

# MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

December 7, 2015

## **1. Call to order.**

The meeting was called to order by Andy Shafter at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Aylene Calnan, 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: Heather Rodrigues, Linda Kutsch, Paula Girouard McCann, June Gustafson, Aisha Oppong, Karen Beatty, Tony Keady, William Douglas, Michael Douglas, Derek Smith, Brad Patterson

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

2.1 On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Aylene Calnan,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on November 23, 2015.

## **3. Questions and Comments.** None

## **4. Superintendent's Report**

- Good News. Dr. Galo noted the NECN "Making the Grade" segment with Michael Page's visit to the HHS greenhouse.
- December Enrollment: There are 7 more students in K-12 and 3 more in Pre-K.

## **5. Communications**

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: None

5.2 Student Communications: Brad Patterson reported on winter sports, fall championships, Green Committee sneaker drive, band and orchestra concerts, Debate Team. Liza O'Reilly and Brad Patterson noted the Story Corps project and HHS participation. Dr. Galo noted a *Boston Globe* article about college pressure as well as the SSEC Report and Financial Update.

5.3 Other Communications: Tony Keady, East School Principal, introduced Eagle Scout Michael Douglas of Hanover, who received a Community Partnership Award certificate for his work on the East School patio project.

## **6. Unfinished Business**

6.1 The Committee heard an update on proposed changes to Section 3 of the School Committee Policy Handbook. Liza O'Reilly reviewed the memo "Summary of Discussions by Policy Sub-Committee regarding Revisions to Section 3." Liza O'Reilly moved and Cynthia Galko seconded the motion to accept the revisions to Section 3. Discussion ensued.

School Committee Comments and Questions: Not in agreement that policy changes reflect tradition, need for consistency on policies about terms of office if chair is still sitting on the Committee, need to define a year in office, suggestion to clarify "one year" until the first meeting of the School Committee year typically held in early May, belief that concerns are not about freedom of speech but about School

Committee behavior during election season, and that it is inappropriate to publicly support School Committee candidates in a contested election, proposal to develop a process for the future that is more “peaceful” but not about denying freedom of speech, concern about support given by two School Committee members appearing as quid pro quo and concern about process of election of officers, request that article “Mass high court overturns law that banned lies in campaign” be withdrawn because it is not applicable to this issue, support for current work of School Committee chair, possibility of adopting School Committee “Code of Conduct,” belief that no “quid pro quo” occurred and School Committee officer vote was based on input from public, not based on concerns about qualifications of Vice Chair for Chair, concerns and issues were not brought up during time of election. Motion including consensus of committee to make suggested addition to Section 3.4.1 including “until the first meeting of the new School Committee year typically held in early May.”

On a motion by Liza O’Reilly and seconded by Cynthia Galko,

It was

Voted: To approve the proposed changes to Section 3 of the School Committee Policy handbook made in draft dated 12/4/15 with one change to section 3.4.1: Add “until the first meeting of the new School Committee year typically held in early May” after “The term of each officer shall be for one year.” The vote was 4 in favor (Andy Shafter, Liza O’Reilly, Aylene Calnan, Cynthia Galko), 2 opposed (Ray Estes, Carol M. Falvey) and 1 abstained (Ed Schreier).

## **7. New Business**

7.1 The Committee heard a pre-budget forecast report from Town Administrator, Ted Alexiades, including revenue sources, revenue forecast for FY’17, Article 6 Detail.

School Committee Comments and Questions: Definition of Overlay, fund balance amount, unused levy capacity level, services budget, initiative requests, health insurance costs, meals tax.

7.2 The Committee heard a report from Hingham High School, including the School Council Improvement Plan update from 2014-2015 and the proposed plan for 2015-2016. Paula Girouard McCann, HHS Principal, reviewed a PowerPoint overview of 2014-2015 School Improvement Plan including goals and activities completed to date, including Green Ribbon award, NEASC-HHS Core Beliefs, student stress survey results and programs to address issues and the 2015-2016 HHS School Council Improvement Plan goals. She also reviewed a “Proposal to Change Graduation Requirements” to drop the 2.5 credits requirement in computers and add a 2.5 credit grade 10 health course, separate from Physical Education classes.

School Committee Comments and Questions: Concern about impact of new health course on choice of electives, possibility of taking health course in grades 10-12, possibility of making individual exceptions as needed, compliments and support of RAD, possibility for additional health courses, need for health care proxy for college students, possibility of additional homework free days and weekends, graduation requirements versus college requirements, next steps for decision on graduation requirement as part of Program of Studies presentation in January and School Committee approval of graduation requirement change (January 7, 2016 SC meeting), put School Improvement Plans on school websites and information on HS graduation proposals. Andy Shafter thanked Paula Girouard McCann.

7.3 The Committee heard a report on Testing and Placement for the Class of 2015. Heather Rodriguez, Director of School Counseling, reviewed a PowerPoint overview of the report, including % of Graduates’ Post-Secondary Plans, SAT Summary, SAT Benchmark Schools Comparison, SAT Subject tests, ACT results, AP scores, AP Benchmark Comparisons, and AP Scholars.

School Committee Comments and Questions: Concern about PSATs given during school year, increase in AP Scholars, report will be posted on Counseling website.

- 7.4 The Committee received notification of two overnight field trips of the HMS Grade 6 class on 5/23/16-5/24/16 and 5/24/16-5/25/16 (each trip will be for half of the grade).

School Committee Comments and Questions: Activities planned for students who do not participate, timing of trip later in year, teachers will volunteer to stay overnight, difference in cost due to overnight.

- 7.5 The Committee received notification of the appointments of paraprofessionals Kali Hamel at East School, effective October 19, 2015 and Cassandra Pacella at Foster School, effective October 13, 2015.

**8. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting.**

Dr. Galo noted email from Selectman Mary Powers about Hingham Operating Budget Trends.

**9. Subcommittee and Project Reports**

Long Range Planning Committee: Ray Estes reviewed the recent "Walk Around" of HHS and PRS and thanked Karen Beatty, Meg Melanson for attending on Saturday AM and noted a meeting will be held on December 14, 2015

Community Outreach: Cynthia Galko noted that there is a planned review of the website surveys at the next meeting.

Special Education: Ed Schreier will schedule a meeting soon.

Policy: Liza O'Reilly noted that Sections 5 and 6 will be reviewed at next meeting on January 5, 2016.

**10. Adjournment**

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Aylene Calnan,

It was

Voted: To adjourn at 9:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Aylene Calnan