

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

June 20, 2016

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by Liza O'Reilly at 7:47 p.m.

Members Present: Aylene Calnan, Carlos Da Silva, Carol M. Falvey, Cynthia Galko, Liza O'Reilly, Kay Praschma, and Ed Schreier

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

Visitors Present: David Jewett, Helaine Silva, Kathy Joyce, Andrew Hoey, Rebecca Scarlett, Patricia Harris, Andrea Hancock, Beth Whitney, Eugenie Murray Brown, Diana Betts, Mike Betts, Robert Busby, Sarah Pohl, Carolyn Bianchi, Holly Hancock, Mal Noonan, Robbin Terrace, Mona Poh, Julie Chandler, Patricia Cairns, Cathy Hartman, Susan Willison, Janette Harrington, Paula Girouard McCann, Susan Desmarais, John Chase, Maureen Chase, Amy Spall, Carolyn Goddard, Tim Goddard, Mary S. Sogomonian, Katherine Forbes, Sandra Phelan, Kris d'Entremont, Alec Porter, Megan Myui, Heather Carroll, Kevin Whitney, Maribeth Egan, Cheryl A. Bierwirth, Tracy Hussey, Terri Humphrey, Tom Hancock, Jo-Ann Sullivan, David N. Sullivan, Patricia DiTullio, John W. Murray, Catherine Oatway, Christine Viola.

2. Approval of Minutes.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on June 6, 2016.

3. Questions and Comments. None.

4. Superintendent's Report.

- Good News: Dr. Galo expressed her appreciation for the MCSW Unsung Heroine Award. Congratulations to the Hingham Boys' Lacrosse Team for 2nd place in the State Championship.
- End of Year: Dr. Galo noted the last day for students 6/22/16, staff 6/23/16.
- Dr. Galo noted reasons for delay of calendar release days: needed to schedule security training for staff and "Hingham Helping Hingham" day developed by the High School Council.
- Dr. Galo also noted no school for the high and middle schools on November 8th.

5. Communications.

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent:

- Parent Concern about GPA:
 - Liza O'Reilly reviewed communication/discussion per School Committee policy and purpose. Tonight is for the School Committee hearing and process to be followed for discussion.
 - Dr. Galo provided the history of the GPA procedures in Hingham, beginning with a previous 6.0 scale which was changed to a 4.0 scale and reviewed parent concerns raised last fall. The long-term plan is to revise GPA scales next year using a comprehensive and inclusive process. There will be 2 parameters: Do no harm and don't compromise Hingham's GPA integrity. Discussions included using 2 GPA systems with both GPAs included on the transcripts. Dr. Galo's concern is not to harm 49% of students, while helping 51% of students.

- The current recommendation is to keep the current GPA system with the student option of explaining in a letter about the revision process and possible higher GPAs. The new GPA should be similar to other schools with 4.0 based on Level 2 courses.

School Committee Questions and Comments: Agreement with need to change but suggestion to not give GPA for current 3 classes at the high school. While GPA process is in place, change should include current grade 9 (class of 2019) students. Put statement about revision process on transcript with option to use recalculated GPA for advantaged students. Commended parents for their involvement. Discussions should be respectful and cordial. Concern about HHS credibility with 2 GPAs. Who would be on the subcommittee? In favor of using two GPAs. Support for including current Grade 9. Support for not using GPA. Important for students to determine what they want to learn and plans for future. Liza O'Reilly read a statement regarding the need for civility and respect from school staff and parents and need to develop consensus on positive school culture at HHS.

Audience Comments: Eugenie Murray Brown made a statement in support of changing the 4.0 GPA. Beth Whitney, Stuart Patterson, and Joe Burton spoke in support of changing GPAs.

- Dr. Galo noted sundry notifications from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as forwarded by MASS: MCAS and PARCC 2016 results, MCAS 2.0, safe and supportive schools, opioid legislation, verbal screening tool subject to appropriation, change in accountability system by end of 2016-2017 school year.

5.2 Student Communications: None.

5.3 Other Communications. Liza O'Reilly reviewed the request from Acton Boxborough to share comparable data. Dr. Galo reviewed the request for consideration of bringing back pole-vaulting, with an anonymous donation to cover costs, and various implementation issues. The School Committee will discuss and possibly act on the request at the July meeting. Dr. Galo noted rowing video. Dr. Galo reminded the School Committee of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) training session with Glenn Koocher on July 26 at 6:00 pm. Dr. Galo reviewed the letter from the Department of Public Health regarding the Hingham Middle School and Hingham High School non-compliance with guidelines and plans to add DESE licensed nurses at Hingham Middle and High Schools.

6. New Business.

6.1 The Committee heard Dave Jewett, Mathematics Director, review an overview of the program, including Standards for Mathematical Practice, the Math Program Kindergarten to Grade 6, the Math Program Grade 7 to 12, Curriculum Changes, Strengths, Challenges; Department Goals: 1. Framing Lessons Or Units: Coffee Cup and Packaging Delivery, 2. More Authentic Learning Opportunities: Geometry Task; and 3. Integration Of Technology Engagement, Efficiency; and Conclusion.

School Committee Questions and Comments: Grade 8 split this past year, maintenance of high standards, grade 7, math enrichment grade 6. Liza O'Reilly thanked Dave Jewett.

6.2 The Committee discussed proposed language for a resolution against lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools. Liza O'Reilly read the resolution.

Carlos DaSilva made a motion that the Hingham School Committee pass the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Ed Schreier. During discussion of the motion, Dr. Galo noted that she received news that afternoon that the RISE Act addressing the Charter School cap had been withdrawn by the Senate. Based on this information Carlos DaSilva withdrew the original motion.

It was

Voted: To table the resolution against lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools.

School Committee Questions and Comments: The Committee needs meaning of “implement Charter School Reform now” language.

6.3 The Committee heard an update on the financial report for the FY’16 Operating and Capital Budgets closeout.

On a motion by Ed Schreier and seconded by Cynthia Galko,

It was

Voted: To purchase field grooming machines not to exceed \$19,000 using unexpended FY16 capital funds.

On a motion by Ed Schreier and seconded by Kay Praschma,

It was

Voted: To transfer unexpended FY16 operating funds up to \$100,000 to the Special Education Reserve Account, subject to availability of such funds at year end.

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

It was

Voted: To declare surplus materials from the 2005 edition of the MacMillan McGraw Hill Reading Program K-5.

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

It was

Voted: To award the paper supplies bid to Veritiv Operating Company in the amount of \$36,993.60, with funding from the regular 2016 operating budget.

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

It was

Voted: To award the Standby Electrical Maintenance Contract to Fasolino Electric.

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

It was

Voted: To award the Standby Elevator Maintenance Contract to Embree Elevator, in the amount of \$20,940.

6.8 The Committee received notification of field trips.

School Committee Questions and Comments: Edward Schreier noted the need for use of appropriate field trip form.

6.9 The Committee heard a preliminary program and facilities assessment. Dr. Galo presented the assessment.

- 6.10 The Committee received notification of the retirement of Ellen Keane, Assistant Superintendent, effective August 26, 2016.
- 6.11 The Committee received notification of the retirements of teachers Carole Smith of East School; Brian Faherty, Craig Mudie and Michael Mulry of HHS, all effective June 30, 2016; and Michelle Vazquez of South School, effective March 29, 2016.
- 6.12 The Committee received notification of the retirements of Donna Casagrande, Food Services at HHS; paraeducators Debra Jones of Foster School and Jeanne Hardy of HHS; custodian Francis Quill of HHS; nurse Theresa McDonough of HMS; Administrative Assistant Rosemary Cronin of Central; and Foreign Language Department Director Susan Keyes; all effective June 30, 2016.
- 6.13 The Committee received notification of the resignations of paraeducators Elizabeth Pyle of Foster School and Christine Trifone of South School; reading tutor Pam Achille of Plymouth River School; and HHS teacher Lauren (Arvidson) Saunders, all effective June 22, 2016.
- 6.14 The Committee received notification of the full year FY17 leaves of absence of Ashley Baxter, Kaitlin McDougall, Jenna Nelson, Maura O'Connor, Kathryn Shapiro and Gregg Wachtelhausen of HMS; Heather Benner of Foster School and Jayme Simovic of Plymouth River School.

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

8. Subcommittee and Project Reports.

Policy Subcommittee: Aylene Calnan noted there will be a meeting on June 24. Any comments regarding sections 5.6 to 5.27 (draft version in the SC packet from June 6, 2016 meeting) should be sent to Aylene as soon as possible.

9. Adjournment.

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

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 11:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko