

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 8, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Called to Order at 6:30 PM

School Committee Chair Nes Correnti called the meeting to order at 6:30 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, and Matt Cosman

School Committee members participating remotely: none

School Committee members absent: Alyson Anderson

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

Also present: Executive Assistant Sherry Robertson and Student Advisory Committee representative Alex Doggett

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

Visitors present: High School Principal Rick Swanson, KIA Director Jackie Sansone, Fine Arts Director Joanne Bellis, Foreign Language Director Erica Pollard, and members of the Advisory Committee Educational Subcommittee (ACES)

Remote visitors: There were approximately 18 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 November 27, 2023

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 December 9, 2023

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 December 11, 2023

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 December 28, 2023

Questions and Comments:

none

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Adams provided an update to the School Committee on happenings in the district. Topics mentioned included: Preschool/ Pre-K Open Houses; Visual Art Display of Student work at Hingham Public Library; Multilingual Family Network; Aspen Family Portal; METCO 2.0; Facilities Projects; and an Enrollment Update.

Student Communications

Student Advisory Committee Representative Alex Doggett reported that the Student Advisory Committee will meet on January 9th. He also reported that about 100 students recently participated in a virtual field trip of Auschwitz in Social Studies class. He mentioned upcoming musical performances of the small musical ensemble, and that midterms will be coming up soon.

Other Communications

Vice-Chair Michelle Ayer mentioned that she recently attended an event hosted by the Hingham Arts Alliance with Hingham Alumni who spoke about their college experiences and careers in visual and performing arts.

Unfinished Business

Policy JFAB- Enrollment of Children of Personnel

Jen Benham explained the changes to this policy which may allow Hingham Public School Employees who work a minimum of 20 hours per week would be eligible to enroll their child for admission as a non-resident student in HPS Preschool or PreK. Specific conditions are outlined in the policy.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the changes to Policy JFAB – Enrollment of Children of Personnel

CBI-Evaluation of Superintendent

Kerry Ni explained the proposed changes to this policy were related to School Committee Members who participated in the superintendent goal setting process. Incoming and outgoing School Committee Members will both be asked to provide feedback however only the outgoing members would be responsible for completing the rubrics.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the changes to Policy CBI- Evaluation of the Superintendent

New Business

Student Trip to NYC in May 2024

Director of Fine Arts Joann Bellis was present to request approval for a student trip to New York City for HHS Drama students. The trip will take place from May 17-19, 2024, and the students will have the opportunity to participate in theater workshops, visit sites in NYC, and experience professional theater.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the student trip to NYC in May of 2024

Kids in Action (KIA) Programming Report

KIA Director Jackie Sansone gave a presentation that included a representation of the day-to-day activities for students in the KIA program, as well as a comparison to the costs in other communities for extended day programs. She also discussed the growth in enrollment and the addition of staff as a result.

KIA 2024-2025 Fees

Executive Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong presented a proposed fee schedule for the Kids in Action Program for the 2024-2025 school year.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the fee schedule for the Kids in Action Program for the 2024-2025 school year, as proposed by the Executive Director of Business and Support Services

Elementary Spanish Immersion Exploration

Foreign Language Director Erica Pollard provided to the Committee a summary of the progress of the exploratory committee that convened this fall to learn more about the process for the implementation of an elementary language immersion program. She explained that the exploratory committee cannot recommend the program at this time due to budget constraints, but provided recommendations of how it could be done at a later time, if it becomes economically feasible to do so.

Community Service Requirement at HHS

High School Principal Rick Swanson was present to continue the discussion that was presented last summer regarding the proposed community service graduation requirement. High School Council member and volunteer Katie Sutton was present as Mr. Swanson described the website Ms. Sutton has created for students to help them find service projects. The Committee discussed the proposal of making

the service hours a graduation requirement. No vote was taken and the Committee agreed to discuss the idea when the program of studies is discussed later in the month.

Activity Fee at HHS for 2024-2025

Executive Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong explained the district's proposal of a fee of \$100 for each student at Hingham High School for the 2024-2025 school year or budget FY25. She noted that the charge of \$100 matches the current amount collected at Hingham Middle School for an activity fee. The purpose of the fee is to fund all clubs and activities at Hingham High School. The Committee discussed the proposal, but no vote was taken.

Warrant Article re: Naming New Elementary School

Dr. Adams discussed the results of the recent online survey of which the responses were included in the Committee's meeting packet.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the warrant article for Town Meeting regarding the proposed naming of the new elementary school to be Foster Elementary School

FY 25 Budget Overview

Executive Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong gave a presentation that included an introduction to the budget process, budget priorities, current budget drivers, financial and enrollment data, budget considerations, and the overall FY25 budget proposal.

Grants and Donations

none

Declaration of Surplus

none

Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

- Matt Cosman reported that there is a HEF meeting tomorrow night, and that he will be scheduling a Special Education Subcommittee meeting soon.
- Tim Dempsey reported that the Educational Programming Subcommittee will be working on scheduling the next meeting.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Middle School Council met and she provided an update on upcoming Salary and Negotiations meetings
- Jen Benham mentioned a meeting of the South School Council.
- Nes Correnti reported on behalf of Alyson Anderson that the Hingham Arts Alliance recently hosted a panel of alumni to answer student questions, and that there will be a Climate Action Planning Committee meeting on January 10th.

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

Easement on Downer Ave.

Chris Carroll from the Conservation Department joined remotely and was part of the discussion regarding a utility easement on Downer Avenue at the location of the construction for the new elementary school.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to authorize the placement of utility easements necessary in connection with the new elementary school

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to authorize the chair of the School Committee to serve as the signatory on the maintenance of the easement

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to authorize the insertion of a warrant article to approve utility easement needed in connection with the construction of the new elementary school, at the upcoming town meeting


























































ACES voted to adjourn at 9:21 PM.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:21 PM not to return to Open Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(3) not to return to Open Session for the purposes of:
- To approve minutes from the Executive Session held on December 18, 2023 as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares
- To provide an update on negotiations with HEA Unit A, B, and D as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares

Respectfully Submitted By: Jen Benham

Name ↑

 01.08.2024 Agenda.pdf 
 2.1 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on November 27, 2023.pdf 
 2.2 Minutes of the School Committee held on December 9, 2023 Capital Tour.pdf 
 2.3 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on December 11, 2023.pdf 
 2.4 Minutes of the Hingham School Committee held on December 28, 2023.pdf 
 Item 4.0 January 8, 2024 Superintendent's Report.pdf 
 Item 4.0 January_1_2024 Enrollment Summary.pdf 
 Item 4.1 01_05_2024 Personnel Report for School Committee.docx.pdf 
 Item 6.1 CBI - Evaluation of the Superintendent - DRAFT.pdf 
 Item 6.1 JFAB - Enrollment of Childent of Personnel - DRAFT.pdf 
 Item 7.1 Student Trip to NYC_May 2024.pdf 
 Item 7.2 Newsletter January 2024.pdf 
 Item 7.2 Planning Web January 22, 2024.pdf 
 Item 7.2 Today's Happenings 1_4.pdf 
 Item 7.3 KIA Tuition Comparisons - Sheet1.pdf 
 Item 7.3 Yearly Tuition Proposalscopy - Proposed 2024 - 2025.pdf 
 Item 7.4 Proposal for Implementation of a Spanish Immersion Program.pdf 
 Item 7.5 Community Service Memo 01-02-24.pdf 
 Item 7.5 HHS SAC Research - Community Service.pdf 
 Item 7.6 Activity Fee Request at HHS.pdf 
 Item 7.7 Naming of the New Elementary Second School Survey.pdf 
 Item 7.8 FY25 Budget Message.pdf 
 Item 7.8 January 8, 2024 SC - 1st meeting- FY25 Budget Presentation.pdf 
 Item 7.8 MOU with the Town.pdf 
 Item 8.0 Warrants.pdf 
 Item 9.0 Image of HINGHAM ES VERIZON EASEMENT.pdf 
 Item 9.0 Verizon Easement - 55 Downer Ave, Hingham - 1A6CL5V.pdf 
 Item 9.0 Warrant for Easement New Elementary School Building.pdf 
 Kids In Action Presentation.pptx 