

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

November 21, 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: June Gustafson, Diane DeNapoli, Debbie Stellar, Mary Eastwood, Nate Rand, Chuck Cormier, Melissa Smith, Katie Gaughen, Kerry Ni, Mark McNulty, Brad Patterson, Michele Henderson, Aisha Oppong, Kristen Arute, Bryna Rogers

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 School Committee Meeting held on November 7, 2016.

3. Questions and Comments. None.

4. Superintendent's Report.

- Dr. Galo shared the good news that the HHS Quiz Team has qualified for the 8th year to participate in the WGBH High School Quiz Show. HHS scored a qualifying score of 905 (scores ranged from a low of 260 to a high of 955).
- Dr. Galo called attention to a number of items in the Hingham High School Newsletter, specifically, the information relative to the performance of our students on the Advanced Placement tests (99 students in the class of 2016 received AP honors).
- Dr. Galo reminded the School Committee that at the December 5th meeting, Hingham High School will be presenting their Annual Report and Principal Dr. Girouard McCann will be reporting out on the new GPA proposal.
- Dr. Galo noted the variety of Veteran's Day ceremonies that occurred throughout the district.
- Dr. Galo also noted the successful completion of the IMPACT training at Hingham High School.

5. Communications.

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent:

Dr. Galo shared the October report from the Post-Secondary Planning Center at Hingham High School. The report highlighted the numbers of individual student appointments, parent appointments, afterschool workshops, and college visits that occurred in October.

5.2 Student Communication:

Brad Patterson shared that Hingham High School girls soccer won 2-1 over the weekend, securing their third consecutive state championship. Brad noted that the musical Rock of Ages was performed over the weekend and noted another successful Holiday Fair at Hingham High School. It is spirit week at Hingham High School and Brad noted a pep rally on Wednesday and that the Annual Thanksgiving game, against Scituate, will be at home on Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

5.3 Other Communications:

The SEPAC co-chair Diane DeNapoli introduced herself to the Committee and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to speak. She noted that the SEPAC represents about 600 parents and families in Hingham, and reported that at the SEPAC's 11/9/16 business meeting a number of individuals in attendance expressed their frustrations, concerns, and despair regarding the perception of special education services in Hingham.

The SEPAC has been working to focus on three areas of concern: promoting best practices, promoting transparency, and effective use of taxpayer dollars. These areas of concern emerged out of a parent's only meeting.

Edward Schreier, Chair of the Special Education Subcommittee of the Hingham School Committee, noted that the Special Education Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on November 30, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

The School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly thanked the SEPAC and Co-Chair Diane DeNapoli for channeling concerns in such a productive and collaborative way.

6. Unfinished Business.

- 6.1 The Committee acted on revisions to the proposed new Volunteer Policy 1.15 which was presented as a first reading at the November 7, 2016 meeting. Aylene Calnan, Chair of the Policy Subcommittee, noted the draft before the Committee for consideration has been updated to include reference to CORI and SAFIS requirements as requested by the Committee.

On a motion by Cynthia Galko and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To approve the new Policy 1.15, Volunteers.

7. New Business.

- 7.1 The Committee heard a report from Plymouth River School, including the School Council Improvement Plan update from 2015-2016 and the proposed plan for 2016-2017. Plymouth River School Principal Chuck Cormier was in attendance to present on that school's 2015-2016 goals. The school had four improvement goals over the year, focused on: piloting a new reading program, STEAM activities, Grade 2 mathematics, and a fourth goal that was dropped due to the volume of work being done in other areas. Looking to this coming school year Plymouth River School will be focusing on three goals: implementation of the new Journey's Reading Program, extending STEAM week, and the provision of small group math support in tier three. Mr. Cormier then shared a slideshow highlighting the events of STEAM week.
- 7.2 The Committee heard MCAS Testing and Accountability Reports from Spring 2016. Dr. LaBillois, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, presented an overview of the 2016 Accountability and MCAS score reports. Hingham Public Schools remains a Level 2 School district, with Level 1 performance from Hingham High School, East Elementary, Plymouth River Elementary, and South Elementary. Both Plymouth River and South Elementary were 2016 Commendation Schools for high academic achievement. Both Foster Elementary School and Hingham Middle School are Level 2 schools, due to the performance of the "high needs" subgroups in both schools. Overall, MCAS performance remains strong and exceptionally high achievement is noted in all areas assessed in grade 10. While there is some variation from grade to grade and from subject area to subject area, results remain consistent with previous years. Going into this year the district will continue to examine the assessment data to ensure it supports classroom instruction, and preparations will continue for the spring administration of the next generation MCAS exams. The Committee requested further details regarding the high

needs sub-groups to better understand the Level 2 rating. Any details will consider confidentiality of students if the numbers of students in the sub-group are too small.

- 7.3 The Committee heard the proposed Superintendent goals for 2016-2017. Dr. Galo presented goals in five key areas for 2016-2017: special populations, negotiations, leadership transitions, social-emotional needs, and facilities planning. Dr. Galo reviewed each goal and the related activities. Kay Praschma noted some concerns with the mention of a specific parent group under the “special populations” goal and noted that focus should be on working collaboratively with the existing Special Education Parent group. Chair Liza O’Reilly suggested the members of the Special Education Subcommittee get some feedback at the November 30th meeting to ensure the goal is aligned with the activities scheduled to occur.
- 7.4 The Committee received the Implementation Timeline for the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan. The Committee members discussed the appropriate place to post the Strategic Plan and Timeline on the Hingham Public Schools website, and decided that it should go on both the District and the School Committee pages.
- 7.5 The Committee received notification of the appointment of paraeducator Susanna Seem at East School, effective 10/12/2016; TaWonia Wright and METCO Bus Monitor, effective 11/7/2016. Dr. Galo reported that Maria Burke will not be taking the role of Central Office Administrative Assistant, and that they have offered the position to someone else.

8. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting: Chair Liza O’Reilly noted that the Fire Station Committee will be meeting tomorrow and that she has reached out to check-in with the Chair of that committee. The Fire Station Committee will be assigning a liaison to work with the schools. Dr. Galo reported that she has sent a letter to the Zoning Board regarding the proposed bus stop at the Broadcove Beal Street development.

9. Subcommittee and Project Reports.

- Policy Subcommittee: The Subcommittee will be meeting on 12/2/16 at 11:00 a.m. and will continue work on reviewing updates to Section 6.
- Community Outreach Subcommittee: The Subcommittee will be meeting on 11/29/16 at 11:00 am and will discuss feedback received at the individual school PTO meetings.
- Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee: The Subcommittee will be meeting on 12/6/16 at 1:00 p.m.
- Long Range Planning Subcommittee: The Subcommittee met on 10/26/16 and discussed the annual capital walk-around. The subcommittee will also be pursuing recommending stage one of the HAWC project and will be meeting on 12/7 to discuss the asset inventory and review school maintenance operations. John Ferris noted that the meeting will be posted as a joint School Committee / Long Range Planning Committee meeting.
- Special Education Subcommittee: The members of the subcommittee attended the SEPAC meeting and will be meeting on 11/30/16 at 7:00 p.m.
- Chair Liza O’Reilly noted that she has received three requests from members who are interested in being on the Plymouth River Principal Search Committee. She noted that she hasn’t done anything with these requests yet and will be deciding in time for the next school committee meeting.

10. Adjournment.

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

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko