

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

May 21, 2018 7:30 p.m.

School Department Conference Room

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Michelle Ayer at 7.31 pm.

Members Present: Michelle Ayer, Carlos DaSilva, Libby Lewiecki, Kerry Ni, Liza O'Reilly, Kay Prashma, and Ed Schreier.

Central Office present: Dorothy Galo, James LaBillois, John Ferris

Visitors present: Aisha Oppong, Carol Falvey, Raymond Estes, Tim Dempsey, June Gustafson, George Danis, Mary Power

2. Approval of Minutes. None

3. Questions and Comments. None

4. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Galo noted that the Globe South featured an article about school lunches and Kim Smyth, HPS Food Service Director, as well as students at PRS, were highlighted in the article. Dr. Galo shared that the East School PTO has voted to fund the field irrigation project at East Elementary and will further pay the annual maintenance expenses. As this was a gift under \$20,000, Dr. Galo wanted to make the Committee aware. Once irrigated and grass installed, the grass will need to sit for 2 years to ensure the grass takes roots.

Dr. Galo noted that the METCO Director position has been posted, and noted some interest from the Parent Partnership Initiative (PPI) to be involved in the search process and interviewing. Dr. Galo also has the names of some HHS students who would also like to be involved in the process. Dr. Galo then shared a brief update on METCO enrollment.

Dr. Galo further updated the Committee on the 16 PSAs sent out to the Community regarding Massachusetts' Leading the Nation. Dr. Galo thanked the all-town PTO for their work on this, as well as the principals for communicating out to the school communities.

5. Communications

5.1 Superintendent Communications: Dr. Galo shared the 2019 MCAS schedule in the Committee's packet. Also included in the packet is an outlining of graduation events and activities. Graduation is being held on Saturday, June 2, 2018 and members interested in attending are asked to let HHS know to ensure enough reserved seats. Dr. Galo provided a brief update on the kindergarten enrollment. As this time there are a total of 269 student registered for Kindergarten, with likely 6-8 registration packets due to be returned. The good news is the amount of revenue projected is in excess as what was put into the budget as an offset. Dr. Galo will update the Committee at an upcoming meeting relative to the enrollment of 5 versus 6 year olds.

5.2 Student Communications: None

5.3 Other Communications

School Committee Chair Michelle Ayer shared School Committee subcommittee and liaison assignments for 2018/2019, which have been posted to the website.

6. Unfinished Business

- 6.1 Carlos DaSilva has forwarded the resolution on school safety to the HHS Student Council, which will be voted on at their June 1 meeting. The resolution has also been forwarded on to the Board of Selectmen, and Dr. Galo noted that she will share the resolution with the Leadership Team on Thursday.

7. New Business

- 7.1 Glenn Koocher, President of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, provided an overview of the superintendent search process as information for the Committee. Mr. Koocher noted that the timeline, as discussed, is desirable and the fall is considered a good time to begin a search. Mr. Koocher then reviewed some key activities to occur, such as developing a candidate profile, structure of the Search Committee, as well as a review of the procedures used by consultants or school committees to organize the process.
- 7.2 The Committee received the proposed MOU with the Maintenance and Custodial Unit. Mary Power, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, joined the committee for the vote. Liza O'Reilly provided an overview of the agreement, noting that it is a 3-year agreement with 2% annual salary increases, stipends added to encourage specialty training and certifications, and increase of the hourly rate, as well as the introduction of digital timekeeping.

On a motion made by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Carlos DaSilva,

It was

Voted: To approve the MOU with the Maintenance and Custodial Unit.

Discussion: Chair Michelle Ayer thanked the great work of the custodial staff.

- 7.3 The Committee considered a resolution withdrawing from participation in the state's School Choice program for 2018-2019. Dr. Galo provided the Committee with information in their packet. The Committee must, annually, vote to either participate or decline to participate in the School Choice program.

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Ed Schreier,

It was

Voted: To not participate in School Choice for 2018-2019 school year, due to enrollment availability and space.

- 7.4 Dr. Galo, following a comprehensive search process, recommended Dr. Suzanne Vinnes to be the next Director of Student Services for Hingham Public Schools, pending the negotiation of a contract with a starting date of July 1, 2018. The Committee thanked Dr. Galo for the running of a smooth process that was inclusive of all stakeholders.

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Kerry Ni,

It was

Voted: To appoint Dr. Suzanne Vinnes to the position of Director, Student Services assuming successful negotiations of a contract.

- 7.5 Dr. Galo provide a review and overview of the NEASC accreditation process and provided the Committee with a copy of the HHS Accreditation report. Dr. Galo noted that a more comprehensive presentation of the results and findings would be presented by HHS at the July School Committee meeting.

- 7.6 Dr. Galo provided a brief update of the status of the FY'19 budget, noting that with the increase in projected revenues from the full-day kindergarten program, the budget is balanced.
- 7.7 The Committee accepted the Administration's recommended summer meeting dates of July 23 and August 20, 2018. Both dates work for the Committee and the meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. on both evenings. It was noted that Kay Praschma cannot attend the meeting in July and Libby Lewiecki cannot attend the meeting in August.
- 7.8 The Committee received notification of the retirement of Karin Herman, Executive Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent, effective July 31, 2018.
- 7.9 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Elizabeth Bensten, PRS teacher, and Kristin Schreiber, HMS Science teacher, both effective June 30, 2018.

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

9. **Subcommittee and Project Reports**

Salary & Negotiations: Liza O'Reilly reported that the subcommittee is looking for dates to review possible superintendent search consultants. This meeting is to be a Salary & Negotiations meeting with the full School Committee. The next meeting will be on June 5, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. Liza O'Reilly provided a draft document for the Committee's review.

Community Outreach: Kay Praschma shared information and the proposed dates for the upcoming community outreach forums regarding the districts communication and digital presence.

Long-Range Planning: Upcoming meeting on June 5, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Special Education: Upcoming meeting June 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hingham Public Library.

Policy: Updating manual and working to find a date for the next meeting.

Liaison Reports – Michelle Ayer attended HMS council today.

Carlos DaSilva, the Committee's Legislative Liaison, presented a proposed resolution for the Committee's consideration that requests that the changes to the state's foundation budget be revised. The Committee discussed the proposed resolution to revise the foundation budget in the Commonwealth. The Committee discussed the proposed resolution.

A motion by Libby Lewiecki and seconded by Carlos DaSilva was made to vote on the proposed resolution. Discussion ensued. Questions and discussion centered on the extent to which this vote could change School Committee practice, exploring both sides of this perception. It was noted by Kay Praschma that the proposed resolution was not in the packet for a first reading. Instead the resolution was given to all members of the Committee during this meeting and each member was given approximately 3 minutes to read the resolution and suggest any changes. Kay Praschma asked that the following sentence be omitted, "Investing in education today leads to higher incomes, and thus less investment in police, prisons, subsidized health care, low income housing, welfare, etc. in the future; and..." Members of the School Committee agreed to the change.

Kay Praschma amended the original motion and seconded by Ed Schreier to vote on the proposed resolution at the next School Committee meeting.

It was

Voted: to amend the original motion. (3 yays, 4 nays). Motion failed.

Chair Michelle Ayer called the vote on the original motion.

Discussion: None.

It was

Voted: to approve the proposed resolution to revise the foundation budget as amended.

The Committee was reminded of the upcoming SNAP cocktail party scheduled for June 1, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the South Shore Country Club. 6/1/18 from 6-9

10. Adjournment

On a motion made by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Ed Schreier.

It was

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

Respectfully submitted by:
Kay Praschma

Documents included in the meeting packet:

[Agenda 5-21-18.pdf](#) 

[Annotated Agenda 5-21-18.docx](#) 

[Item 4 East PTO.pdf](#) 

[Item 5.1 18-19 MCAS Schedule.pdf](#) 

[Item 5.1 Graduation Dates & Details Class 2018.pdf](#) 

[Item 5.3 Subcommittee Assignments 18-19.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.1 Safety resolution.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.2 Custodians MOU for School Com Approval 5.21.18.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.2 Summary of Custodian Contract.docx](#) 

[Item 7.3 MGL Chapter 76 \(school choice\).pdf](#) 

[Item 7.4 Director of Student Services.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.5 NEASC Letter.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.5 NEASC Final Report 2018.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.6 FY19 Budget Update](#) 

[Item 9 Legislative Update.pdf](#) 

[Item 9 MASC Legislative Bulletin.pdf](#) 

[Item 9.1 Criteria for Screening Proposals draft v2.docx](#) 

[Item 9.2 Criteria for Screening Proposals combined chart draft.docx](#) 

[Item 9.3 Criteria for Interviewing Search Consultants draft.docx](#) 