

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**September 19, 2016****1. Call to order.**

The meeting was called to order by Liza O'Reilly at 7:30 p.m.

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

Central Office Present: Dorothy Galo, James LaBillois, Elizabeth Kurlan, John Ferris

Visitors Present: Alec Porter, Derek Smith, Brad Patterson, Mark McNulty, Nate Rand, Ted Hirsch, Linda Kutsch, Elizabeth O'Neill, Alison Janulewicz, David Riordan

2. Approval of Minutes.

2.1 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Carlos DaSilva,

It was

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

3. Questions and Comments. None.**4. Superintendent's Report.**

- Dr. Galo discussed the official September enrollment report. Elementary enrollment matches projected enrollment, while secondary enrollment is off slightly from projections. Given that the comparison was against projected enrollments, however, it is not uncommon for there to be some variability. The total number of students for which Hingham Public Schools has responsibility is 4,374. There are 4,252 students enrolled in Hingham Public Schools (K-12), with 67 students enrolled in the PK. There are 51 students enrolled in out-of-district special education placements, including two new move-in students this week. There are four vocational students and of the 274 Kindergarten students, four have chosen the half-day program. Discussion ensued relative to the current enrollments (FY17) versus last year's enrollments (FY16).
- Dr. Galo noted that the district will begin security training with the faculty and staff across the district. Hingham High School and Hingham Middle School will be trained on September 27th and 29th, respectively, and the elementary trainings will be occurring in November and December. Dr. Galo noted that the intent of the training is to prepare teachers for complex scenarios and to encourage in the moment thinking and problem solving. Further, given the nature of the training, all school campuses will be closed to the public during the training, with buildings re-opening following the training exercises. Once the buildings reopen following the training, all activities and events will resume.
- Dr. Galo informed the Committee that last week she completed her 19th "Superintendent's Spotlight" episode focused on partnerships with the Hingham Police Department (HPD). The first half of the program discussed the updating of the Memorandum of Understanding between the HPD and School Department and featured Hingham High School Principal Dr. Girouard McCann and Police Chief Glenn Olsson. The second half featured the three School Resource Officers and highlighted their roles in the schools. The video is available on YouTube and will begin running on cable tomorrow.

5. Communications.

- 5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: None.
- 5.2 Student Communications: Hingham High School Senior Brad Patterson updated the Committee on activities that have taken place thus far in the year (Freshmen Parent's Night), as well as notified the Committee of upcoming sessions (a College Application Workshop, the High School Open House, and Freshmen Advisory). Brad reported that the Rock of Ages musical has completed casting and many clubs will begin meeting this week. He further encouraged parents of freshmen to consult with the HHS Bulletin Board which can be found on the school's website for additional information on sessions, dates, and times. The Chair stated that, from time to time, the Committee will seek Brad's input relative to discussions and presentations for which the Committee would like to hear a student's perspective, and asked him to reach out if there is ever anything he is interested in participating in or commenting on.
- 5.3 Other Communications:
- The Committee received a communication. While the communication was signed, the Committee cannot respond at this time because the communication involved a personal matter. The Chair expressed her appreciation that the communication was not anonymous.

6. New Business.

- 6.1 The Committee heard a report from Hingham Middle School, including the School Council Improvement Plan Update for 2015-2016 and Proposed Goals for 2016-2017. Hingham Middle School Principal Derek Smith presented an overview of the school's 2015-2016 goals, as well as the 2016-2017 goals. Principal Smith noted that the goal to extend the 1:1 initiative to all grade levels is complete, but will be revisited, from time to time, to ensure continual improvement. Other goals remain in progress and Principal Smith provided a brief overview of each goal and the activities and initiatives that have been undertaken relative to programs to encourage a healthy lifestyle, nursing department's wellness sessions, website updates, and programs to celebrate the academic achievement of students in non-traditional ways.

This year Hingham Middle School will be focused on the interventions and supports provided to students in the general education setting and a move toward a multi-tiered model of academic supports. The school will also focus on preparations for online assessments and will dedicate professional development time to focus on the unique social-emotional needs of middle school students. Principal Smith further noted that the school will also expand and enhance transition activities for students entering, and leaving, HMS.

Discussion ensued relative to community use of the fitness center at HMS. Dr. Galo and Principal Smith noted that while some parts of the building are being used frequently, the fitness center has not yet been open to the community. The school continues to explore options for its use, coupled with the need to support student use of the facility. Discussion ensued relative to the readiness of grade 8 students to participate in online assessments and whether, specifically, an assessment would be completed to determine student readiness. Principal Smith noted that while there wouldn't a specific assessment per se, there would be ongoing imbedded skill development delivered throughout all areas of the curriculum. Discussion ensued relative to the insurance purchased for the Chromebooks at HMS. Principal Smith noted that communication about insurance would be forthcoming and he doesn't anticipate any issues relative to the machines and preparedness for online assessments.

Hingham Middle School Assistant Principal Alison Janulewicz updated the Committee on the use of the new Television Production Studio at the Middle School. The school's Library and Media Specialist is teaching two sections of TV Production to Middle School students. Further, the Video News Club produces and airs a weekly news show. Assistant Principal Janulewicz then presented a sample video

that was produced by the students to the Committee. Given the connectivity issues of Town Hall, the video didn't load properly and subsequently wouldn't play, but the link to the video will be sent to the Committee.

Hingham Middle School Assistant Principal David Riordan updated the Committee on the school's "All School Read," *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. Assistant Principal Riordan noted that the book was a success with students and families alike and the school is finding ways to continue the themes uncovered in the book through the school year. In particular, he noted, the school is running a fundraiser with all proceeds going to support the building of wells in South Sudan.

- 6.2 The Committee heard an annual report from SEPAC. Hingham Public Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Co-Chair Nate Rand was in attendance to update the Committee on the activities of the new executive board. Mr. Rand noted that the SEPAC ran five successful speaking events during the 2015-2016 school year and themed the year "A Year of Friendship." Mr. Rand noted successful speaking events focused on friendships and relationship building, raising students with disabilities, anxiety and depression in the classroom, parents' rights and responsibilities in special education, and extended school year and transition services.

Mr. Rand also noted a highly successful Fashion Show event and that the group marched in Hingham's 4th of July parade. This year, Mr. Rand noted, the SEPAC will continue to meet monthly (second Wednesday of the month) and will be running a number of events and speakers, the first of which will be a "Homework Survival Guide" for parents on October 6, 2016.

The Committee commented on the success of the Fashion Show and thanked Mr. Rand for the hard work being done by the SEPAC.

- 6.3 The Committee discussed the options for district choice of testing modes for Spring 2017 state testing in grades 3 to 8 (for ELA and mathematics). Dr. LaBillois prepared a memorandum outlining the recommendations for statewide assessments during the Spring of 2017. The recommendation is that Grades 4 and 8 be assessed online in ELA and Mathematics, with grades 3, 5, 6, and 7 participating in paper-based assessments. Students in grades 10, as well as all students taking Science assessments, will participate in the traditional MCAS exams. To reach this recommendation, Dr. Galo and Dr. LaBillois assessed the district's technological readiness and consulted with the school principals. Discussion ensued relative to the recommendation. The Chair suggested the completion of a comprehensive assessment of the online testing this spring involving feedback from teachers, parents, and administrators of how it went, paying attention to the amount of time it took to execute and any technology issues encountered.

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

It was

Voted: To accept the recommendations of Dr. LaBillois, as outlined in the memorandum.

- 6.4 The Committee discussed School Committee Planning Session outcomes. The Chair provided an overview of the School Committee Planning Meeting held on Saturday, September 17, 2016. The meeting began with a review of the *Preliminary Assessment of Challenges and Needs* as presented by Dr. Galo throughout the summer, covering current issues with Educational Program, Student Support, Personnel, and Facilities. Before talking about the Committee's thoughts, Dr. LaBillois shared more insight into what he has been seen during his first month and there was discussion of the Town's financial forecast. There was also discussion of the efforts of the Fire Station Committee, to date, and a 40B discussion following the Selectmen's meeting on Thursday. Committee Goals for the year, as a result of the discussion, included contract negotiations, technology, culture issues, the upcoming High School Accreditation Review, and a closer look at several budgeting areas. The Long Range Planning

Subcommittee will endeavor to have an updated facilities status report, take an in-depth assessment of Foster School, and consider the PRS windows, the HS HAWC project, and other key projects such as Bldg. 179 and Bldg 12.

The Committee reached consensus on the FY18 budget process. A key consideration was the more than 15% increase in healthcare costs. The Committee consensus was to ask the Administration to prepare budgets presenting several scenarios of budgets to consider, along with a list of separate needs and/or initiatives once we see the updated Budget Forecast. Due to timing, the Committee did not discuss the issues relative to culture.

Dr. Galo updated the Committee on an issue that extended from the Planning Meeting, specifically the Fire Department Committee's requested access to the Fort Hill Depot site. Dr. Galo noted that she spoke with the selectman's office and learned, following consultation with Town Council, that because the property is under the purview of the Selectman, there would be no issues of liability relative to the requested access to the site.

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

It was

Voted: To allow the Fire Department Planning Committee to move forward on the property currently utilized at Fort Hill to conduct testing to explore use of the property.

Clarification was sought relative to terminology. It was clarified that it was not the Fire Department, itself, but rather the Fire Department Planning Committee that will do the property exploration and testing.

The Committee then discussed the draft resolution prepared following discussion at the planning meeting relative to the Committee's position on the Charter School expansion question on the November ballot. Both Aylene Calnan and Carol M. Falvey provided feedback. The Chair reviewed the initial draft, then discussion ensued relative to wording, editing, and how Charter Schools are funded. It was determined that the School Committee Policy Subcommittee would work on the draft at their upcoming meeting and would incorporate feedback into the final draft to be presented to the Committee for a vote at the next meeting. Carol M. Falvey also noted that the resolution should address the issue of expanding enrollment, as that is one aspect of the ballot question.

- 6.5 The Committee received notification of a Hingham Middle School field trip to Quebec City for Grade 8 students on May 5 to May 7, 2017. It was clarified that the Washington, DC trip will follow a similar approval process.
- 6.6 The Committee considered the home school application for Madison Quinlan, Grade 9. Dr. Galo explained that this is a repeat application and asked the Committee to defer until such time as Dr. Galo meets with the applicant. Dr. Galo also noted that the homeschool application discussed at the last meeting is still under review and is not ready for consideration.
- 6.7 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Seth Warren, Chinese teacher at HHS, effective August 31, 2016.
- 6.8 The Committee received notification of the appointments of paraeducators Sharon Allen, Laura Eisen, Peter Legere, and Maura Mysiuk at East School; Jessica Barron, Stephanie DiLorenzo, Charlotte Seelen and Nicole Hardiman at Foster School; Samantha Anderson and Jennifer Madden at Plymouth River School; Antoniette Barbuto and Elizabeth Sypek at South School; Jessica Dauksevicz, Marianne Gately, Allison Lizotte, and Lauren Olivolo at Hingham Middle School; and Rebecca Caruso, James Conley,

Brianna Decina, Roderick Ferguson, Christopher Groleau, Kathleen Lowe, Mary O'Loughlin and Samuel Perkins at Hingham High School; all effective September 1, 2016.

6.9 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Kelly Deady, Kids in Action teacher, effective August 30, 2016, and Jessica Sullivan, Tutor at East School, effective September 15, 2016.

6.10 The Committee received notifications of the following lane changes effective September 1, 2016:
Elisabeth Galvin to M15, Step 3; Kathleen LeBlanc to M30, Step 12; Tara Mangiapane to M15, Step 5;
Kimberly O'Brien to M15, Step 3; Margaret O'Donnell to B15, Step 13; Dorothy Turner to M30, Step 13.

Dr. Galo noted that the total number of lane changes is significantly higher this year than in the past and expressed her concern about the impact that this will have on the budget.

6.11 The Committee received notification of the resignations of paraeducators Stephen Jenkins of HHS, Elizabeth Vickers of South School, and Lisa Crowley of East School, all effective August 31, 2016.

6.12 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Noelle Allard, School Psychologist at HHS/HMS, effective September 30, 2016.

7. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting: Carol M. Falvey updated the Committee on the issues surrounding the Reggie Lewis center, a track and field center that is used by the local high school track teams. She will keep the Committee updated and encouraged members to reach out to local legislators to express their thoughts on the issue.

8. Subcommittee and Project Reports.

- Policy Subcommittee: Aylene Calnan noted that they will be meeting this coming Monday, 9/26 at 10:30 a.m.
- Community Outreach Subcommittee: Cynthia Galko noted that there is a meeting scheduled for 9/28 at 11:30 a.m.
- Special Education Subcommittee: Ed Schreier noted that he and Kay Praschma attend the monthly SEPAC meetings and reminded the Committee of the upcoming "Homework Survival Guide" for parents on October 6, 2016.
- Ed Schreier also noted that the Hingham Substance Abuse Prevention group will be meeting this week.

9. Adjourn to Executive Session. Not needed.

10. Adjournment.

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

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko