

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

April 10, 2017

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Liza O'Reilly at 7:33 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, John Ferris

Visitors Present: Andrew Hoey, Anita Levy-Sisk, Michelle Ayer, Mark McNulty, Aisha Oppong, Kathryn Black, Jennifer Driscoll, Amy Corriveau, Erica Pollard, June MK Gustafson, Bill Fennelly, Paula Girouard McCann, Linda Kutsch, Brad Patterson, Megan Buhr, Andrew Ayer, Julie Flynn, Katie Roberts, Ted Hirsch, Debbie Stellar, Evan Sheehan, Molly Sinclair Kushnir, Susan Willison, Steph Pett, Casey Hussey, Greta Eustis, Shea Kushnir.

School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly, noted that this was Carol M. Falvey's last regular meeting as an elected member of the Hingham School Committee. Ms. O'Reilly thanked Ms. Falvey for her 6 years of service to the community and reviewed some of the activities she was involved in over her time on the School Committee. Ms. Falvey stated that it had been an honor and a privilege to serve.

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 March 28, 2017.

2.2 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 held on March 28, 2017.

3. Questions and Comments. None.

4. Superintendent's Report.

Dr. Galo recognized two Hingham High School Special Education Teachers who were nominated, and received, Rising Stars Awards. Both Nicole Piantes and Jessica Matthews will be honored at an upcoming reception. Biology teacher Livvy Kates, Science Department Director Katie Roberts and two Hingham High School students represented the community when HHS was honored as the Mass Biotech Education Joshua Boger Innovative School of the Year.

Dr. Galo noted that the Foster School SOI Submission to the MSBA was submitted before last Friday's deadline. Dr. Galo thanked all of those involved in pulling the application together including the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Advisory Committee. Dr. Galo announced that two finalists have been identified to move forward to the site visit phase of the Hingham High School Principal Search. The finalists are Richard Swanson, current Assistant Principal of Hingham High School and Richard Metropolis, current principal of Wakefield High School.

Dr. Galo shared the April enrollment with the School Committee, noting stable enrollment.

5. Communications.

- 5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent. Dr. Galo notified the School Committee that the March Facilities Update was included in the packet. Dr. Galo also shared information regarding kindergarten registration, noting that of the 271 packets distributed, 258 have been returned to date, and three students have been identified as repeating kindergarten next year.
- 5.2 Student Communications. Brad Patterson was in attendance and updated the School Committee on a number of student activities including the Mr. HHS event last week, and the Induction Ceremony for the National Honors Society, Harbormen Helping Hingham Day, and a high school art trip leaving for France at the end of the week. Brad also thanked Ms. Falvey for her service to the schools.
- 5.3 Other Communication: Brad Patterson introduced members of the cast of the upcoming Hingham High School production of the play *Slut*. Steph Pett, Casey Hussey, Greta Eustis and Shea Kushnir presented an overview of the play and stressed the topical importance of the play for today's youth. The School Committee thanked the students for their presentation. Following a brief question and answer session it was determined that the play is intended for students aged 13-14 and up. Since the play contains both mature themes and graphic language all promotional materials should carry a warning to that effect. Following each performance there will be a "talk back" session with members of the cast, school faculty, and community professionals.

Following the student presentation and question and answer session, additional Committee discussion ensued relative to whether or not students attending the play will require parental consent to view it (as members of the cast needed parental consent to perform). It was determined that no, parental consent was not required for viewers. There was then discussion of the selection process used to select the play and Dr. Paula Girouard McCann provided an overview of the process. Dr. Galo further noted that the play is directly aligned with the School's Improvement Plan, designed to support the school's Climate Committee efforts.

6. New Business.

- 6.1 The Committee heard a Social Studies Department Program Review. Andrew Hoey, K-12 Director of Social Studies, opened his presentation with an HCAM-produced video highlighting the Social Studies Department. Mr. Hoey then reviewed the state frameworks in Social Studies and provided the Committee with a review of the Elementary and Secondary Social Studies program and program sequence across the grade spans. Mr. Hoey reviewed some of the major changes since the last Program Review, which included an increased focus on the elementary program, as well as the addition of new courses at the secondary level. Mr. Hoey highlighted the department's work on the 8th grade research paper and the introduction of a new model of Community Service at the high school – the Harbormen Helping Hingham day, taking place this year on April 13. Mr. Hoey then reviewed the strengths and areas for improvement in the Social Studies Department and a brief question and answer session ensued. The Committee thanked Mr. Hoey for his presentation and those teachers from the department for their work with their students.
- 6.2 The Committee heard an update to the FY'18 School Operating Budget. Dr. Galo provided a brief update to the School Committee, noting that the district received notice of three students from Hingham who have applied to a vocational program. Dr. Galo will continue to monitor this new development and will update the Committee as time goes on.
- 6.3 The Committee discussed the Town Meeting presentation for the Foster School Project Warrant Items. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly distributed a set of comments for presentation at Town Meeting. Discussion ensued and Ms. O'Reilly asked Aylene Calnan and Cynthia Galcko to work with her to edit the comments to fit within Town Meeting guidelines.

- 6.4 The Committee reviewed proposed changes to the School Committee page. Community Outreach Subcommittee Chair Cynthia Galko reviewed some recent changes to the School Committee page of the Hingham Public Schools website and requested that any additional feedback or comments to be sent directly to her. Discussion ensued relative to the posting of minutes of subcommittee meetings and the Committee came to the consensus that they would not be posted, but are available by contacting the Office of the Superintendent of Schools.
- 6.5 The Committee received notification of the full year FY'18 leaves of absence of teachers Michelle Romano, Kaitlin McDougall, Jenna Nelson, and Gregg Wachtelhausen of HMS; Lori Carey and Jessica Sullivan of East School; and Anna Bernal of Plymouth River School.
- 6.6 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Jayme Simovic, teacher at Plymouth River School, effective June 30, 2017.
- 6.7 The Committee received notification of the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Patricia Szyman, nurse at HHS, effective June 30, 2017.

7. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly announced that the Committee's attorney who represents them in collective bargaining has been sick for quite a while and unable to participate in the process. The Committee is able to appoint an advisory member to it's negotiating team, and given Carol M. Falvey's history with negotiations and retirement from the School Committee, Ms. O'Reilly suggested that she be added in that role. Ms. Falvey is amenable to the idea.

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

It was

Voted: To appoint Carol M. Falvey as an advisory member of the School Committee's collective bargaining negotiating team, effective upon the expiration of her term as a member of the School Committee.

Discussion: Carlos Da Silva informed the Committee that he is interested in filling Carol M. Falvey's vacancy on the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee.

Since all four of the School Committee candidates were in the audience, Dr. Galo noted that the Orientation Session for new School Committee members is planned for May 1, assuming Town Meeting does not run into another week. The first regular School Committee meeting after the election will be on May 8.

8. Subcommittee and Project Reports.

- Community Outreach: Discussion was provided earlier in the meeting.
- Salary & Negotiations: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday April 12, 2017.

9. Adjournment

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

It was

Voted: To adjourn at 9:55PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko