

## **ANNUAL REPORT – 2016 HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

As of October 1, 2016, there were 4,252 students enrolled in Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) in the Hingham Public Schools, a count nearly level with October 1, 2015. In addition, the district had responsibility for funding and/or programming for 67 pre-school students in the Integrated Pre-school program, 51 out-of-district special education students, and 4 vocational students.

Operational and management changes in the Hingham Public Schools for Fall 2016 included the appointments of Dr. James LaBillois, Assistant Superintendent, Erica Pollard, Director of Foreign Languages K-12, Andrew Nyamekye, METCO Director, and Elizabeth O'Neill, Assistant Director of Student Services.

The 2016 Town Election saw Carlos Da Silva and Kay Praschma elected to the School Committee to fill vacancies resulting from the expiring terms of Andy Shafter and Ray Estes. Liza O'Reilly, Aylene Calnan and Cynthia Galko were elected School Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, respectively, in May 2016.

The Annual School Department Operating Budget for fiscal year 2017 (school year 2016-2017) was approved at the April 2016 Town Meeting at \$47,613,721; another \$867,155 was appropriated for Capital Projects, including projects at the Depot properties benefitting several Town departments.

The four elementary schools continue to enhance curriculum and instruction in literacy, math, science, and social studies through a variety of initiatives. In English Language Arts, teachers have been implementing a new program, *Journeys*, across all grades and schools. The curriculum alignment and revision of our K-5 science program continues, with a number of new units and topics being addressed across the grade span. In each of the schools, targeted instructional opportunities have been designed to respond to needs identified by analysis of district, state, and standardized tests results, with additional targeted improvements underway in our special education department.

Hingham students continued with strong performances in the visual and performing arts, as demonstrated in building and district-wide concerts, regional music and art competitions. The annual all-town art show

continued in its Town Hall location in Spring 2016 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 "Rock of Ages" in November 2016 at Hingham High School and "The Sound of Music" last Spring at Hingham Middle School.

Academically, Hingham students continued to perform above state averages at every grade and subject on the 2016 MCAS. The percentage of students performing at the proficient or advanced levels increased in grade 4 math and ELA, grades 6, 7, and 8 ELA. In grade 10 100% of students scored at the proficient or advanced level in ELA, 95% in math, and 96% in science. All members of the class of 2016 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 from one year to the next. In Hingham, SGPs were rated as "high" at grade 4 and 5 in both ELA and math, and in grade 7 ELA.

The Massachusetts Accountability system is used to classify districts and schools on a five level scale from the highest performing in Level 1 and 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, Plymouth River School, South School, and Hingham High School - Level 1; Foster 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 - 98th, Foster - 96th, PRS - 99th, South - 98th, HMS - 86th, HHS - 89th.

On Saturday, June 4, 2016, 272 students graduated from Hingham High School. In addition to a diploma, 31 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, 92% will go on to four-year colleges located in 26 different states and four foreign countries, about 5% will attend specialized or two-year institutions, some will attend post-graduate programs or take a gap year, and a few will begin full-time employment. Academic accomplishments of the HHS Class of 2016 include 13 National Merit commended students, 99 Advanced Placement Scholars, 8 National

Scholars, 1 AP International Diploma recipient, and 62 members inducted into the National Honor Society.

HHS students have the opportunity to participate in a myriad of extracurricular activities including the new Computer Programming Club and Breathe Out, a student group dedicated to suicide prevention. Competitive extracurricular activities include Mock Trial, Debate, Quiz Bowl, Math Team and Robotics. One of our Robotics students was a 2016 nationwide finalist for the *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Dean's List, an award for outstanding student leaders whose passion for and effectiveness at attaining *FIRST* ideals is exemplary. The Quiz Bowl team participated for the seventh straight year in WGBH's *High School Quiz Show* and qualified for and fielded varsity and JV teams at the national competition for the National History Bowl and Bee. The HHS Student Council, one of the largest groups in the school and one of the largest councils in the state, was awarded the Silver Medal as a Student Council of Excellence in Massachusetts. The Oceanography and Biology Clubs were involved in a NOAA funded project last year to build, deploy, and follow an "ocean drifter" tracked by GPS. The drifter was deployed off Provincetown during the club's annual Whale Watch (April 27, 2016). It spent the summer drifting on George's Bank, drifted off New Jersey in the fall, got caught in the Gulf Stream, and is now in the mid-Atlantic still collecting data nearly 9 months after deployment.

June 2016 marked the end of Hingham's first year of a tuition-based full day kindergarten. The 307 students occupied 4 classrooms in each of the 4 elementary schools. The second year of a state grant funded professional development, consultant services, and additional learning materials including iPads for each classroom. In winter and spring 2016, a kindergarten implementation group completed a DESE-required program evaluation; parent forums at each building and the collection of some anecdotal and assessment data provided the basis for a local program evaluation which continued into fall 2016 with feedback provided by first grade teachers. The second year of the full day initiative began in September 2016 with a decline in Kindergarten enrollment to 275 students; all but 4 children enrolled in the full day option. The program remains tuition-based according to a sliding scale based on family size and the State Median Income.

The championships continue to rain down in "Title Town." Hingham enjoyed one of the most successful runs in the history of athletics at Hingham High School during 2016. HHS teams won eight Patriot League

Championships (Wrestling 4-peat, Boys Indoor Track, Girls Tennis, Girls Spring Track, Girls and Boys Lacrosse, Boys Cross-Country-3-peat and Girls Soccer). State championships were won by Girls Soccer 3-peat, Girls Fall and Spring Rowing and Girls Track won the State Relays.

Other significant contributions were the following:

- Boys Ice Hockey was invited back to the MIAA Super 8.
- Girls Ice Hockey made it all the way to the MIAA State Semi-final.
- Girls Basketball had their most successful season and made it to the South Sectional Semi-final.
- Boys Lacrosse and Girls Soccer won the South Sectional Championship – 3-peat!
- The wrestling team raised more than \$2,000 for the Paul F. Anderson House for homeless veterans.
- Eighty senior leaders participated in a two-day leadership workshop at HHS.
- Varsity Boys Lacrosse Coach John Todd became the “winningest” coach in Massachusetts history with 409 victories!

In Fall 2016, the School Committee met in a Planning Session to establish goals and priorities for the upcoming FY 18 budget season. A number of facilities needs were discussed, including a successor Master Plan, with particular focus on Foster School, Ammunition Depot-related properties, a HHS Health and Wellness Center project, and a window replacement project at PRS. Subsequent to that meeting, Budget Guidelines and Assumptions were developed and approved by the School Committee. In December 2016, the School Administration developed a “level services budget” that is (at the time of this writing) in the process of refinement and adoption or other action by the School Committee, Selectmen, Advisory Committee, and ultimately by the April, 2017 Town Meeting.

Hingham Public Schools continued to benefit from strong and long-standing community partnerships in 2016. The cooperative efforts and generosity of parents, PTOs, booster and other community groups, civic organizations, SEPAC, 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 2016, more than \$350,000 in local scholarship dollars was awarded to 272 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.

Our appreciation goes again to the citizenry and voters of the Town for their ongoing support and financing of annual education budgets and facilities enhancement projects. Equally important to our students of all ages is the support for school activities, performances and other achievements that Hingham residents provide. Thank you Hingham!

DOROTHY GALO, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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Cynthia Galko, Secretary

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