

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

December 2, 2019

School Department Conference Room, 220 Central Street, Hingham, MA 02043

- 1. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Michelle Ayer. She announced that the meeting is being recorded.

Members Present: Michelle Ayer, Nes Correnti, Carlos Da Silva, Libby Lewiecki, Kerry Ni, Liza O'Reilly and Ed Schreier.

Central Office Present: Paul Austin and John Ferris.

Visitors Present: June Gustafson, Rick Swanson, Kevin Quilty, George Danis, Emma Quilty.

- 2. Approval of Minutes**

- 2.1 On a motion by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Ed Schreier,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the Long Range Planning Subcommittee and School Committee meeting held on November 16, 2019 with one change. In Item 3, replace "The new Beal Street development was contingent on \$1 million specifically for the PRS windows" with "The Beal Street (Alliance) development agreement with the Town included \$1 million specifically for the PRS windows."

- 2.2 On a motion by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on November 18, 2019.

- 3. Questions and Comments - None**

- 4. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Austin reported that he is on target with his induction program and is looking forward to providing a full analysis on February 24, 2020. He continued visiting all school in November and is working with all the principals. Also met with the All Town PTO and teachers with kids in HPS. He commended the high school students, staff and parents for an outstanding performance of *Mamma Mia*. He noted that the Facilities Report for November and December, included in the packet, shows a lot of outstanding work by the Maintenance Department. The second boiler at HHS has a leak and will need to be fixed.

- 5. Communications**

- 5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: None

- 5.2 Student Communications – Emma Quilty reported seniors have finished their college applications. The high school play *Mamma Mia* was sold out. Additionally, there was a pep rally on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to cheer on the Hingham football team before they played Scituate on Thanksgiving Day. Claire Schnorr signed a letter of intent to row at the Naval Academy and 28 students were selected for the Southeastern Massachusetts Senior District, with 13 students receiving recommendations to audition for All State. Student Council has been busy volunteering in the community, assisting with Christmas in the Square and the Hingham Women's Club Festival of Trees. Emma encourages students to wear their pajamas inside out and put a spoon under their pillows to

make sure that tomorrow is a snow day.

- 5.3 Other Communications – Liza O’Reilly shared a document that she had sent to Dr. Austin in preparation for the fees discussion at the December 2, 2019 School Committee meeting. These include history of fees, benchmark community fee information, other student fees and administration recommendations. She is interested in the cost of living increase and a student fee policy.

6. Unfinished Business

- 6.1 The Committee received and signed the 2019-2020 School Committee Operating Protocols.

7. New Business

- 7.1 The Committee heard a report on the Hingham High School Improvement Plan for 2019-2020 and an update of the 2018-2019 Plan Progress. Rick Swanson, principal of Hingham High School, began the presentation by reviewing the 2018-2019 school year. The Council developed four goals. It was not an easy year at HHS with the fire in May, 2019. It was a good year, though, and for the first time, all students wore red robes to graduation. Last year’s goals included: 1) Systematically review security policies and recommend measures to enhance school safety. This goal is completed but remains a constant and ongoing focus. Hingham Public Schools has completed a systematic review of all security protocols at the High School. 2) Explore the possibility of expanding the “freshman advisory” program in order to better serve ninth grade students and potentially also serve students in other grades. This goal is in progress and continues into the current school year. The current model makes a positive impact on our school but only serves Grade 9 students. The NEASC report completed last year emphasized that ensuring that each student at the High School has an adult they can talk to is an important focus area and they are working to expand the mentoring program beyond grade 9. 3) Consider avenues for bolstering “civics education” across the curriculum. The goal is in progress and remains a part of the HHS vision. Evidence of progress toward this goal includes a voter registration drive, a slash the trash competition, an initiative to grow vegetables for lunch, the 11th annual teach in on environmental issues, awards in student journalism, a new kindness club that partners with Foster School and the third annual Harbormen Helping Hingham where 95% of students working on a volunteer project in Town. 4) Explore ways to expand service learning opportunities for HHS students. This goal is in progress and remains a focus. Service learning continues with the Veterans Appreciation Club, the Extreme Couponing Event, and much more. This is the second year of a unified athletic program. Athletic teams support many worthwhile projects like NEFCure and Maddie’s Promise. A new award ceremony was started for students who were caught in acts of kindness.

Mr. Swanson continues with the goals for the Hingham High School Council for 2019-2020. 1) Explore the possibility of expanding the “Freshman Advisory” program in order to better serve 9th-grade students and potentially also serve students in other grades. 2) Systematically review Hingham High School graduation requirements. 3) Bolster the cultural proficiency of HHS students and staff. 4) Strengthen the school’s commitment to (and practice of) “Environmental Stewardship” as a Core Value.

Michelle Ayer thanked Mr. Swanson and mentioned that a recent article stated that the biggest indicator of safety in schools is for kids to have someone in the school that they can talk to, so kudos for that. Carlos Da Silva commended the Harbormen Helping Hingham. Liza O’Reilly inquired about graduation requirements and mentioned personal finance education may be a focus in addition to civics education, math teachers doing civics work, and changing the word freshman to first year students and how to model the student advisory program. Libby Lewiecki mentioned that the civics education is off to a great start.

On a motion by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Kerry Ni,

It was

Voted: To accept the Hingham High School Improvement Plan for 2019-2020.

- 7.2 The Committee discussed the indicators that will be used to evaluate the Superintendent in June. Michelle Ayer commented that the Executive Board met with Dr. Austin's mentor, Maureen LaCroix, and discussed the indicators. They chose those that were related to Dr. Austin's goals. They also discussed what evidence might be required. Libby Lewiecki asked that the Executive Board share the list of required evidence before the evaluation process. Kerry Ni will send the list to the Committee.

On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To approve the indicators that will be used to evaluate Dr. Austin.

- 7.3 The Committee received notification of the appointments of Megan Fox, LTS K teacher at Foster; Nancy Patterson, Business Office Administrative Assistant at Central Office; Elizabeth Gratta, Food Service Technician at Foster; Jaclyn Sanford, Paraeducator at HHS; Jennifer Iverson, Custodian at HMS; Marjory Graney, Guidance Administrative Assistant at HMS; Abbey Ferguson, Paraeducator at Foster and Chris Klebacher, Custodian at PRS.

- 7.4 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Jennifer Quirk, Math Tutor at Foster School.

8. **48 Hour Items:** None

9. **Subcommittee reports:**

- Nes Correnti reported that the East School Council met and discussed parent survey results from 18-19 and planned questions for 19-20.
- Libby Lewiecki reported that the South School Council met on November 20, 2019. The school had a Buzz Assembly to honor veterans which had a large attendance. The school needs more math tutors. The Community Outreach subcommittee will host a Coffee and Conversation with Dr. Austin on February 12, 2020 at 9:30AM. The Hingham Education Foundation has many activities planned including Family Day at the Paragon Boardwalk on 12/8/19, Krigsman Yoga on 12/17/19, and a Spring Fundraiser on 4/3/19.
- Liza O'Reilly reported that the Town Master Plan Committee conducted visioning sessions. The HS session was very well attended. There will be another session on 12/11/19.
- Kerry Ni reported that the South School PTO will meet on 12/6/19.
- Carlos DaSilva noted that Long Range Planning met on November 19, 2019 and again today. They discussed the scoreboard, Buildings 179 and 12, Master Plan update, and the FY'21 proposals for capital. There are approximately \$3 million dollars of capital requests needed to maintain school department facilities and grounds, so Long Range Planning is hopeful that we will receive at least half of that amount. They will meet again on 12/9/19 to tour the two buildings.
- Michelle Ayer reported that the Special Education subcommittee will meet on 12/11/19. She and Nes Correnti will attend the METCO conference.

10. **Adjournment**

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was

Voted: To adjourn to Executive Session, not to return to Open Session, for the purpose of:

- a. Approval of minutes of the Executive Session of the School Committee held on November 18, 2019;
- b. Discussing matters related to the current HEA Unit A collective bargaining contract, the public discussion of which may be detrimental to the Committee's bargaining position, and act as appropriate
- c. Discussing matters related to the collective bargaining negotiations with the HEA Unit A for the 2020-2023 contract, the public discussion of which may be detrimental to the Committee's bargaining position.

M. Ayer – aye
C. DaSilva – aye
K. Ni – aye
E. Schreier – aye
L. O'Reilly – aye
L. Lewiecki – aye
N. Correnti – aye

Respectfully Submitted by:
Kerry Ni

Documents Included:

[12-2-19 Agenda.pdf](#) 

[Annotated 12-2-19 Agenda.docx](#) 

[Item 2.1 11-16-19 Minutes ADCOM_BOS Meeti...](#)

[Item 2.2 11-18-19 Minutes.pdf](#) 

[Item 4 Facility Dept November & December Rep...](#)

[Item 6.1 SC Operating Protocols 19-20.pdf](#) 

[Item 7.1 HHS School Improvement Plan 2018-2...](#)

[Item 7.1 HHS School Improvement Plan 2019-2...](#)

[Item 7.2 DESE Superintendent Rubric - Paul's e...](#)

[Item 9 Warrants Signed.pdf](#) 

[Item 10a 11-18-2019 Executive Session Minute...](#)

[SCFYI All Town Meeting Schedule.pdf](#) 