

October 17, 2016

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Liza O'Reilly at 7:30 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: Cynthia McKeon, Greg Bliss, Mike Doherty, Barbara Kahane, Mary Eastwood, Lori Jacobs, Mark McNulty, Alec Porter, Dawnmarie Finocchi, Cecilia Hanlon, Leanne Turnak, Kathleen LeBlanc, Aisha Oppong

2. Approval of Minutes.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on October 3, 2016.

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

- Dr. Galo updated the Committee on the events of Homecoming. A number of games were played throughout the day and many of the high school's clubs and activities were present selling merchandise and fundraising. The day culminated in a well-attended Homecoming Dance at the high school. Additionally, the boys crew team set a new Guinness world record for pulling a water skier for over four minutes. It was a great day for families and students of Hingham.
- Dr. Galo noted that the embargo on school and district accountability information had been lifted and announced that Hingham has four level one schools (HHS, PRS, South, and East) and two level 2 schools (HMS and Foster). Dr. Galo noted her pride in the performance of all students in the district.
- Dr. Galo shared the October 1 enrollment report with the Committee and noted that the figures do not look much different from September. Dr. Galo noted that the October 1 enrollment report is important for two reasons. First, the October 1 enrollment figures are used for year-to-year comparisons and second, the October 1 enrollment is used as baseline enrollment figures to build the next year's budget. A brief discussion of enrollment ensued regarding the movements from grade to grade.
- The South Shore Educational Collaborative had their first meeting on September 30 and Dr. Galo noted that all Educational Collaboratives are expected to share the packets for all board meetings with the respective school committees. Dr. Galo noted that members of the Special Education Subcommittee have the materials to review and they have been placed in the shared school committee Dropbox for Committee members. Discussion ensued regarding the composition of the collaborative and the committee's representative (Dr. Galo) to the SSEC Board of Directors.

5. Communications.

- 5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: None.
- 5.2 Student Communications: None
- 5.3 Other Communications: Chairwoman O'Reilly noted that she (along with Dr. Galo and Mr. Ferris) attended the first forecast meeting with the Town. She noted that more information will be available following the next meeting. Once a financial picture is presented, the Committee will invite the Town Manager to a meeting to review the forecast and related financial data that impact the School Committee's budget process.

6. Unfinished Business.

- 6.1 The Committee acted on revisions to Policy Sections 5.21-5.26 as proposed by the Policy Subcommittee. Aylene Calnan provided an overview of the process used to update the related sections of the policy sections 5.21-5.26.

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

It was

Voted: To approve Policy Sections 5.21-5.26.

7. New Business.

- 7.1 South School Principal Mary Eastwood and Assistant Principal Lori Jacobs presented a review of the 2015-2016 South School Improvement Plan. Ms. Eastwood introduced those SES staff that were present for the presentation and thanked them for being there to support South School. Ms. Eastwood noted that significant progress was made on all goals in the School Improvement Plan. Further, Ms. Eastwood announced to the Committee that South Elementary is now a Level I school and is also a 2016 Commonwealth Commendation School for high academic achievement. Ms. Eastwood then provided the Committee a comprehensive review of the 2016-2017 South School Improvement plan and reviewed each goal that has been developed as a part of the plan. She also extended an invitation to the Committee members to attend the South School Feast on November 17. The Committee thanked Ms. Eastwood and Ms. Jacobs for their presentation and thanked the teachers and staff at South School for their work with the students.
- 7.2 Michael Doherty, Art Resource Teacher, presented the Program Review from the Art Department to the Committee. Mr. Doherty began with a review of both the philosophy and goals of the Art Department, followed by a review of staff across the district. Mr. Doherty reviewed the programmatic strengths and areas of concern for the elementary, middle, and high school levels and then highlighted the changes made since the last Program Review. Mr. Doherty then directed the Committee's attention to a number of student created works that were on display in the meeting room. The Committee thanked Mr. Doherty for the presentation and thanked the teachers in the department for their dedication and willingness to support students' love of Art.

The Committee held item 7.3 until the Chief of Police could arrive.

- 7.4 The Committee received proposed Budget Assumptions for 2017-2018. Dr. Galo presented the budget assumptions to the Committee and clarified the difference between the Budget Assumptions and the Budget Guidelines. The Budget Guidelines are meant to be big picture and focused on what the budget should accomplish. The Budget Assumptions, however, are more specific and geared to be used as the budget is built. Dr. Galo then reviewed the changes to the Budget Assumptions from last year and discussion ensued regarding wording of a number of assumptions. No vote was taken. Dr. Galo will take feedback and will bring an updated draft to the next meeting for a vote.

- 7.3 The Committee received the proposed changes to the Memorandum of Understanding between Hingham Police Department and Hingham Public Schools as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee. First Reading. Following the arrival of Glenn Olsson, Chief of Police, the Committee was presented with a draft MOU. Discussion ensued regarding the document and the nexus between the document and the high school handbook. The MOU is an agreement between the HPS and the HPD but what is done with the information garnered by the MOU is under the school's discretion. Concern was expressed with past (and potential) instances where a student was an "innocent bystander" to a situation but, given the language of the handbook, faced the same sanctions as others who were active participants. Dr. Galo clarified that the MOU and the handbook are two different topics and should be treated as two distinct elements to the process. It was discussed that the MOU in its current form should be shared with each School Council and the HHS Student Council to make sure that it can be clearly understood. No vote was taken.
- 7.5 The Committee discussed the resolutions up for a vote at the MASC/MASS joint conference in November. The Committee reached consensus that their representative at the meeting should vote in the affirmative on resolution one, but should not vote to support resolutions 2, 3, and 4.
- 7.6 Dr. Galo provided documentation on the status of her goals for the 2015-2016 school year. There were three things still needed (finalized Mentoring Plan, Parent Guide for Effective Communication, and a specific plan to fund the Chromebook initiative). Apart from these areas, all other components have been completed.
- 7.7 Chair Liza O'Reilly provided an overview of the Superintendent Evaluation process to the Committee. Each member is asked to conduct their own assessment on the given form and send those forms to the Chair. The Chair will compile the results and produce one document capturing the feedback and assessment of the Committee as a whole. The Committee reviewed the forms and some questions and discussions ensued relative to their completion.
- 7.8 The Committee acted on a home schooling application for Madison Quinlan (grade 9).

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

It was

Voted: To approve the home school application for Madison Quinlan for 2016-2017.

- 7.9 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Kathleen Cashman, Kids in Action teacher, effective October 2, 2016.
- 7.10 The Committee received notification of the resignations of Blake Doyle, teacher at Foster and PRS, effective September 16, 2016; Brenda Bowen, paraeducator at HMS, effective October 7, 2016; and Rebecca Bielawa, Kids in Action teacher, effective October 21, 2016.

8. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting: None.

9. Subcommittee and Project Reports.

- Policy Subcommittee: Aylene Calnan noted that the subcommittee will move on to section 6, and that the next meeting will be held on November 2, 2016 at 10:30am.
- Community Outreach: Cynthia Galko reported that the next meeting will be held on October 31 at 11:30am.
- Salary & Negotiations: Carol M. Falvey noted that the subcommittee met last week to have a preliminary preparation meeting for negotiations.

- Special Education: Ed Schreier noted that both he and Kay Praschma attended the monthly SEPAC meeting and heard the annual Parent's Rights presentation from Elizabeth Kurlan.
- Town Wide Fields Task Force: Carlos Da Silva noted that the meeting with the town stakeholders is in the process of being scheduled.
- Other: The HEF Phonathon began last week; the HEF Spelling Bee is coming up on November 6, 2016; the High School GPA Committee has had its first meeting.
- Dr. Galo reminded the Committee members of the presentations by Dr. Michael Thompson on Wednesday, October 19 in the high school auditorium.

10. Adjournment.

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

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 10:28pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko