

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

February 22, 2016

1. Call to order

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

Members Present: Ray Estes, Carol M. Falvey, Cynthia Galko, Liza O'Reilly, Ed Schreier and Andy Shafter

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

Visitors Present: Alec Porter, Meghan Rowan, Debbie Stellar, Dan Coughlin, Donna Smallwood, Megan Hanson, Kathleen Jordan, Jim Taylor, Brad Patterson, Aisha Oppong, Tony Keady

2. Approval of Minutes. None

3. Questions and Comments

Meghan Rowan and Megan Hanson read a statement and spoke regarding concerns about homework, recess and lunch, curriculum and assessment.

4. Superintendent's Report

- Good News. Dr. Galo noted an article in the *Hingham Journal* regarding the Ambassador Club at HMS making over 100 valentines for the seniors at Neville Assisted Living Facility in Cambridge.
- Dr. Galo reported that the NEASC self-study standard 5, "School Culture," Indicators 11 and 12 will involve her input.

5. Communications

- 5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: Dr. Galo noted the letter from Suburban Coalition regarding Resolution.
- 5.2 Student Communications: Brad Patterson reported on the drama festival play based on Edgar Allen Poe's poems, "Shuddersome: Tales of Poe." He reported on sports, recycling, Mrs. Whitney is teacher of the month, and the debate team.
- 5.3 Other Communications:
 - Andy Shafter noted the *Hingham Journal* article and editorial regarding the HAWC proposal.
 - Dr. Galo noted that kindergarten registration will be held March 1 to 18 and information session are scheduled for March 1 at 7:00pm and March 3 at 9:30am.
 - Dr. Galo reported that Assistant Superintendent, Ellen Keane, will retire this summer.

6. New Business

- 6.1 The Committee heard an update on the administration's proposed preliminary operating budget for FY'17. Dr. Galo reviewed HPS Budget Proposal Update for FY17 including Operating Budget Proposals Update from the Administration as of February 22, 2016.

School Committee Comments and Questions: Out of district tuitions decisions, status of reading adoption decision, concern that regular education budget would be impacted by Special Education budget, opposed to increase in athletic fees, need for information from Town Administrator, five year forecast does not include school department steps and lanes, possible use of cash reserves, possible cuts to level services, School Department proposal responds to Town request to reduce expenses to get

to balanced budget, possibility of Advisory Committee postponing their vote, why do we have to vote budget tonight, why did the budget deficit increase when school department request decreased, current fund balance 23%.

- 6.2 The Committee continued discussion about transportation and the bus bid. John Ferris reviewed recent conversations with First Student and written input from Pdraig Cunningham, Transportation Manager, regarding mechanical issues with old busses.

School Committee Comments and Questions: Currently using 20 busses with 2 spare, do we have to vote today to get buses for August, can vote March 14th and First Student would cover us until new buses arrive.

- 6.3 The Committee continued discussion of the proposed preliminary budget and acted on the SC FY '17 Operating Budget.

On a motion by Andy Shafter and seconded by Liza O'Reilly,

It was

Voted: To defeat the adoption of a FY17 School Department Operating budget of \$48,024,448, an increase of 5.75%. Andy Shafter and Liza O'Reilly voted in favor of adoption. Ed Schreier, Cynthia Galko, Carol M. Falvey, and Ray Estes were opposed.

- 6.4 The Committee received draft language for a mobile vendor policy as proposed by the Policy Subcommittee (First Reading). Liza O'Reilly reviewed the first reading proposal that reflects input. John Ferris questioned the need for vendors to get approval from the School Department.

- 6.5 The Committee discussed proposed language for a resolution in support of the Suburban Coalition's request for additional State Budget funding for education. Liza O'Reilly reviewed the draft of the Resolution Calling for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's recommendation.

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Ray Estes,

It was

Voted: Unanimously to approve the resolution with the deletion of the last paragraph.

- 6.6 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of the high school Student Council to Hyannis for the MASC conference on March 9-11, 2016.

- 6.7 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of the high school Quiz Bowl to the national History Bowl and Bee in Washington, DC on April 22-25, 2016.

- 6.8 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of the high school Band/Chorus/Orchestra to Chicago, IL on March 31 - April 3, 2016.

- 6.9 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Michaela Sousa, Payroll Supervisor, effective February 19, 2016.

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

8. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Long Range Planning: Ray Estes asked when Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee would vote on HAWC.

Ed Schreier noted a meeting of the Drug Prevention Coalition on February 24th where Judge Heather Bradley will speak.

9. Adjournment

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

It was

Voted: To Adjourn to Executive Session not to return to Regular Session, to discuss strategy with respect to matters related to the collective bargaining agreement with the HEA, Unit A at 9:52PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Aylene Calnan