

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

May 8, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

Called to Order at 6:00 PM

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

School Committee members participating remotely: none

School Committee members absent: Matt Cosman

Central Office Members present: Superintendent Dr. Margaret Adams

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 for HEA Unit A Teachers and Unit B Paraprofessionals as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares

To discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with the Director of Finance and Operations as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares

To discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations with the Interim Executive Director of Student Services as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares

To approve minutes of the Executive Session held on April 10, 2023, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares

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

Reconvene: 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 held in person and/or remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 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.

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

School Committee members participating remotely: none

School Committee members absent: 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 Alex Doggett

Visitors present: HEA Co-President Jacqueline Beaupre, East Elementary School Principal Jonathan Hawes, Assistant Principal Amanda Donovan, several East Elementary School Students and families, Monica Matthews, and Barbara Cataldo.

There were approximately 60 attendees on Zoom.

School Showcase: East Elementary School

East Elementary Principal Jonathan Hawes shared a presentation that included an introduction to East Elementary's Makerspace curriculum which involves hands-on learning experiences for students in the areas of STEAM to work collaboratively to solve problems. Several students from East Elementary were present to share their experiences with the Makerspace program. Mr. Hawes thanked East Elementary teachers Cristina Jauregui and Jenny Cina for their work with creating this program.

Approval of minutes:

Kerry Ni made suggested edits on the minutes. On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the amended minutes of the School Committee meeting held on April 10, 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 April 24, 2023 (Town Meeting)

On a motion by Nes Correnti and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the minutes of the public information session held on April 26, 2023

Questions and Comments

none

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Adams gave an enrollment update, which has remained stable since the previous month with a total of 3,806 students.

Dr. Adams reported that she had recently attended a Unity Council event with METCO families, and the Hingham High School Drama program will be performing 2 one-act plays in the coming weeks.

Student Communication

Student Representative Alex Doggett stated that the Student Advisory Committee will be having its elections at the beginning of June.

Unfinished Business

Update on HEA Unit B Negotiations

Chair of the Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee Kerry Ni reported that the committee has had productive meetings with the union and MTA representative and are working to come to agreements.

New Business

Elections of officers for School Committee

On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to elect Nes Correnti as Chair of the School Committee

On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to elect Michelle Ayer as Vice-Chair of the School Committee

On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Alyson Anderson

- It was **voted** to elect Jen Benham as Secretary of the School Committee

Appointment of Interim Executive Director of Student Services

Dr. Adams introduced Dr. Barbara Cataldo and noted that a DESE waiver to hire her was applied for and approved, which was a requirement since Dr. Cataldo had been a retiree.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the hiring of Dr. Barbara Cataldo as the Interim Executive Director of Student Services for the 2023-2024 school year.

Elementary Writing Program Report

Monica Matthews, Elementary Literacy Specialist gave a presentation that included research in teaching writing and she detailed progress that has been made in the two years she has been the writing specialist. She also detailed writing initiatives that are ongoing in grades K-5.

DESE Literacy Grant

Interim Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts explained the grant award letter from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education entitled Accelerated Literacy Learning through High-Quality Instructional Materials.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to accept the DESE Literacy Grant in the amount of \$154,703, and will be used to defray the cost of the district's planned adoption of the evidence-based K-5 reading program, HMH Into Reading.

Fees Increases

Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong reviewed the proposed fee increases for athletics, full day kindergarten, Kids in Action, Integrated Pre-K and facilities fees. Michelle Ayer noted that athletics and full day Kindergarten fees have already been approved.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve a 5% increase in Kids in Action and Integrated Pre-K Program Fees

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the increase in facilities usage fees as recommended by the Director of Business and Support Services

MOU with Hingham Police Department

Dr. Adams explained the language changes that were made to the MOU in relation to officers wearing body cameras. No action was taken, as this was a first read of the changes.

School Choice Program for 2023-2024 school year

Dr. Adams provided the Committee with information on the state's School Choice Program, which contained commonly asked questions, a list of area communities that do/do not participate in the program, as well as information regarding monetary compensation for school districts that choose to participate. The Committee discussed potential pros and cons of participating and agreed to hold a hearing on the subject at the next meeting.

Process for Subcommittee Assignments

Chair Nes Correnti stated that she would collect interests from Committee members and will discuss assignments at the next meeting.

Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

- Alyson Anderson reported that the Special Education Task Force had its final meeting last week. She also stated that the Hingham Arts Alliance has a Board meeting this week, and that the Climate Action Committee is working on a final draft of the plan.
- Tim Dempsey reported that he and Kerry Ni will be holding office hours next week and that there will be an upcoming Educational Programming Subcommittee meeting later in the month on May 24th.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Middle School Council met last week and discussed updating the handbook and increasing awareness of after school activities. She also stated that there will be an eighth grade move up day, and also noted upcoming meetings of the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee.
- Nes Correnti reported that the Foster School Council met and Principal Scheufele gave an update on the building project for the new Foster School. She also noted that there are financial warrants in the packet.
- Michelle Ayer reported that the High School Council met and discussed a service requirement for graduation.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to adjourn at 8:30PM

Respectfully Submitted By: Jen Benham

- [Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on April 10,2023 amended.docx.pdf](#)
- [Item 10.5 May 8th - Fees - January 26th Reductions Budget Presentation.pdf](#)
- [Item 10.3--HPS Elementary Writing Update for SC.pdf](#)
- [Item 10.3--HPS Elementary Writing Initiatives\(1\).pdf](#)
- [Item 10.5 2 Rental Fees FY24.pdf](#)
- [Item 7.1 April 1_ 2023 Enrollment Summary.pdf](#)
- [Item 11.0 Warrant#S050223.pdf](#)
- [Item 11.0 Warrant #SD42523.pdf](#)
- [Item 11.0 Warrant #SD41823.pdf](#)
- [Item 5.2 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on April 24, 2023 \(Town Meeting\).pdf](#)
- [Item 5.3 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on April 26, 2023.pdf](#)
- [Item 5.1 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on April 10,2023.pdf](#)
- [Item 10.5 0 Fee Approval 23-24 - Google Docs.pdf](#)
- [Item 10.5 1 Kids in action Budget.pdf](#)
- [Item 4.0 East Elementary School Showcase.pdf](#)
- [Item 10.6 SRO MOU w_ HPS &HPD Approved 5-3-23.docx.pdf](#)
- [Item 10.4 DESE Accelerated Literacy Learning through High-Quality Instructional Materials Grantto SC 5-1-23.pdf](#)
- [05.08.2023 Agenda.pdf](#)
- [Item 10.4 FY23 FC719 Award Final Hingham\(1\).docx.pdf](#)
- [Item 10.2 Cataldo Resume 5.1.2023.pdf](#)
- [Item 10.7 School Choice Receiving District Status.pdf](#)
- [Item 10.7 School Choice Frequently Asked Questions.pdf](#)
- [Item 10.7 School Choice MGL.pdf](#)
- [Item 10.2 Recommendation of Appointment Barbara Cataldo \(2\).pdf](#)
- [Item 10.1 Ballot 05.23.2022.pdf](#)
- [Item 11.0 Warrant #SD41123.pdf](#)
- [Item 11.0 Warrant #SD40423.pdf](#)