

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 13, 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: Alec Porter, Melissa Smith, Lane Lambert, Megan Buhr, Brad Patterson, Linda Kutsch, Ted Hirsch, Aisha Oppong, Heather Vaughan Smith

2. Approval of Minutes.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on February 13, 2017 with one revision: Item 6.7 should have a line added at the end that reads "Foster School and the recent steam pipe issues were discussed and noted as an urgent facility issue for the administration to manage."

2.2 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 February 27, 2017

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

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of Joint School Committee, Advisory Committee and Board of Selectmen meeting held on February 28, 2017.

3. Questions and Comments. None.

4. Superintendent's Report.

Dr. Galo directed the Committee's attention to the copy of the Hingham High School newsletter that was included in the packet and pointed out a number of interesting items. The newsletter outlined the Credit for Life Fair that was held at Hingham High School last month and Dr. Galo noted receiving a number of positive emails about the event. Dr. Galo directed the Committee's attention to the March 1 enrollment report that was included in the packet.

Dr. LaBillois directed the Committee's attention to a copy of the recruiting email sent to all parents/legal guardians in the district, seeking volunteers to be a part of the district's development of a multi-tiered model of social-emotional supports for all students. The model, referred to as the "Hingham Tiered Systems of Support: Social Emotional," is a prevention framework designed to meet the needs of students through the provision of supports and services focused on direct instruction of essential social-emotional skills and small group supports for those students who require additional supports above and beyond direct instruction. The task force will be comprised of one parent, faculty/staff members, guidance/counseling staff member, and an administrator from each building, along with student representation from grades 9, 10, and 11. The deadline to express interest in being a part of the task force is Friday, March 24, 2017.

5. Communications.

- 5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent. Dr. Galo noted receiving a parent email regarding the Middle School Program of Studies night that was held last week, as well as several positive emails regarding the all-town band concert.
- 5.2 Student Communications. Brad Patterson was in attendance and provided an update to the Committee on the progress of our students in athletic and co-curricular activities. Highlights included an award for sportsmanship by the HHS Hockey Team, the transition from winter to spring sports, an upcoming music trip to Nashville and the senior art show. Ms. Roth was named HHS teacher of the month. The Committee complimented the debate team on a job well done with a recent competition.
- 5.3 Other Communication: School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly informed the Committee that she had received a number of communications. The Hingham Energy Action Committee contacted her regarding an application on the Town's behalf to be recognized as a Green Community. This information was forwarded on to Ed Schreier, Chair of the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee. Ms. O'Reilly received further correspondence regarding per-pupil expenditures and John Ferris, Director of Business and Support Services, noted having met with the authors of the correspondence regarding the questions posed. Ms. O'Reilly and Aylene Calnan received an email from a Foster School parent with concerns and Ms. O'Reilly received further correspondence regarding the HHS Principal search process, forming a team to attend the World Robotics competition in India, and a Hingham resident who heard about a Cambridge program relative to the provision of free feminine hygiene products for students. It was explained that Hingham school nurses provide free products to students.

6. New Business.

6.1 The Committee discussed the School Committee's operating budget for FY'18 and heard proposed changes from the Administration. Ms. O'Reilly reviewed the votes taken last week by the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee Education Subcommittee vote of March 7, 2017 recommended a FY'18 increase of 4.41%, for a total budget of \$49,713,724; which was the same number voted by the Board of Selectmen on March 9, 2017. The Advisory Committee vote of March 9, 2017 was a 4.51% increase for FY'18 (\$49,713,724 plus an additional \$48,973 to support the funding of mandated school nurses, for a total of \$49,762,697). She also noted that the Advisory Committee Education Subcommittee recommended that the Town pursue measures to ensure fiscal long-term sustainability. Linda Kutsch added a comment that there is support among the Advisory Committee members to pursue a long term planning discussion after this year's Town Meeting.

Dr. Galo reviewed the FY'18 Budget votes beginning with the School Committee vote of February 27, 2017 calling for a 4.98% increase over the FY'17 budget (total FY'18: \$49,983,377). She then outlined several changes that have happened over the past few weeks and stated that the Administration would present an updated budget recommendation at the School Committee meeting on March 28.

Ms. O'Reilly asked the Committee to share their priorities for the FY'18 budget. Discussion ensued and the post-secondary planning role was discussed as a priority, as well the need for a Human Resources role in Central Office. Other items discussed included making the Chinese teacher at Hingham High School a full-time position, as well as reducing the amount allocated for contracted busses in the athletic budget. The Committee was asked to continue examining the proposed budget and be prepared for a vote at the March 28, 2017 meeting.

- 6.2 The Committee heard an update from the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee on the FY'18 Capital Budget Allocation recommended by the Capital Outlay Committee to the Advisory Committee.

Ed Schreier, Chair of the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee, reviewed the process for the development of the Capital Budget request and John Ferris, Director of Business and Support Services, reviewed the meeting with the Capital Outlay Committee and those components of the Capital Budget that the Outlay Committee chose to not fund. The Capital Outlay Committee reduced the initial budget request of \$1,151,702 by \$300,880, for a total approved budget of \$850,820; Mr. Ferris further noted that the Advisory Committee also approved the Capital Budget request of \$850,820. A discussion ensued regarding the potential avenues for procurement of a truck for use by Doug Foley, Facilities and Procurement Manager.

On a motion by Ed Schreier and seconded by Cynthia Galko,

It was

Voted: To request a total Capital Budget for FY'18 of \$850,820.

Ed Schreier expressed the appreciation of the School Committee to the Capital Outlay committee for their hard work.

- 6.3 The Committee discussed the proposed Statement of Interest (SOI) for Foster School. John Ferris, Director of Business and Support Services, reviewed the materials included in the School Committee packet. Following discussion, the Committee voted on the following motion:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 13, 2017 prior to the closing date, the Hingham School Committee of Hingham, MA in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated on or before April 7, 2017 for the Foster Elementary School located at 55 Downer Avenue, Hingham (Map Id 38/0/01) which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future for replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements. The building was built in 1951 and does not meet current code and significantly lacks environmental quality for natural lighting, artificial lighting, fresh air ventilation, and evenly distributed heat and cooling temperatures to enhance the educational environment. Classroom configuration does not allow for uninterrupted instruction, several classrooms have no natural light, the building envelope and windows systems are inefficient, and the steam heating distribution system and electrical systems are failing due to deterioration; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Hingham to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

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

It was

Voted: To adopt the above resolution, unanimously.

Discussion: Ed Schreier questioned the statement of the specific address of the school. Following discussion, the Committee maintained the motion as presented.

- 6.4 The Committee reviewed proposed changes to the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Hingham Public Schools and the Hingham Police Department as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee. Aylene Calnan, Chair of the Policy Subcommittee, informed the Committee that the subcommittee has been working on language included in the MOU for several months. The subcommittee has consulted with Hingham Police Chief Olssen and the Hingham High School Council held a public meeting to discuss with parents. Questions and answers, as well as discussion, ensued. Revisions will be considered and brought before the Committee for a vote at the next regular School Committee meeting.
- 6.5 The Committee reviewed proposed changes to Section 2.1 of the School Committee Policy Handbook as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee. Aylene Calnan informed the Committee of the process that has unfolded over the past several months in the revision of language, specifically to identify the School Resource Office as authorized school personnel for matters regarding student information. Dr. Galo noted that the School Resource Officer has always been considered authorized school personnel, and that this will confirm it by policy. Carol M. Falvey asked if this change has been reviewed by counsel to explore any potential challenges it may bring. Liza O'Reilly noted that she will check with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, and Dr. Galo will check with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, to see if these professional organizations can offer any insight into the potential implications for recognizing School Resource Officers as authorized school personnel.
- 6.6 The Committee reviewed proposed changes to Section 6 of the School Committee Policy Handbook as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee. Aylene Calnan informed the Committee of the process used to update this section of the policy manual, noting that this has been under Committee review for several months. The Committee provided feedback relative to consistency of wording (e.g., guardian vs. legal guardian), relative to process/procedure, relative to school entry age, and questions regarding the clarity of the opt out language relative to health screenings. Revisions will be incorporated into the draft and brought back before the Committee at the next regular meeting of the School Committee.
- 6.7 The Committee received the Superintendent's recommendation for the Plymouth River School Principalship. Dr. Galo reviewed the process that was used to identify the next Principal of Plymouth River Elementary School and announced that Melissa Smith, current Assistant Principal of Plymouth River Elementary School, has been selected to be the Principal of Plymouth River Elementary School effective July 1, 2017. Notifications to both faculty/staff and parents/community will be sent out informing all of the selection.
- 6.8 The Committee discussed a recommended change to the Middle School baseball/softball field, as proposed by the Long Range Planning Subcommittee. Edward Schreier reviewed discussions held with the Hingham Little League and the Hingham Girls Softball relative to a donation for use at the Middle School field that would make the field accessible to younger players. The gift, which includes a portable pitcher's mound, removable magnetic bases, and a storage box, would make the field useable by more community groups as well. Questions and answers ensued.

