

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 13, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

Called to Order at 6:00PM

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

School Committee members absent: Kerry Ni and Matt Cosman

Central Office Members present: Superintendent Dr. Margaret Adams

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 pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares

- To discuss Unit A negotiations
- To discuss Unit B negotiations

Michelle Ayer - aye

Jen Benham - aye

Nes Correnti - aye

Tim Dempsey - aye

Alyson Anderson - aye

Reconvene: 7:09 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 Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022 and all other applicable laws temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please 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, Tim Dempsey, Alyson Anderson

School Committee members participating remotely: Kerry Ni and Matt Cosman

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: Foster Elementary Principal Matt Scheufele, Erin McGrath, Charlotte Bessoud, several students and parents representing the Foster School Kindness Club, HEA Co-president Jacqueline Beaupre

School Showcase: Foster Elementary School

Foster Elementary School Principal Matt Scheufele was present as well as Foster School teachers Erin McGrath and Charlotte Bessoud who are the leaders of the Kindness Club. Ms. McGrath and Ms. Bessoud gave a presentation that included details of projects in which students in the club have participated in ways to spread kindness. First graders Audrey Driscoll, Louis McQuat, and Ella Nappi, along with fifth graders Logan Callicut, Louise Mahoney, and Sofia Nappi, spoke about their experiences in the Kindness Club. High School Students in the High School Service Club Samantha Harris, Mia Filardi and Nora Andrews spoke about the collaboration with the Kindness Club, describing their experiences as members and noted the importance of spreading kindness and being role models for the younger students. The Committee thanked the teachers and students for attending the meeting and sharing the positive work they are doing by spreading kindness within the schools, and the community.

Approval of minutes:

The Committee discussed the minutes of the February 27, 2023 meeting and Alyson Anderson made a suggested typo edit.

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 27, 2023, as amended

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 with the Advisory Committee held on March 2, 2023

Michelle Ayer - aye

Jen Benham - aye
Nes Correnti - aye
Tim Dempsey - abstain
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 March 9, 2023, with edit made by Kerry Ni, to include her as being present in the meeting minutes

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 with the Select Board held on March 9, 2023

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

The Committee noted that there are no minutes for the meeting with the Advisory Committee held on March 9, 2023 as they did not call to order.

Questions and Comments

There were no questions at this time.

Superintendent's Report

South Shore Collaborative Update

Dr. Adams gave an update she received at the recent board meeting of the South Shore Educational Collaborative. She reported that they are discussing their FY24 budget, and noting the challenges found during FY23 with a waiting list of 16 students due to a shortage of staff. She stated that this impacts area districts when they are unable to take students, which then results in more costly placements.

Budget Update

Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong explained that the town's total budget deficit number is a slightly smaller amount than originally anticipated, which would help avoid some cuts. The Schools portion of the budget deficit is now 3.9 million, which is approximately 65% of the town's total budget deficit number. She stated that the school committee and the Select Board have voted on a level service budget of 65,703,985, and this also includes some of the unmet needs. She stated that the Advisory Committee will be voting on the budget this week.

METCO Advocacy Day

Dr. Adams stated that the METCO Advocacy Day will be held at the State House on March 21st and representatives from Hingham Public Schools will be in attendance. She stated that this is an opportunity for members of the METCO community to meet with legislators to advocate for the program and to inform State legislators about its funding needs.

Student Communication

Student Advisory Committee Representative Nathan Tesler stated that the Student Advisory Committee will be meeting tomorrow and they will be discussing ways to engage in student outreach about the upcoming budget vote. He also congratulated the Drama Club which has won the first round of competition at a recent Drama Festival and that they will be having an upcoming performance of the show *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* at the High School this week on March 16th at 5:30 PM.

Unfinished Business

Memorandum of Understanding for FY24 Override Framework and FY24-28 Financial Management Plan

School Committee Chair Michelle Ayer explained that this is the second read of this MOU, but that some changes have been made since the first read. The Committee discussed the changes

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding, dated March 13, 2023 titled Town of Hingham FY24 Override Framework and FY24-28 Financial Management Plan subject to the full funding of the FY24 budget voted on by the School Committee on February 27, 2023 of \$65,703,985, and as such authorize the chair of the School committee to execute said plan, and authorize the Superintendent to manage the implementation of said plan on behalf of the School Committee, and accordance with the terms subject to the clarification of the reserve fund on page 4, and subject to adding in the language on page 5, to read: *The school and municipal departments will implement service reductions as of July 1, 2,023 specific actions will be at the direction of the town administrator and school superintendent at the direction of the school committee in accordance with mass general law in accordance with the budget, and accordance with the departmental budget approved by Annual Town Meeting 2023.*

Michelle Ayer - aye

Jen Benham - aye

Nes Correnti - aye

Tim Dempsey - aye

Kerry Ni - aye

Alyson Anderson - aye

Matt Cosman – aye

New Business

2023-2024 School Calendar

Dr. Adams explained that the proposed calendar for the 23-24 school year is very similar to this year's except for a change that moves a professional development from May to September so that staff can have that training in the beginning of the year. The Committee discussed the election cycle, specifically Primary Day in March of 2024, and whether school should be an early release on that day. The Committee agreed to discuss the calendar again at the next meeting on March 27th.

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

none

Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

- Kerry Ni reported that the Middle School Council will be meeting on March 27th, and that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee has 9 meetings scheduled in March, April, and May with Unit A which is the teachers, and Unit B which is the paraprofessionals continuing to work with them on developing successor contracts
- Alyson Anderson reported The Plymouth River School had a PTO meeting last week, at which the budget was discussed. She also reported that PRS has a School Council meeting coming up on the 28th, and that the Special Education task force had its first meeting on February 15th. She also stated that she and Jen Benham recently attended a Read Across America event at South Elementary School. She reported that the Climate Action Planning Committee will be attending the School Committee meeting on March 27th.
- Tim Dempsey reported that the Special Education Subcommittee will have their next meeting on April 5th. He also reported that the search for a new Executive Director or Student Services begins with initial interviews this week.
- Jen Benham reported she attended the South PTO meeting last week and there were a lot of questions about the budget. She also stated that there is a Policy Subcommittee meeting coming up on March 16th.
- Nes Correnti reported that there is a meeting of the Finance, Capital and Facilities subcommittee meeting this Wednesday, March 15th, and that there are signed warrants in the packet. She also reported that she attended the recent town forecast meetings.
- Michelle Ayer reported that the High School Council is meeting this Wednesday and the School Building Committee meeting is on this Thursday. She also reported that she had the opportunity to join Dr. Adams, Katie Roberts, and Aisha Oppong, and other superintendents at a breakfast that was hosted by Brockton Public Schools where they discussed the Student Opportunity Act and ways to get better funding. She also stated that she had an opportunity to talk with Cyndi Weekes Bradley, the district's equity consultant.

Kerry Ni requested that the Committee re-open the discussion of the minutes of the meeting of March 9, 2023, as she was not present due to not being able to access the Zoom.

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 March 9, 2023, as initially presented

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 adjourn at 8:19 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



 Item 11. Warrants


 03.13.2023 Agenda.pdf 



 5.1 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on February 27, 2023.docx.pdf 



 5.2 Minutes of the School Committee with Advisory Committee held on March 2, 2023.pdf 



 5.3 Minutes of the School Committee held on March 9, 2023.pdf 

 5.4 Minutes of the School Committee joint meeting with Select Board held on March 9, 2023.pdf 



 FY24-28 Financial Management Plan 3.13.2023 FINAL.docx 



 Item 4 Kindness Club Presentation.pdf 

 Item 7 Annual Report 2023.pdf 

 Item 7.1 South Shore Educational Collaborative Update.pdf 

 Item 7.2 March 13, 2023- FY24 Budget Update Presentation.pdf 

 Item 7.3 METCO-Advocacy-Day-2023-1.pdf 

 Item 7.3 METCO-FY24-Funding-Request.pdf 

 Item 9.1 FY24-28 Financial Management Plan 3.9.2023.docx 

 Item 9.1 FY24-28 Financial Management Plan 3.13.2023.docx 

 Item 10.1 2023-2024 DRAFT Calendar.pdf 
