

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE
February 12, 2018 7:30 PM
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly at 7:34 p.m.

Members Present: Michelle Ayer, Aylene Calnan, Carlos Da Silva, Liza O'Reilly, Kay Praschma and Ed Schreier.

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

Visitors Present: June MK Gustafson, Catherine Rein, Heather Rodriguez, Aisha Oppong, Maribeth Lalli, Bev Vernon, Deb Stellar, Emma Quilty, Kevin Quilty, Dan Coughlin, Tony Keady, Kerry Ni, Melissa Smith, Donna Smallwood, Libby Emerson Lewiecki, George Danis, Jennifer Green, Jess Hoguet, Bryna Rogers, Mary Eastwood

2. Approval of Minutes. None

3. Questions and Comments. None.

4. Superintendent's Report.

Dr. Galo celebrated HHS science teacher Jacqueline Beaupre's selection as one of the recipients of the National Science Teachers Award for new teachers and her attendance at the upcoming National Science Teacher's Conference. Dr. Galo also provided the monthly enrollment report, noting no significant differences, a total addition of two students. Dr. Galo also updated the Committee on the SBRIT screening at HMS, and updated the Committee on HHS's plans to implement the screening beginning in March. Dr. Galo also notified the Committee about the upcoming kindergarten enrollment process, with registration packets being available for pick-up the week after the February vacation. Finally, Dr. Galo provided the Committee with the materials and information from the most recent Board meeting of the South Shore Educational Collaborative.

5. Communications

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: Dr. Galo notified the Committee of a draft of the HPS Annual Report that is submitted to Town Hall to be part of the Town's Annual Report. Dr. Galo asked for feedback from the Committee on or before Thursday, as the draft is due to the Town by Friday.

5.2 Student Communications: HHS Student Council representative Emma Quilty provided an update on student activities. In particular, Ms. Quilty told the Committee about a recent assembly and a presentation made by the Anti-Defamation League of HHS. Dr. Galo then showed a video of the student presentation.

5.3 Other Communications: None

6. New Business

6.1 The Committee conducted the Public Hearing on the FY'19 Operating Budget. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly called the Public Hearing to Order at 7:53 p.m. Dr. Galo presented an overview of the district's proposed FY'19 Operating Budget. Dr. Galo began her presentation with a review of student enrollment, and then presented a summary overview of the proposed budget across the three main components (general education, special education, and vocational education). Dr. Galo reviewed the new items included in the proposed FY'19 budget, briefly reviewing the individual requests. Dr. Galo then reviewed the Special Education enrollment by school, and then reviewed the Student Services staffing structures across the district, as well as highlighting the new requests in the department. Dr. Galo reviewed the Special Education out-of-district tuitions. Dr. Galo then

provided a visual representation of the budget. Personnel accounts made up 83.55% of the budget, Contracts made up 13.55% of the budget, with “other” comprising 2.91% of the budget. Dr. Galo then presented an overview of the current status of the proposed budget, \$122,377 in reductions from first presentation, for a total proposed budget of \$52,677,795.

Michelle Ayer asked Dr. Galo what is the recommended enrollment for secondary classes? Dr. Galo explained that our collective bargaining agreement has guidelines for class enrollments. The suggested enrollment is 25 students in a secondary class. Michelle Ayer explained that at the Joint Meeting last week there was a suggestion that enrollment was stable, yet 20% of the HHS classes are over enrollment guidelines. School Committee Chair Liza O’Reilly, explained that there are two School Committee policies on class sizes (policies 5.4 and 5.5) and that desirable enrollments vary by department and class. Carlos Da Silva asked people to be cognizant of the social-emotional needs of our student population.

There were no comments from the audience.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

- 6.2 The Committee a report on the Hingham Tiered System of Support (HTSS) Survey District Results from the BU School of Education. Dr. LaBillois, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, introduced the HTSS: Social-Emotional Task Force and the work that was completed earlier in the school year. Dr. LaBillois then introduced Dr. Jennifer Green, Assistant Professor at the Boston University School of Education who conducted the districtwide surveys that focused on student’s social-emotional needs. Dr. Green began her presentation by providing a national context to the topic of student access to social-emotional supports. Dr. Green then provided background relative to her partnership with the district through the HTSS: Social-Emotional Task Force. The surveys were administered to students in grades 4-12, parents of students in grades PK-12, and faculty and staff across all 6 schools. Dr. Green then reported the results of the student surveys, noting performance score for the Emotional Problems, Conduct Problems, Hyperactivity Problems, Peer Problems, and Total problems on the main measure used, the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). Dr. Green then presented an overview of the association between student responses on the SDQ to other areas of school functioning, as well as an overview of the associations found between the SDQ and other risk factors at HHS. Dr. Green then reviewed the results relative to student access to mental health supports. Dr. Green then reported out the results of the parent surveys, noting performance score the Emotional Problems, Conduct Problems, Hyperactivity Problems, Peer Problems, and Total problems on the main measure used, the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). Dr. Green then provided an overview of parent satisfaction with school programming and teacher-student relationships. Dr. Green then focused on the teacher results, highlighting the top concerns the faculty has, as well as an examination of their role in supporting student’s social and emotional well-being.

The Committee thanked Dr. Green for her presentation and Dr. LaBillois introduced Heather Rodriguez, Director of Counselling, to provide an update on next-steps as the district works to unpack the data. Director Rodriguez began by providing an overview of the work of the HTSS: Social-Emotional Task Force and explained the process that school-based implementation teams will be doing to ensure that programming meets the needs of the student population. Director Rodriguez explained that schools will be piloting varying ways to screen students and will be rolling-out a district-wide model in September.

- 6.3 The Committee reviewed the proposed resubmission of the Statement of Interest to MSBA for a Foster School Project: Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 12, 2018 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 6, 2018 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 Ed Schreier and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To approve the resolution and to resubmit the Statement of Interest to MSBA for a Foster School Project.

Carlos Da Silva reminded the voters at home that this was voted a town meeting last year, with the understanding that if we applied and were accepted we would begin a feasibility study.

6.4 The Committee reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Hingham School Department and HHS Rowing Association. School Committee Vice-Chair Aylene Calnan noted that this was a second review. Several grammatical changes were made as well as some other minor corrections. Those corrections made were shared with HHSRA. Ed Schreier asked if a lawyer had reviewed the document and Aylene Calnan answered that it had been reviewed by Town Counsel.

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

It was

Voted: To approve The Memorandum of Understanding between the Hingham School Department and HHS Rowing Association.

6.5 The Committee heard the details of the search process for the next Director of Student Services. Dr. Galo noted that the position has been posted. There are a number of forums running across the district for parents and staff to offer input into the development of the Candidate Profile. Dr. Galo then reviewed the search process and highlighted the activities that will occur as a part of the process. School Committee members interested in being a part of the interview team, please let Liza O'Reilly know.

6.6 The Committee discussed submitting a resolution on retail marijuana to the Planning Board, Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee as comments on Warrant Articles. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly reviewed the Town Meeting Warrant Articles proposed to ban retail recreational marijuana. The Committee discussed the document and agreed to edit the language to say, simply, "Marijuana Establishment."

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

It was

Voted: To approve the resolution on retail marijuana.

- 6.7 The Committee heard a forecast for the Second Quarter of the FY '18 Operating Budget. Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris directed the Committee's attention to a memorandum contained in the packet. He reviewed the process used to conduct the forecast and, as of January 30, 2018, we are projecting a deficit of \$12,117. However, giving the timing of the year, Mr. Ferris reported feeling confident that the budget is manageable and intact.
- 6.8 The Committee continued discussion of the FY'19 budget priorities and perspectives. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly reported having received an updated Five Year Forecast, showing a projected deficit of 2,539,731 for the Town, with the most updated numbers from the school department. On February 26, 2018 the Committee will receive an updated forecast, once the GIC releases the project insurance rates for FY'19. On February 26, as soon as we get the updated forecast, the Committee will distribute to members and will begin to identify priorities and need to vote on the proposed budget.
- 6.9 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of Grade 11 and 12 students to Iceland on July 10 to 22, 2018.
- 6.10 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of HHS Music students to Disneyworld in Orlando, FL on March 15 to 18, 2018.
- 6.11 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Elizabeth Kurlan, Director of Student Services, effective June 30, 2018. The Committee thanked Director Kurlan for her service to HPS.
- 6.12 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Gregg Wachtelhausen, HMS Science teacher, effective June 30, 2018.
- 6.13 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Denise Romanowski, paraeducator at PRS, effective December 22, 2017.

7. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Dr. Galo noted that the interview team for the Foster Principal Search completed the preliminary screening interviews and three semi-finalists will be moving forward to interviews with the Central Office Team the week following February vacation.

8. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Policy: A meeting is scheduled for some time the week of March 4

Special Education: The subcommittee will work to schedule a meeting

Long-Range Planning: An engineer has been in to look at the HHS gym windows

Salary & Negotiations: We have commenced negotiations with the bus drivers

Community Outreach: We have a signed statement of work with STACKR and the next meeting is scheduled for 3/5 at 9:00 a.m. A summary of the superintendent search process has been posted to the School Committee web page.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Ed Schreier and seconded by Aylene Calnan

It was

Voted: To adjourn the School Committee meeting at 10:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko

Documents Included in Meeting Packet

2-12-18 Agenda.pdf 

2-12-18 Annotated.pdf 

Item 4 Good News Science Teacher.pdf 

Item 4 K Packet.pdf 

Item 4 SBIRT.pdf 

Item 4 SSEC.pdf 

Item 5 2017 Draft Annual Report as of 2-9-18.pdf 

Item 6.1 Slides For Hearing 2.12.18.pdf 

Item 6.2 Hingham_DistrictReport_021018.pdf 

Item 6.2 Hingham_East_020818.pdf 

Item 6.2 Hingham_Foster_020818.pdf 

Item 6.2 Hingham_High_020818.pdf 

Item 6.2 Hingham_Middle_020818.pdf 

Item 6.2 Hingham_PlymouthRiver_020818.pdf 

Item 6.2 Hingham_South_020818.pdf 

Item 6.2 HTSS - Taskforce Meeting next steps.pptx 

Item 6.2 SchoolCommittee_Presentation_updated2.pptx 

Item 6.3 MSBA School Committee February 12 2018 .pdf 

Item 6.4 SC Revised MOU with HHSRA.pdf 

Item 6.5 Director of SS Search.pdf 

Item 6.6 Marijuana resolution.pdf 

Item 6.7 FY18 School Budget Update.pdf 

Item 6.8 Forecast 2/12/18.pdf 

Item 6.8 FY 19 Budget and Reductions.pdf 

Item 6.9 Field Trip.pdf 

Item 6.10 Field Trip.pdf 

Item 8 Superintendent Search.pdf 
