

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November 23, 2015

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by Andy Shafter at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Aylene Calnan, Ray Estes, Carol M. Falvey, Cynthia Galko, Ed Schreier and Andy Shafter

Central Office Present: Dorothy Galo, Ellen Keane, John Ferris, and Elizabeth Flynn

Visitors Present: Melissa Smith, Tracy Blake, Derek Smith, Chuck Cormier, Alec Porter, Brad Patterson, Kathleen Jordan, Donna Smallwood, Aisha Oppong, David Jewett, Mary Eastwood, Helaine Silva, Kathryn Roberts

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Cynthia Galko,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on November 9, 2015 with one amendment. Change Liza O'Reilly to Liz Flynn in the Special Education Subcommittee Report.

2.2 On a motion by Carol M. Falvey and seconded by Cynthia Galko,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the School Committee held on November 9, 2015 with one correction: Include the name of the dissenting vote for the draft MOA.

3. Questions and Comments. None

4. Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Galo shared "Good News." She noted a thank you for HMS donations to the Hingham Food Pantry, Foster and South book collection/donation for Brockton ACC, HHS Quiz Bowl Team eligible for the seventh year in a row, letter complimenting student demeanor at HEF Spelling Bee.
- MA Assessment Update: Dr. Galo reviewed the DESE decision to develop and administer MCAS 2.0, Grades 3 to 8 in Spring of 2017+, some PARCC items will be included in MCAS 2016 and computer administrated PARCC test in Spring 2019, Grade 10 students continue to take MCAS through class of 2019.
- Dr. Galo provided a budget calendar update. There will be a January 24 meeting with Advisory Committee and January 28th joint meeting with Advisory Committee and Board of Selectmen.
- Forecast for 2017: Dr. Galo reviewed recent Town forecast meeting. Ted Alexiades will attend December 7, 2015 SC meeting to review forecast and answer questions.
- Dr. Galo reviewed the updated Superintendent's Goals for 2015-2016.
- Andy Shafter noted *The Boston Globe* article about Mitchell Chester's comments about MCAS/PARCC decision.

5. Communications

- 5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: None
- 5.2 Student Communications: Brad Patterson reported on the Holiday Fair, *Hello Dolly!* performances, girls soccer D2 state championship, dance team champions, America Recycles Day, spirit week, winter sports, Mr. HHS contest, Thanksgiving football versus Scituate, Fifth Annual Sean Ryan Memorial Flag Football Tournament.
- 5.3 Other Communications: Dr. Galo noted a "GPA Comparison Report" developed and presented to HHS by a parent. Andy Shafter noted "HHS Profile" available on website including GPA information and thanked the parent for the report.

6. Unfinished Business

- 6.1 The Committee heard an update on proposed changes to Section 3 of the School Committee Policy Handbook. Aylene Calnan reviewed the first reading of Section 3 of the School Committee Policy Handbook, the comments received on the first reading and the updates by the Policy Subcommittee. Andy Shafter noted the next Policy Subcommittee meeting will be held on December 4 at 11:00am.

School Committee Comments and Questions: Concern about leadership gap after School Committee election, suggestion to add language to the selection of officers to speak to the possible leadership gap, need to use procedure to determine senior member, the appearance of possible "unseemly behavior" during election season, not a conflict of interest issue if voters feel there was impropriety, they can vote/not vote for School Committee candidates. How to address this issue? Issue with members of Policy Subcommittee, in Advisory Committee policy there is language regarding protecting the integrity of the board so that there is no perceived "quid pro quo."

7. New Business

- 7.1 The Committee heard a report from Plymouth River School, including the School Council Improvement Plan update from 2014-2015 and the proposed plan for 2015-2016. Chuck Cormier, Principal, introduced Tracy Blake, LMC teacher, and Melissa Smith, Assistant Principal. He reviewed a PowerPoint overview of report on progress and status of 2014-2015 School Goals and Action Steps, including science focused poetry and critical literature for SS book club. Melissa Smith reviewed 2015 PRS MCAS results. Chuck Cormier then reviewed 2015-2016 School Improvement Goals. Tracy Blake reviewed the morning Breakfast Book Club focused on Global Education topics.

School Committee Comments and Questions: Breakfast club is a great learning opportunity.

- 7.2 The Committee received the MCAS report. Ellen Keane, Assistant Superintendent reviewed a PowerPoint overview of 2015 MCAS results.

School Committee Comments and Questions: Importance of SGP data versus percentage of proficient/advanced scores, possible reasons for low grade 7 and 8 math results, accelerated grade 8 students taking HHS course.

- 7.3 Carol M. Falvey reviewed the "teacher feedback" language (to become part of the HPS Educator Evaluation Handbook) as recommended by the Salary and Negotiation Subcommittee.

On a motion by Carol M. Falvey and seconded by Aylene Calnan,

It was

Voted: To approve the “teacher feedback” language (to become part of the HPS Educator Evaluation Handbook). The vote was 5 in favor. Ray Estes abstained.

7.4 The Committee heard a recommendation from the Superintendent to administer MCAS tests for Spring 2016.

On a motion by Andy Shafter and seconded by Cynthia Galko,

It was

Voted: To approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to administer MCAS in spring 2016.

8. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting. None.

9. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Community Outreach: Cynthia Galko noted that a discussion of the results of the parent and teacher surveys about the HPS website is scheduled for December.

Long Range Planning Committee: Ray Estes noted “Walk Around” date of December 5 at 8:30am and plan for walk around at HHS and PRS – start at PRS and recent user group meeting and report from Physical Education Resource Teacher, Meghan Melanson, on visits to other high school Health and Wellness facilities. Next step is for an architect conceptual plan and possible costs.

Andy Shafter asked for questions for Ted Alexiades.

Dr. Galo noted data on 25+ MS and HS class sizes. 42 of 295 core subject classes have 25+ students at HHS, 45 of 243 have 25+ students at HMS.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Andy Shafter and seconded by Carol M. Falvey,

It was

Voted: To adjourn at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Aylene Calnan