

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

August 7, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

Called to Order at 5:00 PM

School Committee Chair Nes Correnti called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 Nes Correnti, Vice-Chair Michelle Ayer, Secretary Jen Benham, Kerry Ni, Tim Dempsey, Alyson Anderson, and Matt Cosman

School Committee members participating remotely: none

School Committee members absent: none

Central Office Members present: Superintendent Dr. Margaret Adams, Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts, and Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong

Also present: Executive Assistant Sherry Robertson

This meeting incorporated the use of the OWL camera to broadcast the meeting via Zoom. Harbormedia was also present and recorded the meeting.

Visitors present: Dr. Barbara Cataldo, Joseph Young

Remote visitors: There were approximately 9 remote attendees on Zoom.

Approval of minutes:

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on July 10, 2023

Questions and Comments:

There were no questions or comments at this time.

Superintendent's Report

- **Enrollment Update**

Dr. Adams discussed enrollment numbers as projected for September, and stated that the numbers will be updated and be more accurate closer to the start of school.

- **Groundbreaking Ceremony**

Dr. Adams stated that the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Elementary School will be on Friday, August 25th at 11:00AM.

- **Personnel Report**

Dr. Adams noted the memo in the packet reviewing the amount of new hires, resignations, and job changes. There were questions and comments from the public including questions about the hiring process and if experience gained in private school was considered in establishing salary steps.

Dr. Adams also addressed questions about salaries explaining that Masters, step 5 is the range allotted for in the budget for open positions.

- **DESE Comprehensive District Review**

Dr. Adams explained that DESE has selected the district for a Comprehensive District Review, and noted the standards and indicators that will be looked at in the process.

- **Update on plans to support ban on town's plastic single-use water bottles**

Dr. Adams stated that the schools will support the town's ban by not selling single use water bottles. She stated that water fountains are available to students in all schools, and that repairs are being made to the fountains that need them.

- **Town Energy Facilities Audit**

Dr. Adams stated that there is information in the meeting packet about the audit being done of the energy efficiency of town facilities including the school buildings.

Communications

Interim Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Barbara Cataldo introduced herself and stated that she has been meeting with families and has been in contact with the chairs of SEPAC.

Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts stated that the professional development for the new elementary reading program is going on this summer.

Unfinished Business

none

New Business

Memorandum of Understanding with the Recreation Commission and Select Board

Kerry Ni explained that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had developed after a field study was done by Weston & Sampson, and with the MOU the School Committee agrees to consolidate the management of the fields under the recreation department. She noted that the Recreation Commission and the Select Board have already voted to approve the agreement.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Recreation Commission and Select Board

Contract for Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Adams noted that this contract was discussed in July during an Executive Session, and is ready to be voted on.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the contract for Kathryn Roberts for the position of Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts

Change in Student Services Legal Counsel

Dr. Adams explained the request a change of legal counsel for Student Services from Murphy, Hess, Toomey & Lehane to the Lyons Law Group for the 2023-2024 school year. She provided a memo that stated that The Lyons Law Group is a small firm located on the South Shore that specializes only in providing district legal services in special education and issues related to student services. Lyons Law Group has a well-established practice that is used by many surrounding school districts.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the change to the Lyons Law Group as interim student services legal council for the 2023-2024 school year and approve the proposed committee.

Student Trip to Portugal in April of 2024

Music Teacher Dr. Joseph Young was present to explain details of the proposed trip. He stated that most of the trip occurs during April vacation and that the trip is open to chorus students and students in the GCP club. He explained that the itinerary includes visits to museums, architectural sites, an olive orchard and many historic and cultural experiences. He added that there will be opportunities for fundraising and financial assistance is available.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the student trip to Portugal in April of 2024

Change in Contract for Lease of TRACES Building

Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong stated that this contract was approved at the last meeting but a change has been made to include a deadline of May 15th to notify the owner if the district was not going to continue the lease for the following school year.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the updated contract for the lease of the TRACES building that includes a notice of vacancy by May 15, 2024 and May 15, 2025

Donations and Grants

Dr Adams explained that the memo in the packet from High School Principal Rick Swanson states that Cathy Savery, School Counselor and Post-Secondary Planning Coordinator at HHS, first won a MassHire grant two years ago, and she recently earned renewal of the \$7,000 grant, which has so far supported a variety of new programming for HHS students.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to accept the grant in the amount of \$7,000 for the MassHire Program

Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts noted the memo in the packet from Science Director Michelle Romano explaining that the Hingham Public Schools successfully applied for funding from the DESE FC 601 Grant, which provides districts with money for OpenSciEd adoption expenditures. Hingham Public Schools was awarded grant funding totaling \$39,785.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to accept the grant in the amount of \$39,785 from the DESE FC 601 Grant for OpenSciEd

Policy AD - Mission Statement (second read)

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the updated policy AD- Mission Statement

Policy DJE - Procurement Requirements (second read)

Alyson Anderson noted the changes were made to coincide with Massachusetts General Laws regarding the bidding process

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the updated Policy DJE- Procurement Requirements

Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

- Matt Cosman reported that the Hingham Education Foundation has a meeting on September 12th. He also reported that the Special Education Subcommittee will be having a meeting with Dr. Cataldo.
- Tim Dempsey reported that the Hingham Rights Commission has an upcoming meeting this week.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee has several upcoming meetings with Unit A, Unit B, the Administrative Assistants, and the Bus Drivers Union.
- Michelle Ayer encouraged the community to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Foster Elementary School
- Jen Benham reported that there are financial warrants in the meeting packet.













































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

The Committee briefly discussed changing the start times of some upcoming meetings.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to adjourn at 6:02PM

Respectfully Submitted By: Jen Benham

Name	↑
 Item 8 Warrants	
 08.07.2023 Agenda.pdf	
 Item 2.1 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on July 10, 2023.pdf	
 Item 4.0 Enrollment Summary.pdf	
 Item 4.0 Groundbreaking Invitation.pdf	
 Item 4.1 Personnel Report Open Position August 7th.pdf	
 Item 4.1 Personnel Report.pdf	
 Item 4.2 2023-24 district review notification letter_Hingham.pdf	
 Item 4.2 District Review FAQ.pdf	
 Item 4.2 district-selfassessment.pdf	
 Item 4.3 Memo on School Response to Water Bottle Ban (1).pdf	
 Item 4.3 Plastic Bottle Policy - 04 19 2023.pdf	
 Item 4.4 CBS-Hingham_NDA-Liability Release_071823.pdf	
 Item 4.4 Centrica-Hingham Memo_25A, 11i EMS Project.pdf	
 Item 7.1 MOU - Field Maintenance.pdf	
 Item 7.2 Updated 7 17 23 Asst. Superintendent Contract (1).pdf	
 Item 7.3 Change in Student Services Legal Counsel .pdf	
 Item 7.4 Proposed Student Trip to Portugal in April of 2024.pdf	
 Item 7.5 Traces 23-24 lease updated language - Google Docs.pdf	
 Item 7.6 Career Grant Memo 07-28-23.pdf	
 Item 7.6 ESE FC 601 Grant Memo August 2023.pdf	
 Item 7.7 AD - MISSION STATEMENT - DRAFT.pdf	
 Item 7.8 DJE - PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS - DRAFT.pdf	