

**HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**September 11, 2023**

**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 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:** HPS Communications Specialist Heather Kashman, Foreign Language Director Erica Pollard

**Remote visitors:** There were approximately 6 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 August 29, 2023

**Questions and Comments:**

none

## **Superintendent's Report**

- **Back to School Update**

Dr. Adams reported that she visited all the schools in the past few days, and that there are open houses planned for each school over the next few weeks. She also stated that the Events Calendar will be up soon.

Dr. Adams also mentioned that there is a zoom meeting for parents this week for them to learn more about the new Elementary Reading Program.

- **Enrollment**

Dr. Adams reviewed current enrollment numbers for each school, noting the total number of students at this time is 3,715.

## **Communications**

Nes Correnti stated that there is an updated online ethics training available, as was communicated via email from the Town Clerk's office, which is a requirement for town employees and elected officials to complete every two years.

## **Unfinished Business**

none

## **New Business**

### **World Language Proficiency Testing**

Foreign Language Director Erica Pollard gave a presentation detailing student progress in foreign languages, including proficiency levels in speaking the language, as well as reading and listening. She also discussed goals for the department to further student progress.

### **Spanish elementary structured immersion program**

Foreign Language Director Erica Pollard gave a presentation which included research showing the benefits of immersion programs. She discussed the proposed process for exploring the possibility of developing a K-5 immersion program in Hingham.

### **Communication Plan for 2023-2024 school year**

Communications Specialist Heather Kashman gave a presentation which included the goals for this year's communication plan to build upon progress made last year between the district/schools and stakeholders. She discussed the implementation and action steps to continue to improve communication and access to information.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the 2023-2024 Communications Plan as presented

### **Naming of New Elementary School**

The Committee discussed Policy FF: "Naming New Facilities", and discussed a draft procedure for the school committee's consideration for determining the name of the new elementary school now being built on the current Foster site.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the naming process for the new elementary school

### **Rate for KIA nurses**

Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong submitted a memo to the School Committee with a proposed increase in the pay rate of nurses in the Kids in Action program, noting that the rate had not been increased in two years.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the increase rate for nurses in the Kids in Action Program to \$36.05 for the school year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 and to pay any nurses who worked in the program prior to September 11, 2023 a retroactive pay adjustment.

### **Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed**

- Matt Cosman reported that the Hingham Education Foundation has a meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>, and that the Special Education Subcommittee will meet on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Alyson Anderson reported that the next Policy Subcommittee meeting is on September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Tim Dempsey reported that the next meeting of the Educational Programming Subcommittee will be on September 26<sup>th</sup> and that there will be a SNAP event on October 12<sup>th</sup> at The Beth restaurant.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee continues to meet with all units to negotiate successor contracts. She reported that there will be negotiations this week with Unit A, teachers.
- Jen Benham reported that there are warrants in the packet.
- Michelle Ayer reported that the School Building Committee meeting is on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Nes Correnti reported that the Wellness Advisory Committee had its first meeting today.

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

none

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham



- It was **voted** to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:58 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 June 26, 2023 as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares


- o To approve minutes from the Executive Session held on July 10, 2023 as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares
- o To approve minutes from the Executive Session held on August 25, 2023 as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares
- o To discuss strategy with respect to Interventionists/Tutors negotiations 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 ↑



 09.11.2023 Agenda.pdf 



 Item 2.1 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on August 29, 2023.pdf 


 Item 4.0 District-Wide Special Education Program Evaluation.pdf 



 Item 4.1 HPS Elementary Curriculum Updates.pdf 



 Item 4.2 09.01.2023 Enrollment.pdf 



 Item 7.1 Proficiency Testing Overview 2023.pdf 



 Item 7.1 The Seal of Biliteracy\_ 2022-23 Memo.pdf 



 Item 7.2 Immersion Presentation 2023.pdf 


 Item 7.2 What the Research Says About Immersion - Tara Williams Fortune.pdf 

 Item 7.3 2023 2024 Communications Plan.pdf 

 Item 7.3 Communications Plan Presentation 2023-2024.pdf 

 Item 7.4 Draft Naming of School Process.pdf 

 Item 7.5 Increase in KIA Nursing Fee - Google Docs.pdf 

 Item 8.0 Warrant #S082923.pdf 

 Item 8.0 Warrant #S090523.pdf 