**MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**February 27, 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: Deb Stellar, Tony Keady, Kevin Quilty, Raymond Estes, Donna Smallwood, Aisha Oppong, Caroliyn Bixby, Nancy Mannion, Eileen Farrell, Linda Kutsch, Alec Porter, Heather Vaughan Smith, Deb Carleton, Evan Sheehan

**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 Executive Session of the School Committee Meeting held on

January 26, 2017.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the Joint School Committee, Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee meeting held on February 2, 2017.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the Minutes of the Joint School Committee Advisory Committee Education Subcommittee meeting held on February 7, 2017, with one change – correct the spelling of Linda Kutsch’s name.

**3**. **Questions and Comments**. None.

**4.** **Superintendent’s Report.**

Dr. Galo shared with the committee the success of the Credit for Life Fair held at Hingham High School on February 17, 2017. Dr. Galo also shared that Hingham High School has been named the 2016 Joshua Boger Innovative School of the Year. Dr. Galo thanked Elizabeth Kates, Katie Roberts, and all of the other teachers who made such an honor possible.

Dr. Galo provided an update on the two principal searches currently underway. Dr. LaBillois, who is facilitating the Plymouth River School Principal search, noted that today was the internal site visit phase of the process where the two finalists came to PRS for the day and met with a variety of stakeholders in homogenous groups. Next week, the external site visit team will be visiting the finalists in their home districts and will be meeting with individuals familiar with them. Dr. Galo, who is co-facilitating the search process for the Hingham High School Principal search, noted that the job description has been updated, three community forums (faculty, students, and parents) have been conducted, applications were due on February 15, 2017 and all submitted materials are currently being reviewed by the credential review team. Dr. Galo also provided the committee with an update of the interview team composition.

**5**. **Communications.**

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent. Dr. Galo shared an email received by Margaret Conaty, Director of Athletics, highlighting upcoming tournament games. She noted that boys basketball will be playing on March 1, girls basketball will be playing on March 2, girls ice hockey will be playing on March 4, and we are awaiting a date and time for when boys hockey will play.

5.2 Student Communications. None.

5.3 Other Communication: School Committee Chair Liza O’Reilly noted that the School Committee received a correspondence that was responded to today.

**6**. **New Business.**

6.1 The Committee heard an update on the administration’s proposed preliminary operating budget for FY’18. Dr. Galo shared an updated proposed preliminary operating budget for FY’18 with the Committee. She noted that additional reductions have been made resulting in a total budget request of $49,983,377 (a 4.98% increase over FY’17). The budget adjustments that are new this evening, Dr. Galo noted, were due to several personnel changes and she further noted that a total of $296,184 has been reduced since the initial proposal. Dr. Galo recommended that the committee adopt this budget.

6.2 The Committee continued discussion of the proposed preliminary operating budget for FY’18 and the rationale for voting before knowing the final allocation from the town. Dr. Galo clarified that the district was asked to develop a level services budget by the town and that is what is before the Committee. Dr. Galo noted that additional reductions can still be made and, following discussion, the committee concurred that this budget represents a level services budget for the district.

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

It was

Voted: To request a total operating budget for FY’18 of $49,983,377.

6.3 The Committee discussed a proposal for Foster School including submitting an SOI application to the MSBA, creating a Building Committee, establishing a feasibility study budget, and submitting a related Town Meeting 2017 Warrant item. John Ferris, Director of Business and Support Services, made a presentation to the Committee relative to the Statement of Interest process for the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for Foster School. Mr. Ferris began by providing some background information on Foster School and then provided a series of photographs and drawings illustrating the physical plant of Foster School. Mr. Ferris presented an overview of the concerns relative to the Foster School physical plant and infrastructure and provided additional photographs depicting real challenges to the maintenance and upkeep of the Foster School infrastructure. Mr. Ferris provided an overview of the Massachusetts School Building Authority program and the School Administration’s request to the Committee to request that the Board of Selectmen open the Town Meeting Warrant to add articles to establish a School Building Committee and to appropriate funds to conduct a feasibility study, contingent up on Hingham being invited to participate in the MSBA’s Core Program. Mr. Ferris further noted that the district has expended approximately $78,000 in repairs at Foster School over the past several years. Dr. Debbie Stellar, Foster School Principal, was in attendance and addressed the current state of the infrastructure of Foster School, as well as her plans to manage the student population should there be a need. Dr. Stellar did note that Foster School is a safe and well maintained building and stressed that there is no immediate threat to student or staff safety. Ray Estes, Chair of the current School Building Committee, was in attendance and provided an overview of the process that unfolded with the construction of the Middle School as well as an overview of the MSBA process to the Committee.

On a motion by Liza O’Reilly and seconded by Aylene Calnan,

It was

Voted: To direct the administration to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for Foster School.

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

It was

Voted: To ask the Selectmen to open the Warrant and include an article to establish a new School Building Committee.

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

It was

Voted: To ask the Selectmen to open the Warrant and include an article to make $750,000 funding available for a feasibility study if Hingham is invited to participate in the MSBA Core Program for Foster School.

6.4 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of the high school Student Council to Hyannis for the MASC conference on March 8-10, 2017.

6.5 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of high school AP Spanish students to New York City for Spanish cultural activities on March 8-9, 2017.

6.6 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of the high school Band/Chorus/Orchestra to Nashville, TN on March 16-19, 2017.

6.7 The Committee heard a recommendation to award the bid for the High School Roof Design. John Ferris, Director of Business and Support Services, reviewed the process used in collaboration with the Long Range Planning Subcommittee of the School Committee to identify the successful bidder. Mr. Ferris recommended awarding the bid to Habeeb and Associates.

On a motion by Edward Schreier and seconded by Aylene Calnan,

It was

Voted: To award the bid for the High School Roof Design to Habeeb and Associates in the amount of $28,000.

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

**8**. **Subcommittee and Project Reports.**

Policy Subcommittee: Next meeting is scheduled for 3/3/17 and will finalize Section 6.

Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee: The next meeting is scheduled for 3/6/17.

Community Outreach Subcommittee: Next meeting will be on 3/7/17.

Long-Range Planning Subcommittee: Next meeting will be on 3/1/17.

The Committee was reminded of the upcoming HEF gala event to be held on March 31, 2017 at the Black Rock Country Club.

**9**. **Adjournment.**

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

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 10:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Cynthia Galko