

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

January 30, 2017

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Liza O'Reilly at 7:31 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: Diane DeNapoli, Kerry Ni, Alec Porter, Richard McManus, Kara Roth, Gabrielle Pound, Zack Raymond, Helaine Silva, Erica Pollard, Mary Eastwood, Phaedre Sassano, Michelle Ayer, Rebecca Baker, Andrew Hoey, Kathryn Black, Paula Girouard McCann, Katie Roberts, Deb Carleton, Karen Beatty, Jessica Matthews, Sarah Coughlin, Jessica Gawel, Erin Krall, Kelly McPeck, Zach Lytle, Linda Kutsch, Monica Black, Maria Zade, Cathy Savery, Chuck Cormier, Christina O'Connor, Melissa McCash, Evan Sheehan, Ben Louchheim, Derek Smith, Kevin Quilty, Susan Petrie, Alysia Campbell, Bianca George, Deb Johnson, Annmarie Fennelly, Brad Patterson, Holly Goggin, Penelope Allen-Baltera, Katelyn Sassorossi, Andy Shafter, Glenda Garland, Gustav Haflin, Iris Gillard, Nicole Piantes, Bryna Rogers, Raymond Estes, Mark McNulty, Courtney Foley, Sharon Burnett, Rose Flynn, Natalie Gebhardt, Shira Berkin, Jane King, Stephanie Pett, Alyse Gebhardt, Max Giarrusso, Nate Rand, Katie Gaughen, Sam Raphaelson, Nick Raphaelson, Devon Oakley, Cheryl Rapoza, Ted Hirsch, Tricia Byrnes, Greg Sullivan, Courtney Orwig.

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 January 9, 2017

3. Questions and Comments.

A Hingham High School student posed a question relative to the retirement of the Hingham High School Principal. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly recognized that some in the audience may be there because of the retirement and read a statement outlining that personnel issues cannot be discussed in a public forum.

A parent offered a statement to the School Committee regarding the parental requests for an independent evaluation of the Special Education department. Ms. O'Reilly noted that the Committee would discuss this issue under agenda item 6.4 and requested that the parent to wait to read his comment at that time.

4. Superintendent's Report.

Dr. Galo noted that she, as well as School Committee Chair LO and staff from Plymouth River and South Elementary Schools, will be travelling to the State House Wednesday morning for the ceremony to celebrate our two commended schools (Plymouth River Elementary and South Elementary). Dr. Galo also noted that a middle school student won the geographic bee and is preparing for the state competition, and that the Middle School Future City students did well in a recent contest. In addition, 100 Hingham High School students were honored as a part of the Scholastic Art competition, 88 in Graphic Design.

5. Communications.

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent. Dr. Galo shared with the Committee that a copy of the MASC legislative bulletin and two ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) documents were in the packets for their review.

- 5.2 Student Communications. Brad Patterson, senior at Hingham High School, was in attendance and updated the Committee on a number of athletics and co-curricular activities occurring at Hingham High School.
- 5.3 Other Communication: A senior student at Hingham High School came forward to read a statement of support for Dr. Girouard McCann, Hingham High School principal. Ms. O'Reilly reminded the speaker of the need to be respectful of individuals and groups, and to protect confidential personnel information.

Ms. O'Reilly also noted that she posted a communication to parents of students with disabilities interested in pursuing an independent evaluation on the SEPAC Facebook page. Copies were made available to those in attendance and the statement is also posted on the HPS Student Services web page.

6. New Business.

- 6.1 The Committee received the Program of Studies for 2017-2018. Dr. LaBillois provided an overview of the changes proposed to the 2017-2018 Program of Studies. Following the initial review, the Committee identified two areas for revisions/clarification. Both of those were documents that will be revised prior to the printing and publication of the Program of Studies.
- 6.2 The Committee heard an MCAS follow-up presentation. Dr. LaBillois presented an overview of the MCAS performance for (a) all students, (b) students in the "high needs" subgroup," and (c) students with disabilities. Data was presented that provided an overview of performance on the ELA, mathematics, and science exams, as well as the performance of Hingham students as compared against comparable benchmark communities. Generally, results show commensurate performance when looking at the performance of all students in Hingham against the performance of all students in benchmark communities and the state. Further, results show commensurate performance when looking at the performance of "high needs" students in Hingham against the performance of all students in benchmark communities and the state; with significantly lower levels of performance for Hingham's students with disabilities at the middle school level, in particular. Dr. LaBillois presented an overview of the areas of weaknesses uncovered during data analysis and outlined the action plans to address the areas of weakness across all three content areas (ELA, math, and science). Questions and answers occurred throughout the presentation.
- 6.3 The Committee reviewed a tuition increase for the Full Day K program for school year 2017-2018. Dr. Galo presented, for the Committee's review and approval, a 2% increase for the FY '18 full-day kindergarten tuition rate over the FY '17 full-day kindergarten tuition rate. A proposed increase from \$3,500 to \$3,575 was proposed.

On a motion by Kay Praschma and seconded by Aylene Calnan,

It was

Voted: To approve a tuition increase to \$3575 for Full Day Kindergarten in 2017-2018.

- 6.4 The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed FY '18 Operating Budget and prepared for the presentation to the joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Committee on February 2, 2017. Dr. Galo reviewed two additional reductions to the bottom line proposed FY '18 budget. The reductions bring the proposed FY '18 operating budget to \$50,095,784, a 5.21% increase over FY '17. Dr. Galo recommended that this be the budget that will be discussed on Thursday evening during the joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Board.

A parent of a student with a disability read a statement supporting the addition of funds to the FY '18 operating budget to fund the proposed special education evaluation and an outside independent

evaluation focused on resources to support the plan implementation and solution for students who may not receive the benefit of any changes before they age out of the special education program.

Questions and answers ensued relative to timing of the budget process, the Committee's decision making relative to the request to fund an independent evaluation, and questions relative to when the public will know if the evaluation will be included as a part of the budget.

- 6.5 The Committee continued discussion about School Committee longer term planning and priorities. Ms. O'Reilly collected the forms that were distributed at the last meeting and noted that she will be working to compile the individual priorities into a master document for further discussion and refinement.

A Hingham High School parent in the audience asked a question relative to the process being used to recruit two key leadership positions in the district (PRS and HHS principals). Dr. Galo explained the timeline and noted that the district began early with the PRS recruiting process. The HHS recruiting process is on track to be completed by early June.

A parent in the audience asked whether the School Committee would consider developing annual goals that are then shared with the community. Ms. O'Reilly noted that the Committee is working toward developing its vision and would be open to the development of goals.

A Hingham High School teacher asked if the "transition plan for senior leadership" would be shared with the community. Ms. O'Reilly noted that personnel information is confidential and sharing such a plan would violate confidentiality.

- 6.6 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Linda O'Brien as the Administrative Assistant to the Department Directors, effective January 17, 2017. This vacancy was the result of the prior Administrative Assistant's move to a guidance office vacancy.
- 6.7 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Kimberley Richards, Kids in Action teacher, effective January 18, 2017.

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

8 Subcommittee and Project Reports.

Community Outreach Subcommittee: Next meeting will be on 2/7/17.

Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee: Next meeting will be on 1/31/17.

Policy Subcommittee: Next meeting will be on 2/3/17.

Long-Range Planning Subcommittee: Next meeting will be on 2/1/17.

9 Adjournment.

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

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko