer Ford's schedule as the dog's handler.

Jen Benham explained that the Policy Subcommittee also met with Dr. Adams and reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding on comfort dogs. The Policy Subcommittee had two proposed two changes to the document.

#### **Proposed changes to IHGB-Homeschooling Policy (first read)**

Chair of the Policy Subcommittee Jen Benham stated that the changes are to clear up some discrepancies in the policy so it is clear that the Superintendent is authorized to approve home school applications. Tim Dempsey asked that the School Committee receive regular updates of home school numbers as part of the monthly enrollment update.

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

Dr. Adams noted the memo from Athletic Director Jim Quatromoni asking for permission for the Ski Teams to attend competitions at Ragged Mountain in New Hampshire on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, January 28<sup>th</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, and February 11<sup>th</sup>. She explained these requested dates are for league competitions, when the teams normally practice at Blue Hills.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the travel for the Hingham High School Girls' and Boys' Ski Teams to Ragged Mountain in Danbury, New Hampshire for League Competition.

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 School Council has an upcoming meeting next week on Tuesday.
- Alyson Anderson reported that the Hingham Arts Alliance has a board meeting tomorrow evening and the Climate Action Planning Committee has a meeting this Wednesday and they plan to come to an upcoming School Committee meeting to provide an update.
- Tim Dempsey reported that the Special Education Subcommittee will not be meeting this month, but that the Special Education Budget will be discussed at the next budget meeting. He also reported that the Special Education Task Force will begin meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> and Alyson Anderson will be representing the School Committee on that task force. He stated that the Special Education Subcommittee will meet next on February 9<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. He also noted that the Hingham Education Foundation will have a board meeting this week and that the Hingham Human Rights Commission met on January 4<sup>th</sup>, and that the Educational Programming Subcommittee will meet on February 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Middle School Council will meet on January 30<sup>th</sup>, and the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee will be meeting with Unit B, the Paraeducator Unit on January 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Michelle Ayer reported that the School Building Committee will meet tomorrow. She stated the site work is underway at the location of the new Foster School. She also reported that the High School Council met on December 21<sup>st</sup>, and that SEPAC has an upcoming event on January 17<sup>th</sup> about anxiety and depression. She also mentioned recent events of the Hingham Unity Project and that Unity week is February 6-10<sup>th</sup>. She also noted the dates of upcoming meetings.
- Nes Correnti reported that the Foster School Council met on December 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the school improvement plan. She also discussed the budget work and recent meetings of the Finance Capital and Facilities Subcommittee. She explained about the budget process and the need to present two budgets in the event that an override is not passed.
- Jen Benham reported that the Policy Subcommittee met on December 21<sup>st</sup> and that there was a SNAP meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to adjourn at 8:08 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



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 [01.09.2023 Agenda.pdf](#) 



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 [4.1 Minutes of the joint School Committee meeting with Advisory Committee and Select Board held November 29, 2022.pdf](#) 

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 [4.2 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on December 12, 2022.pdf](#) 



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 [4.3 Minutes of the School Committee budget meeting held on January 5, 2023.pdf](#) 



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

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 [Item 6.0 Private School Enrollment 2021-2022.pdf](#) 



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 [Item 6.0 Spanish Immersion Flyer.pdf](#) 


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 [Item 6.0 String Flyer.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 6.1 SSEC Update to School Committee.pdf](#) 



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 [Item 9.1 Foster Elementary School Improvement Plan 22-23 Updated 12\\_20\\_22.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 9.1 Foster School Committee Presentation.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 9.2 DESE Grant Memo 2022 World Languages.pdf](#) 


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 [Item 9.3 Mass Cultural Council Grant Proposal Acceptance Memo.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 9.4 Cape Cod 5 Mini Grant HPS Science Memo.pdf](#) 



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 [Item 9.5 OAPL WPI Storyline Funding HPS Science Memo.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 9.6 DESE Financial Literacy Grant HPS Memo.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 9.7 DESE Genocide Education Grant HPS Memo.pdf](#) 



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 [Item 9.8 Update on Comfort Animal at HHS.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 9.8 Updated Comfort Animal DRAFT - 12\\_21\\_22.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 10 warrants.pdf](#) 

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 [Item 11 Ski Team Competition in NH.pdf](#) 