

ANNUAL REPORT – 2015 HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As of October 1, 2015, there were 4257 students enrolled in grades K-12 in the Hingham Public Schools, an increase of 33 students over October 1, 2014. In addition, the district had responsibility for funding and/or programming for 71 pre-school students in the Integrated Pre-school program, 47 out-of-district students (in special education placements), and 1 vocational student.

Operational and management changes in the Hingham Public Schools for Fall 2015 included the appointments of Andrew Hoey, Director of Social Studies K-12, Douglas Foley, Facilities and Procurement Manager, and John Walden, HPD Elementary Schools Resource Officer.

Academically, Hingham students continued to perform above state averages at every grade and subject on the 2015 MCAS. The percentage of Hingham students performing at the proficient or advanced levels increased in grade 3 English Language Arts (ELA) and math, grade 4 ELA and math, grade 5 ELA and math, grade 6 ELA and math, grade 8 math and science, and grade 10 science. In grade 10, 98% of students scored at the proficient or advanced level in ELA, 95% in math, and 92% in science, with 79% scoring at the advanced level in ELA and 78% scoring advanced in math. All members of the Class of 2015 demonstrated proficiency on the ELA, math and science MCAS tests that are required for a state certified diploma. Student Growth Percentile (SGP) reports released by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) are used to measure student performance changes on MCAS over time. In Hingham, SGPs were rated as "high" at grade 4 ELA and math, grade 5 ELA and math, grade 7 ELA, and grade 10 math.

The Massachusetts accountability system is used to classify districts and schools on a five level scale from the highest performing in Level 1 to the lowest performing in Level 5. The levels reflect both overall performance and the progress of the different subgroups of the student population. The Hingham 2015 accountability results were as follows: East School, Foster School, Plymouth River School, and Hingham High School – Level 1; South School and Hingham Middle School - Level 2. A school percentile was also reported indicating the school's overall performance relative to other schools in Massachusetts with the same

grades. The Hingham school percentiles were as follows: East–94th, Foster–94th, PRS–98th, South–94th, HMS–85th, and HHS–91st.

The four elementary schools continue to enhance curriculum and instruction in literacy, math, science, and social studies through a variety of initiatives. In ELA, teachers have been piloting two new reading programs with a final adoption scheduled to begin in the 2016-17 school year. The implementation of a revised edition of our K-5 math program was completed in the 2015-16 school year. The curriculum alignment and revision of our K-5 science program has begun given the recent approval of new Massachusetts Science Curriculum Frameworks. Each of the elementary schools has designed, posted, and trained staff in school-specific behavior matrices in order to create safe and productive learning environments that foster responsibility and respect. In each of the schools, targeted instruction opportunities have been designed to respond to needs identified by analysis of district, state and standardized test results.

Hingham students continued with strong performances in the visual and performing arts, as demonstrated in building and district-wide concerts and regional music competitions. The annual all-town art show was relocated to Town Hall in Spring 2015 and featured the work of students from all six schools. A permanent ceramics display remains in the lobby there. Drama students captivated audiences with their productions of "Hello, Dolly!" in November 2015 at HHS and "Beauty and the Beast" last Spring at HMS.

The 2015 Town Election saw Aylene Calnan and Cynthia Galko elected to the School Committee to fill vacancies resulting from the expiring terms of Dennis Friedman and Caryl Falvey. Andy Shafter, Liza O'Reilly, and Aylene Calnan were elected School Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, respectively, in May 2015.

On Saturday, May 30, 281 students graduated from Hingham High School. In addition to a diploma, 40 members of the class received the Global Competency Certificate. Through interdisciplinary academic study, community service and international travel, these graduates demonstrated increased global awareness, a heightened appreciation of diversity, and a capacity to work and contribute in an increasingly interconnected world. Of all graduates, 94% planned to continue their formal education. Academic accomplishments of the HHS Class of 2015 include 14 National Merit commended students, 97 Advanced Placement Scholars, 4 AP National Scholars, 2 AP International Diploma recipients,

and 64 members inducted into the National Honor Society. Myriad awards were also presented in recognition of students' outstanding performance in academic areas or involvement in school organizations.

In 2015 the School Building Committee continued its post occupancy work on the Middle School Construction Project. A new well was drilled in December 2014 in support of the school's outdoor playing surfaces and work on installation of an irrigation system continued through the winter and into the spring. The School Building Committee met regularly throughout 2015 to pursue the school's LEED Silver certification, oversee commissioning and training activities and address various issues including outstanding site work, winter storm damage and initiation of steps for final project closeout, anticipated later in 2016.

The Annual School Department Operating Budget for fiscal year 2016 (school year 2015-2016) was approved at the April 2015 Town Meeting at \$45,413,720; another \$988,480 was appropriated for Capital Projects, including projects at the Depot properties benefitting several Town departments.

Throughout the spring and summer of 2015, plans for implementing Hingham's first full day Kindergarten evolved. An income-based sliding scale of tuitions approved by the MA DESE funded the program. A state planning grant supported the purchase of materials and furnishings and some training. A second grant in Fall 2015 was used to purchase additional materials and provide consultant services for curriculum development and teacher and paraeducator training as well as an initial state required program evaluation. Kindergarten classes opened in September with 300 students in four classrooms in each of the four schools. The total number of students has grown to 307 as of this writing.

In Fall 2015, the School Committee met in a Planning Session to establish goals and priorities for the then upcoming FY 17 budget season. Subsequent to that meeting, Budget Guidelines and Assumptions were developed and approved by the School Committee. At the same meeting, there was consensus among the members to continue with a sliding scale of parent tuitions as the funding source for the second year of the full day kindergarten program (Fall 2016). As well, there was consensus to move forward with initial planning and a likely Spring 2016 Warrant item to fund design for an improved health and wellness center at the High School. Also explored and supported by the full committee was the submission of a Statement of Interest (SOI) for a partially

reimbursed MSBA Accelerated Repair Project (ARP) to fund window replacements at Plymouth River School. In December 2015, the School Administration developed a "needs-based budget" that is (at the time of this writing) in the process of refinement and adoption or other action by the SC, Selectmen, Advisory Committee, and ultimately by Town Meeting.

The interscholastic athletic teams at Hingham High School have made a strong case for Hingham to be referred to as "Title Town." During the 2015 year, HHS earned 7 State Championships, 2 Sectional Championships and 6 Patriot League Championships. The boys ice hockey team won the Division I State Championship. The girls and boys rowing teams won the spring state championships. The girls rowing team won the state championship in the fall. The dance team won the state championship for the first time ever. The girls soccer team successfully defended their Division II State Championship. The girls spring track team won the state relay championship. In addition, the boys cross-country team won the Eastern MA Divisional Championship and the boys lacrosse team won the South Sectional Championship. Patriot League Championships were won by the wrestling team (3 years in a row), girls indoor track (7 years in a row), boys and girls spring track, boys cross-country (2 years in a row) and field hockey. The following coaches hit the 100 win milestone: Bob Kniffen (boys basketball), Susan Petrie (field hockey), and Paul Canniff (wrestling).

Competitive endeavors such as Robotics, Quiz Bowl, and Mock Trial provided other avenues for HHS students to explore interests and talents in 2015, as did the Global Citizenship Club and Diploma Program, the Green Team, the Student Council, and a variety of other co-curricular and extracurricular clubs and activities. On Earth Day in 2015, Hingham High School was awarded the prestigious US Department of Education Green Ribbon Award for environmental awareness and related actions.

The Hingham Public Schools continued to benefit from strong and long-standing community partnerships in 2015. The cooperative efforts and generosity of parents, PTOs, booster and other community groups, civic organizations, the Hingham Education Foundation, and the Hingham Sports Partnership have again supported the School Department in realizing its mission and achieving both short and long term goals. At the Annual Senior Awards Night in May 2014, more than \$343,000 in local scholarship dollars was awarded to 198 HHS graduates. Myriad awards were also presented in recognition of students' outstanding performance in academic areas or involvement in school organizations. The School

Department and the School Committee gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the many community efforts that serve to enhance the excellent facilities, programs, and activities of the Hingham Public Schools.

A special thank you goes again to the citizenry and voters of the Town for their ongoing support and financing of annual education budgets and facilities enhancement projects.

DOROTHY GALO, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Andy Shafter, Chair
Liza O'Reilly, Vice-Chair
Aylene Calnan, Secretary
Raymond Estes

Carol M. Falvey
Edward Schreier, D.D.S.
Cynthia Galko