

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

February 27, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

Called to Order at 6:30PM

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.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

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

- To discuss Unit A negotiations
- To discuss Unit B negotiations
- To hear grievance from HEA Unit A

Michelle Ayer - aye

Jen Benham - aye

Nes Correnti - aye

Tim Dempsey - aye

Kerry Ni - aye

Alyson Anderson - aye

Matt Cosman – aye

Reconvene

School Committee Chair Michelle Ayer called the meeting to order at 7:12 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.

Also present: Executive Assistant Sherry Robertson and Student Representative Alex Doggett

Visitors present: Christopher Landis, Melissa Goldman, Mary Andrews, Dave Jewett There were approximately 22 remote attendees.

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 January 23, 2023

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 Budget Meeting held on February 1, 2023

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 joint meeting with the Advisory Committee held on February 7, 2023

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 February 13, 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 public comments or questions at this time.

Superintendent's Report

FY24 Budget Update

Dr. Adams and Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong gave a presentation updating where things stand in the budget process. They explained that they are waiting for the Advisory Committee to clarify the budget deficit number in the coming weeks. Dr. Adams also reviewed the level services budget and explained how those numbers provided support for the services that are currently in place. Dr. Adams and Interim Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts also presented information about unmet needs in addition to the services budget that would help the schools meet the needs of the students, and to better align with the Strategic Plan.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Adams provided the February 1st enrollment data showing a total of 3,812 students in the Hingham Public Schools. The Committee discussed enrollment predictions from years in the past, and how those numbers compare to today. They discussed that declines in enrollment are common in most communities in the area, and that when numbers are broken down per grade level, the decline is not significant.

Student Communication

Student Advisory Committee Representative Alex Doggett reported that the Student Advisory Committee has a meeting scheduled tomorrow and is continuing to work on developing a Community Service Requirement for students.

Unfinished Business

FY24 Budget Discussion

The Committee discussed voting on a proposed budget tonight, to have a budget to present to Select Board and Advisory and whether to vote for a balanced budget with the proposed cuts, the level services budget, or the level services budget including the unmet needs. The Committee discussed voting for a proposed budget that they feel meets the needs of the district to propose to the Select Board which would include unmet needs identified in technology, professional development, and school nurse coordinator position, as well as a reduction in the fee for Kindergarten tuition for next year.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the fiscal year 2024 operating budget in the amount of \$65,703,985 to be presented at town meeting

Michelle Ayer - aye

Jen Benham - aye

Nes Correnti - aye

Tim Dempsey - aye

Kerry Ni - aye

Alyson Anderson - aye

Matt Cosman – aye

New Business

Proposed Student Trip to New York City in June of 2023

Middle School Teacher and Drama Musical Director Christopher Landis was present to provide details of the trip. He explained that he and Drama Director Maureen Fish have done this trip with students in the past to take the students to a Broadway show. He stated that the show they plan to see this year is Hadestown, which is based on Greek mythology. Details include that the trip will have ten students per chaperone which includes several other teachers who have volunteered to attend the trip. The cost will be \$265 per student and there is financial assistance available. Mr. Landis explained that the trip is one day, with the departure early in the morning via coach bus, and a late evening return that same day, June 10th.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the student trip to New York City

Michelle Ayer - aye

Jen Benham - aye

Nes Correnti - aye

Tim Dempsey - aye

Kerry Ni - aye

Alyson Anderson - aye

Matt Cosman – aye

Climate Action Planning Committee Update

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

Mid-year I-Ready Data

Interim Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts gave a presentation showing mid-year data highlighting student progress. Math Director Dave Jewett and ELA Director Mary Andrews present their respective subject data, reviewing the student progress at each grade level.

Annual Report Submission

Dr. Adams discussed information that she would like to include in the submission this year such as highlighting work being done in each school, as making a connection to the strategic plan. Committee member Kerry Ni suggested also adding information about the number of staff employed, and new hires.

Declaration of Surplus

Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong informed the Committee about an outdated vehicle used by the Hingham High School Auto Shop that is outdated and beyond repair.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to declare as surplus High School auto shop's car, a 2002 Chevy Silver Model # CK2590, and to authorize the Director of Business and Support Services to dispose of the car 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

Proprietary Elements: New Foster School

Dr. Adams explained the list of items detailed in the School Committee's meeting packet, noting that the School Building Committee needs the School Committee's approval of the items for the Foster Elementary School project.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the following proprietary elements included in the new Elementary School Building project: the U.H. Long Range reader, Bobrick automatic paper towel dispenser, recessed waste receptacle, universal recessed paper towel dispenser, and waste receptacle, super centurion fire hydrant and a vera-lock grande retaining wall.

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

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

none

Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

- Alyson Anderson reported that the Hingham Arts Alliance announced a scholarship for 5 seniors that are involved in arts, either through the high school or the town, and applications will be on their website through March 13th.
- Tim Dempsey reported that tomorrow is the first meeting of the Screening Committee for the search for a new Executive Director of Student Services. He also reported that this week there will be a zoom meeting of the Hingham Human Rights Coalition, and on March 7th, there will be an Educational Programming Subcommittee meeting.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee met today with Unit B, and met with Unit A on February 15th. She stated that the Hingham Middle School Council met this afternoon.
- Jen Benham reported that the South School PTO meeting will be this Thursday and a read across America breakfast on Saturday and an upcoming SNAP meeting.
- Nes Correnti reported she will be representing the Sustainable Budget Taskforce on Wednesday, March 1st with Select Board member Liz Klein to answer questions from the community about the override request.

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham at 9:27 PM

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





























- To discuss Unit A negotiations
- To discuss Unit B negotiations
- To hear grievance from HEA Unit A

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

Documents Included:

	Item 9.6 Proprietary Elements: School Building Project
	02.27.2023 Agenda.pdf 
	4.1 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on January 23, 2023.pdf 
	4.2 Minutes of the School Committee Budget Session V held on February 1, 2023.pdf 
	4.3 Minutes of the School Committee joint meeting with Advisory Committee held on February 7,2023.pdf 
	4.4 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on February 13, 2023.pdf 
	Item 6. 1 FY24 Budget Book 2.22.23.pdf 
	Item 6.1 Feb 27 - FY24 Budget Update Presentation.pdf 
	Item 6.1.1 Feb 27 - FY24 Budget Update Presentation.pdf 
	Item 6.2 February 1_ 2023 Enrollment Summary.pdf 
	Item 9.1 Proposed trip to NYC.pdf 
	Item 9.3 MOY Data Presentation-2-27-2023 (2).pdf 
	Item 9.4 FY 23 Annual Report.docx 
	Item 9.4 FY 23 Annual Report.docx.pdf 
	Item 9.5 Surplus - Auto Shop Car.pdf 