

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

February 5, 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, 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 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 and Slater Fairfield

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: There were 12 audience members in attendance which included several Plymouth River Elementary Students and their parents as well as Principal Greg Lamothe, ACES members Nancy MacDonald and Tina Sherwood, and HEA President Jacqueline Beaupre.

Remote visitors: There were approximately 30 remote attendees on Zoom.

ACES called to order by Tina Sherwood at 6:30PM.

School Showcase: Plymouth River Elementary School

Principal Greg Lamothe shared a slideshow of a recent student project in which the students researched their family ancestry. Several students took turns narrating their portion of the slides, sharing their findings and illustrations.

Public Hearing: FY 25 Operating Budget

Dr. Adams and Aisha Oppong reviewed the proposed FY 25 budget explaining the budget process, and current budget drivers.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to close the public hearing on fiscal year 25 budget at 6:41PM

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 January 22, 2024

Questions and Comments:

There were no questions at this time.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Adams provided an update to the School Committee on happenings in the district. Topics mentioned included: Personnel Report; Kindergarten Registration which is ongoing; Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten Registration Lottery; Grades 6-12 Technology Symposium; Student Opportunity Act; School Building Committee; METCO Impact on Students findings; School and District Report Cards; and Dr. Adams Congratulated Hingham High School for receiving the 2024 AFS-USA Global School of the Year Award.

Student Communications

Slater Fairfield reported that High School Students recently participated in the Model UN conference at Harvard; Alex Doggett reported that there has been planning of events for the upcoming Unity Week.

Public Discussion of the Budget

The Committee answered questions from the public about certain budget drivers such as contract negotiations, and out of district special education costs.

New Business

Class of 2023 College Testing and Placement Data

Guidance Director Heather Rodriguez gave a presentation that shared data compiled of the Class of 2023. Information presented included data showing the college testing data, as well as college applications, acceptances, and enrollments.

Substitute Rates

Executive Director for Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong explained that the district is proposing to change the rates of substitute pay to respond to the needs of the schools that only need coverage for half a day. She explained that sometimes, a substitute can only cover or prefers only to do a half day. Half a day of coverage may provide some relief when there might be a need. The proposal is a rate of \$62.50 for a non-contracted substitute for 0.5 day and \$125 for the full day; and for contracted short-term substitutes to be paid \$153.12 for 0.5 day and \$306.23 for the full day.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the rate changes for non-contracted substitutes as proposed

Architect for The Dock

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve Golemme as the Architect for the New High School Wellness Center the "Dock" subject to contract negotiations and to give the Superintendent Dr. Margaret Adams the approval to sign the contract on the School Committee's behalf

Grants and Donations

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was voted to accept \$9,000 in grants from the Hingham Education Foundation for the 8th grade leadership assembly and seminar and the NELMS conference

Declaration of Surplus

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was voted to declare as surplus library books from the South School Library listed and to authorize the Library Coordinator to dispose of them at the least cost to Hingham

Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

- Matt Cosman reported that the Special Education Subcommittee will be meeting on February 12th.
- Tim Dempsey reported that the Educational Programming Subcommittee met earlier in the day.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Middle School Council met earlier in the day, and she provided an update of the ongoing collective bargaining negotiations with the HEA.

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

The Committee discussed a grant application for electric buses.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham























- It was voted to approve the application for rebates for three new electric buses and for the school committee chair or Superintendent to sign the grant application for electric buses on behalf of Hingham Public Schools.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:26 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 January 22, 2024 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
- To hear a grievance from HEA Unit A 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 ↑

- [02.05.2024 Agenda.pdf](#) 
- [Item 2.2 Public Hearing On FY25 Budget Presentation 2-5-24.pdf](#) 
- [Item 3 PRS School Showcase_School Committee Ancestor Presentation.pdf](#) 
- [Item 4.1 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on January 22, 2024.pdf](#) 
- [Item 6.0 February 5 2024 Superintendent Report.pdf](#) 
- [Item 6.0 HHS Arts Pathway - Press Release.pdf](#) 
- [Item 6.0 School and District Report Cards - Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.pdf](#) 
- [Item 6.1 Personnel Report for School Committee.pdf](#) 
- [Item 6.2 Executive Director of Student Services Timeline Memo.pdf](#) 
- [Item 6.2 Executive Director of Student Services.pdf](#) 
- [Item 6.3 FY24 MAdams Formative Artifacts .pdf](#) 
- [Item 6.3 Superintendent Formative Evaluation SY23-24 Artifacts .pdf](#) 
- [Item 9.1 2023 College Entrance and Testing_Presentation.pdf](#) 
- [Item 9.1 2023ceebreport-final.pdf](#) 
- [Item 9.2 Memo Substitute Rate - Google Docs.pdf](#) 
- [Item 9.3 Amenta Emma Architecture - Hingham High School Wellness Center - 1.31.2024_AE FINAL.pdf](#) 
- [Item 9.3 CB234933.1 HS-Wellness-Center-Designer RFD 1-17-24.pdf](#) 
- [Item 9.3 MemoArchitect Approval at SC - 2-5-24 - Google Docs.pdf](#) 
- [Item 9.4 Middle School HEF Grants 23-24.docx - Google Docs.pdf](#) 
- [Item 9.5 Declaration of Surplus Materials - Feb 5 2024.docx - Google Docs.pdf](#) 
- [Item 9.5 SOUTHWeedingLogReport.Job](#) 
- [Item 11.0 Appliation for Electric Bus Rebates and Grants - Google Docs.pdf](#) 
- [Item 11.0 EPA Application forms.pdf](#) 
- [Item 11.0 EPA Bus Program.pdf](#) 