On a motion by Edward Schreier and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To accept the donation.

6.9 The Committee heard an update on plans for MCAS 2.0 Spring 2017 testing. Dr. LaBillois reviewed the steps taken to ensure student and staff readiness for the spring administration of MCAS 2.0 online in grades 4 and 8. Dr. LaBillois reviewed the student skill development, faculty training, and explained the upcoming “dress rehearsal” that would test the infrastructure prior to the initiation of the actual assessment. Discussion ensued and Dr. LaBillois reiterated that the students and faculty are ready for the administration windows to open.

6.10 The Committee received notification of the late-night field trip of grade 7 and 8 students to New York City to see a Broadway show on May 20, 2017.

Liza O’Reilly requested that the administration compile a list of all offerings, by grade, and that this compilation be available to parents to ensure all families know of all opportunities for student travel within a given year.

7. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Dr. Galo noted that, due to the impending winter storm, the district will be closed on Tuesday, March 14, 2017.

8. Subcommittee and Project Reports.

School Committee Chairperson Liza O’Reilly explained that the process to develop the Committee’s Long-Term Vision continues, and noted that she is planning, in collaboration with Dr. Galo, a summer planning meeting with the School Committee and Senior Leadership. More to come on this effort in the coming months.

Policy Subcommittee: Chair Aylene Calnan noted the next meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. this Friday morning

Long-Range Planning: Chair Ed Schreier informed the Committee that the Subcommittee met and reviewed the recommendation by the Capital Outlay Committee and the Middle School ball field requests.

Special Education: Chair Ed Schreier noted that he attended last week’s meeting and provided positive feedback on Dr. LaBillois’ attendance and the tenor of the meeting as a whole.

Salary & Negotiations: Chair Carol M. Falvey noted that the next scheduled meeting is this coming Thursday.

Community Outreach: Chair Cynthia Galko noted that the next meeting would be on April 5 at 11:15 a.m.

Ed Schreier made several announcements regarding upcoming events:

- SNAP and SEPAC are co-sponsoring a presentation on planning long-term trusts and wills for students with disabilities on March 16, 2017. Reservations are required.
- SEPAC will be hosting their annual St. Patrick’s Day Party on Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 7:00 p.m. -11:00 p.m. at the Hingham Community Center
- Hingham Sports Partnership is running a 2-hour session focused on leadership development for coaches on March 27, 2017;
- SNAP will be hosting “Pizzapalooza” at Hingham High School on March 29, 2017
- SNAP and SEPAC are co-sponsoring a “paint afternoon” for students with disabilities at Hingham Community Center on April 8. Registration is required.

It was noted that with the snow day on March 14 the last day of school will now be June 22 for middle and high school students, and June 21 for elementary students. Carlos Da Silva asked about resurrecting the practice of holding a meeting for potential School Committee candidates. It was clarified that the only such meeting held in the past was intended to entice more people to run for the seat during a time when interest was low.

9. Adjournment.

On a motion by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Carol M. Falvey,

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 10:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko