

HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE
October 2, 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 recording the meeting.

Visitors present: High School Principal Rick Swanson, Middle School Principal Derek Smith, East Elementary Principal Jonathan Hawes, Athletic Director Jim Quatromoni, Director of Guidance Heather Rodriguez, Cynthia Barrett, Suzanne Gunderson, and HEA President Jacqueline Beaupre.

Remote visitors: There were approximately 5 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

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 September 11, 2023

Jen Benham noted that she revised the minutes of September 23rd that were in the meeting packet. 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 September 23, 2023, as amended.

Questions and Comments:

none

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Adams mentioned an announcement made earlier in the week noting that both Plymouth River Elementary and South Elementary have been recognized as Schools of Recognition by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).
- Dr. Adams and Kathryn Roberts shared in the meeting packet information detailing the new professional development opportunities available to the staff this year.
- Personnel Report: Dr. Adams shared an update from Human Resources Coordinator Kelly Larkin listing new hires and job changes within the past month. Dr. Adams also noted that the district still has some open positions for paraeducators.
- Dr. Adams shared that there is an online survey looking for community input with regard to the naming of the new elementary school. She explained that the naming of a public building has to be voted on at Town Meeting.
- Update on Planning for Preschool: Dr. Adams referenced her memo to the Committee describing the planning process of the Preschool Working Group and they plan to make recommendations on the development of preschool and pre-k programming at the new elementary school for the 2024-2025 school year. She stated that the group expects to present recommendations to the School Committee in January.
- Accountability Report: Dr. Adams gave a presentation that explained Massachusetts' accountability system, which is designed to measure how a school or district is doing and what kind of support it may need. She shared that the accountability system considers achievement, student growth, High School completion, progress towards English proficiency, chronic absenteeism, and advanced coursework completion. Dr. Adams then shared the data for the district in these areas.

Communications

- Kathryn Roberts noted that she shared in the packet a letter template that will be shared with elementary families about the early literacy universal screening assessment for students in grades K-3.

Student Communications

Student Advisory Committee Representative Alex Doggett was present. He stated that the freshman class has elected their Student Advisory Committee representative and that the Committee would be having a meeting soon.

Other Communications

Nes Correnti noted that September was Suicide Awareness Month and that the Town of Hingham Veterans' Service Department Director SCPO Keith Jermyn along with HHS Principal Rick Swanson,

administrators, members of the HHS Veterans' Appreciation Club, and school committee members raised the SAR flag on the morning of Friday, September 22nd in memory of SGT Matthew P. Partyka, USMC.

Unfinished Business

none

New Business

School Improvement Plan: East Elementary

East Elementary Principal Jonathan Hawes gave a presentation updating the Committee with regard to the following goals: Communication; Analyze Student Performance; Safe and Inclusive Environments; and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Mr. Hawes presented Action Steps that have been taken, and will be taken to achieve these goals and provided examples of the success measurement of each.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the East Elementary School Improvement Plan progress update and renew the approval of the current plan as presented.

Harvard Model UN Conference Student Trip

Hingham High School Social Studies teacher Kathryn Black was present remotely to request that the Committee approve the trip to the Model UN Conference. Ms. Black explained that this is a trip she has taken with the students in the past at which the students will engage in discussions and debates with students from around the world. She stated that the conference is in Boston and the students will stay at the Sheraton for the dates of January 25-28, 2024.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the student trip to the Model UN Conference in Boston in January of 2024.

Out of State Competition: HHS Crew Team

Athletic Director Jim Quatromoni was present and explained that this trip is a new trip this year to attend a competitive regatta in New Hampshire. He stated that this is a day trip on Sunday, October 15th and that the students will be transported by bus, leaving at 5AM and returning at 7M. Mr. Quatromoni also stated that the boats are being transported via trailers by the Hingham High School Rowing Association.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the day trip to New Hampshire for the Hingham High School Rowing Team on October 15, 2023.

Wellness Committee Update

The Committee discussed the final memo of the Wellness Committee recommending the establishment of a Task Force to examine HPS's homework policy, and to examine the flexibility of the daily schedule.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts Middle School Principal Derek Smith, High School Principal Rick Swanson, and Guidance Director Heather Rodriguez, gave a presentation of the results of the YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Survey). The presentation included the data of student responses, as well as prevention and student support efforts.

Equity Plan

Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts gave a presentation of the district's Equity Plan. She reported that the resulting equity audit report highlighted recommended areas for strategic focus, including an emphasis on culturally responsive curriculum, inclusive instructional practices, equity-focused professional development, inclusive hiring practices, and use of academic and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) data to inform district equity and inclusion strategy.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to approve the Equity Plan for the 2023-2024 school year, as presented.

Policies BA - BDFA-E-3

The Committee reviewed language changes proposed by the Policy Subcommittee for the following policies: BA: School Operational Goals; BBAA School Committee Member Authority; BBBA/BBBB School Committee Member Qualifications/Oath of Office; BBBE Unexpired Term Fulfillment; BDFA School Councils; and BDFA-E School Improvement Plan. This was a first read for these proposed changes therefore no vote was taken.

Pay Rates for Interventionists/Tutors and Substitute Paraeducators

Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong spoke to the Committee regarding a memo she submitted recommending an increase in pay rates for interventionists and substitute paraeducators.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was **voted** to increase the hourly rate for interventionists to \$37.03 for the school year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 and to pay any interventionists who worked prior to October 2, 2023 a retroactive pay adjustment, and to increase the current paraprofessional substitute hourly rate to \$17.45 effective September 28, 2023.

Donations

Director of Business and Support Services Aisha Oppong discussed a donation from the Hingham Sports Partnership in the amount of \$100,000 toward the cost to design and build the Dock Wellness Center at Hingham High School.

On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham

- It was voted to accept a donation of \$100,000 from Hingham Sports Partnership as the seed money to initiate the procurement process for the construction of the Hingham High School Wellness Center, and to approve the creation of a special revolving account that will be used specifically for donations received for the Hingham High School Wellness project.

Grants

Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Roberts presented a memo to the Committee stating that the district is eligible to receive \$61,275 in Title I funding, which will be allocated to the three HPS schools with the highest populations of low-income families. These schools include Plymouth River, Hingham Middle School, and Foster School. She also reported the district is eligible to receive \$45,462 in Title II funding which will be primarily utilized to further strategic initiatives related to professional development, focused on UDL, inclusive and equitable practices.

- On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted** to accept the Title I grant in the amount of \$61,275.

- On a motion by Michelle Ayer and seconded by Jen Benham
It was **voted** to accept the Title II grant in the amount of \$45,462.

Subcommittee and Project Reports/Warrants Signed

- Matt Cosman reported that the Special Education Subcommittee met on September 13th and discussed goals for the year. He also reported that SEPAC had a meeting on September 19th, which Dr. Adams and Dr. Cataldo attended. He reported that the next Special Education Subcommittee meeting will be on October 25th, and that HEF met on September 12th and is planning their annual spelling bee which will take place on November 5th.
- Alyson Anderson reported that the Policy Subcommittee met on September 21st.
- Tim Dempsey reported that the Educational Programming Subcommittee met on September 26th. He also reported that SNAP's 10-year anniversary celebration has been postponed until the spring.
- Kerry Ni reported that the Middle School Council met today. She also reported that the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee has ongoing meetings with all bargaining units.
- Jen Benham reported that the Finance/Capital & Facilities Subcommittee is working on a schedule of upcoming meetings through the budget cycle. She also reported that there are financial warrants in the packet.
- Michell Ayer reported that the Foster School Council met on September 25th.
- Nes Correnti reported that at the School Committee's planning session on September 23rd, it was voted to appoint Alyson Anderson as the committee's representative at the upcoming MASC Conference.

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 8:47 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 September 11, 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, C, 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 provide an update on negotiations with bus drivers' union 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



 10.02.2023 Agenda.pdf 


 Item 2.1 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on July 10, 2023 3PM.pdf 



 Item 2.2 Minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on September 11, 2023.pdf 

 Item 2.3 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on September 23, 2023 revised 

 Item 2.3 Minutes of the School Committee meeting held on September 23, 2023.pdf 



 Item 4.0 @HPS PD Catalog 2023-2024.docx.pdf 



 Item 4.0 HPS Professional Development Corner.pdf 



 Item 4.0 HPS School Renaming Survey PR.pdf 



 Item 4.0 TEMPLATE--Hingham General Literacy Screener Letter (All parents, K-3).pdf 



 Item 4.0 Two HPS Schools Recognized by the State (1).pdf 



 Item 4.110_02_2023 Personnel Report.pdf 



 Item 4.2 Memo Preschool Committee.pdf 



 Item 4.3 2023 Accountability Data - Hingham (01310000).pdf 



 Item 4.3 2023 Accountability Presentation.pdf 

 Item 4.3 Glossary of Terms for DESE Accountability.docx.pdf 

 Item 7.1 East Elementary SIP yr 2 update.pdf 



 Item 7.2 Model UN Trip.pdf 



 Item 7.3 Hingham High Rowing Competition 10.15.2023.pdf 



 Item 7.4 2023 YRBS Data Presentation (2).pdf 



 Item 7.4 Wellness Committee Final Memo.pdf 



 Item 7.5 Equity Plan Goals.docx (1).pdf 

 Item 7.6 DRAFT Policy Sections-BA--BDFA-E-3.pdf 


 Item 7.7 & 7.8 Memo Rate Increase sub paras and interventionists - Google Docs.pdf 

 Item 7.9 HS - Wellness Center Donation from HSP.docx - Google Docs.pdf 

 Item 7.10 FY24 ESSA Title I-II Grants Memo to SC.pdf 

 warrant #5091223.pdf 

 Warrant #5091923.pdf 

 warrant #5092623.pdf 