

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**January 9, 2017****1. Call to order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Liza O'Reilly at 7:33 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, James LaBillois, Elizabeth Kurlan, John Ferris

Visitors Present: Monica Matthews, Katie Gaughen, Kerry Ni, Tara Anne, Donna Smallwood, Richard McManus, Brent Parker, Courtney Ruccio, Tom Rowan, Chris Jefford, Janice Sullivan, Heather Vaughan Smith, Brad Patterson, Sara Pratt, Caroline Prindeville, Andrea Flyer, Joan Nevins, Alec Porter, Susan Roy, Courtney Orwig, Evan Sheehan, Martha Doggett, Adrienne McGarr, MaryBeth Barber, Sharon Burnett, Erik Johnson, Chris Testa, Kelley Testa, David Daly, Meghan Rowan, Laura Sorgi, Cheryl Russo, Zoe Pirnie, Jen Doan, Deb Carleton, Holly Pilotti, Paul Pedersen, Ted Hirsch

2. Approval of Minutes.

2.1 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the Long Range Planning Committee and School Committee Meeting held on December 7, 2016.

Chairwoman Liza O'Reilly noted that the minutes of the December 14, 2016 SEPAC/School Committee meeting are outstanding and will be approved at a future meeting.

2.2 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Kay Praschma,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on December 19, 2016.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the Executive Session of the School Committee Meeting held on December 19, 2016.

3. Questions and Comments.

Monica Matthews, Hingham teacher and resident, addressed the Committee relative to class size in grade four at Foster Elementary School. Dr. Galo and the Committee members thanked Monica for her comments and Dr. Galo reminded the Committee that of the 92 total elementary sections in the district, 4 are at a class size of 25. None are above 25.

Katie Gaughen, a parent of a student with a disability, addressed the Committee regarding the provision of special education services and the request for an independent comprehensive evaluation of the Special Education Department. Dr. Galo responded that independent evaluations were a good tool and there was no disagreement that a program evaluation would support our ability to identify strengths and areas of need. Dr. Galo cautioned, however, that the timing, scope, and cost of the areas to be evaluated needed to be worked out.

Chair Liza O'Reilly thanked the audience for their attendance and noted that the School Committee has been made aware of their concerns. She noted that the School Committee would have a presentation on the MCAS performance of students in the high needs subgroup at the regular meeting scheduled for January 30, 2017. Ms. O'Reilly further noted that at the January 11 SEPAC meeting there would be discussion and the solicitation of parent feedback relative to other areas of focus for the MCAS presentation. She invited audience members to attend the January 19 Student Services Budget presentation, the January 30 MCAS presentation, and the February 13 Budget hearing.

5.2 **Student Communications.** This item was taken out of order. Brad Patterson was in attendance and updated the School Committee on the events and activities scheduled for Hingham High School. Carlos DaSilva asked Brad if he has thought about who might take his place as School Committee Student Representative after he graduates.

4. **Superintendent's Report.**

Dr. Galo noted that the high school newsletter was included in the School Committee packet and contained information about some great events at Hingham High School. Dr. Galo also noted that the district has been invited to a ceremony at the State House that will honor the 2016 DESE Commendation Schools. She reminded the committee that both Plymouth River Elementary and South Elementary Schools will be honored as 2016 Commendation Schools for high achievement on MCAS. There was also information included in the packet on the METCO breakfast program that has begun. Chrissy O'Connor will be travelling to Normandy this summer with Dylan Davis, a student chosen to become a Normandy Scholar with National History Day.

5. **Communications.**

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent. None

5.3 Other Communications. None

6. **Unfinished Business.**

6.1 The Committee discussed proposed revisions to Section 3.7.5 (Public Involvement) of the School Committee Policy Handbook, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the revised Section 3.7.5 (Public Involvement) of the School Committee Policy Handbook.

7. **New Business.**

7.1 The Committee reviewed a proposed Warrant article to transfer \$24,022 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund: Insurance Recovery in Excess of \$20,000 for use by the School Department.

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

It was

Voted: To approve a Warrant article to transfer \$24,022 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund: Insurance Recovery in Excess of \$20,000 for use by the School Department.

- 7.2 The Committee reviewed a proposed Warrant article to transfer \$43,534.61 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund: Insurance Recovery in Excess of \$20,000 for use by the School Department.

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

It was

Voted: To approve a Warrant article to transfer to transfer \$43,534.61 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund: Insurance Recovery in Excess of \$20,000 for use by the School Department

- 7.3 The Committee deferred discussion on any additional Town Meeting Warrant Articles that the School Committee may want to submit. Dr. Galo explained the Committee could circle back to this item at the Budget Workshop on Thursday, January 12.

- 7.4 The Committee received the November and December 2016 HPS Facilities Projects Update.

- 7.5 The Committee received the Capital Budget for FY 2018 as recommended by the Long Range Planning Subcommittee. John Ferris distributed materials and Edward Schreier, Chair of the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee, explained that the worksheet is the product of the subcommittee from their meeting on January 4, 2017. John Ferris explained that the spreadsheet is a five-year capital forecast that includes FY17 appropriations. The document outlines all of the capital items on the horizon and is in priority order following discussions with the subcommittee. John Ferris briefly reviewed several of the priorities and answered questions from the School Committee. The spreadsheet was distributed tonight to give the Committee a copy ahead of next week's Budget Workshop where the School Committee will work towards consensus on the capital budget. There was discussion regarding the Hingham High School Health and Wellness project, the 5-year Technology Plan, a feasibility study for renovation/replacement of Foster School, the Plymouth River School windows project, a new district website and other issues.

- 7.6 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Denise Stanley as the High School Guidance Administrative Assistant, effective January 3, 2017.

- 7.7 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Christine White, Hingham High School Language Lab Assistant, effective January 13, 2017.

- 8. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting.** Chair Liza O'Reilly noted that School Committee has received a number of correspondences over the weekend regarding Special Education, as well as some other items. The email communications came to some members of the Committee individually, some to a subcommittee group, and others to the Committee as a whole. Cynthia Galko, School Committee Secretary, reviewed the correspondence received and made note of those members who received each of the correspondences.

Ms. O'Reilly reminded the Committee members that all information regarding individual children should be kept confidential. She noted that she had spoken to a number of other school district school committee members regarding their experiences with independent evaluations and urged the Committee members to do their due diligence as well.

Assistant Superintendent Jamie LaBillois noted that the administration would be making a recommendation for a review of the Special Education Program at the January 19 meeting and gave some clarification as to the nature of such exercises based on his professional experience.

Dr. Galo showed the Committee a clever video created by a Plymouth student regarding snow days entitled, "Make the Call."

9. Subcommittee and Project Reports.

Aylene Calnan noted that the Policy Subcommittee will meet on January 13 at 10:30am.

Edward Schreier noted that the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition will meet on January 11, 2017.

10. Adjournment.

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

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko