

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**March 28, 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, Elizabeth Kurlan, John Ferris

Visitors Present: Megan Buhr, Linda Kutsch, June MK Gustafson, Scott McMillan, Keith Jermyn, Brad Patterson, Debbie Stellar, Aisha Oppong, Ted Hirsch, Michelle Ayer

2. Approval of Minutes.

2.1 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Edward Schreier,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on March 13, 2017 with one added comment: the SNAP paint night activity will be held at the Community Center.

3. Questions and Comments. None.**4. Superintendent's Report.**

Dr. Galo informed the Committee that the Third Annual Art Show is up on all floors of Town Hall showcasing art from students in grades K-12. Dr. Galo has received a number of positive comments from the community relative to the display.

Dr. Galo updated the Committee regarding the progress of the two active searches in progress. The new principal of Plymouth River Elementary School, Melissa Smith, was announced at the last School Committee meeting. Dr. Galo noted that the search for a new Assistant Principal has begun, with the candidate profile being developed and the search committee formed. Dr. Galo further updated the Committee on the status of the Hingham High School Principal search. The interview team has recommended three semi-finalist candidates to be interviewed by the Central Office Leadership. It is anticipated that by the end of next week the names of the finalists will be made public.

Dr. Galo shared an informational brief on a recent Supreme Court Case regarding a special education case developed by the American Association of School Administrators. Dr. Galo will also post the brief to the district website.

Dr. Galo shared a flyer regarding an upcoming opioid conference at New North Church on April 8.

Edward Schreier introduced Keith Jermyn, Director of Hingham's Department of Veteran Affairs, and informed the Committee that the Hingham High School turf field has a POW/MIA remembrance seat which was, when it was installed, only the second such seat installed in a secondary school in the United States. At graduation last year an individual sat in the chair, and it was noted that signage was needed to educate people about the meaning of the empty seat. Due to a generous donation the seat area will now have such a sign.

Director Jermyn then informed the committee of the Town's flag purchasing program and the presence of a new American Flag in the School Committee conference room. He further read the following statement:

“The Town of Hingham Department of Veteran Services; in conjunction with the Veteran’s Council, has graciously provided your Committee with this U.S. Flag stand. The gift is a direct product of the Town’s Consolidated Flag Purchasing Program adopted six years ago. By having all Town Departments make a single annual purchase, the Town saves over 52% of normal costs; including shipping. The program then bestows flag sets, similar to the one placed here, to the purchasing agent. To date, the VSO has been able to install a stand in every meeting room within Town Hall. We hope that you will display it proudly during your public meetings, and many thanks to the School Department for their participation.”

Liza O’Reilly thanked Director Jermyn for his presentation and for the gift of the American Flag and stand.

5. Communications.

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent. None.

5.2 Student Communications. Brad Patterson was in attendance and updated the Committee on a number of student activities and events. Brad noted the recent Nashville Music Trip and the pictures from the trip that have been posted on the band’s Twitter feed. He also noted a successful HHS Talent Expo and a panel on the college admissions process happening concurrently with the meeting. He explained that exchange students from Tennoji, Japan are here in Hingham, staying with local families, attending classes, and engaging in fun sightseeing trips.

5.3 Other Communication: None.

6. Unfinished Business.

6.1 The Committee review proposed changes to Section 6 of the School Committee Policy Handbook. Aylene Calnan noted that there are no significant changes since the last iteration, with only minor changes made to section 6.6 (insertion of a legal reference). Aylene Calnan further noted that section 6.14 currently entitled “Alcohol and Controlled Substances” should be retitled to read “Alcohol, Marijuana, and Controlled Substances,” and that the word “marijuana” should be added to each such reference in the body of that policy. Committee discussion ensued and clarified that “parent-teacher conferences” will remain as stated in section 6.20, rather than changing to “parent/legal guardian conferences.” Chair Liza O’Reilly also commented on a suggestion by Ed Schreier to change all references of “doctor” to “licensed physician”, noting that there were no references to “doctor” in section 6.

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

It was

Voted: To approve Section 6 of the School Committee Policy Handbook with the addition of “marijuana” noted above.

Dr. Galo thanked all involved in the review of this section of the policy manual.

6.2 The Committee reviewed proposed changes to Section 2.1 of the School Committee Policy Handbook. Aylene Calnan noted the addition of the language that identified School Resource Officers (SRO) as authorized school personnel. Chair Liza O’Reilly noted that additional information on the issue was provided in the meeting packet and, following a comprehensive discussion with the Policy Subcommittee, the identification of School Resource Officers as authorized school personnel was appropriate. Discussion ensued relative to which town department pays the salary of the SROs (Police Department) and then further discussion relative to who supervises the SROs in the buildings (the building principal).

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

It was

Voted: To approve Section 2.1 of the School Committee Policy Handbook.

- 6.3 The Committee reviewed proposed changes to the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Hingham Public Schools and the Hingham Police Department (MOU). Aylene Calnan noted that there have been no additional updates since the first reading and no comments for revisions were received.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Hingham Public Schools and the Hingham Police Department with a correction on the pagination of the document.

Carol M. Falvey noted that she would like to see the high school administration give some thought as to how the information received from the police department is used going forward. Other members of the committee concurred and Chair Liza O'Reilly noted that the process of reviewing the MOU has been helpful in clarifying potential areas of review regarding high school discipline issues.

7. New Business.

- 7.1 The Committee heard an update the FY'17 budget. John Ferris, Director of Business and Support Services, provided a FY'17 budget forecast for the committee. Discussion ensued relative to specific points of interest. At this time, Mr. Ferris is projecting a positive variance of \$81,000. However, that is only an estimate. Mr. Ferris noted that the budget is manageable and intact.

- 7.2 The Committee heard an update to the proposed FY'18 School Operating Budget and the administration's recommendation. Chair Liza O'Reilly provided a brief review of the budget process to date, and noted that the administration was prepared to provide the Committee an update to see where the budget stands. Dr. Galo reviewed information provided to the Committee and the budget process, to date. She further reviewed the various votes taken to approve the district's FY'18 budget. Dr. Galo urged the Committee to vote to approve a FY'18 operating budget of \$49,762,697 and requested that the Committee give the administration a sense of the items that would be high priorities if additional savings can be found in the FY'18 budget as the year progresses.

On a motion by Cynthia Galko and seconded by Carol M. Falvey,

It was

Voted: To approve the FY'18 Operating Budget in the amount of \$49,762,697.

The Committee proceeded to discuss ways to use any additional savings that might be found in the FY'18 budget, and reached consensus that the upgrade of the high school post-secondary tutor to counselor salary scale would be the highest priority.

- 7.3 The Committee received a maintenance update from the Facilities and Procurement Manager. Dr. Galo shared a maintenance update with the Committee that outlines projects completed in February, as well as those projects currently underway this month.
- 7.4 The Committee heard an update on the Foster School SOI application. Dr. Galo noted that the date of submission is approaching and many hands are involved in getting the application ready, and she is confident that we will meet the deadline. Chair Liza O'Reilly, Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris, and Principal of Foster School Dr. Debbie Stellar, attended the Board of Selectmen vote that approved the submission of the Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Business Authority. It was noted that the meeting went smoothly and efficiently. All materials and needed votes are in place in preparation for submission of the SOI. Ms. O'Reilly reminded the Committee that they will need to review the draft of the Town Meeting presentation at the April 10 School Committee meeting.

7.5 The Committee continued discussion about the School Committee's longer term planning, initiatives and priority setting. Chair Liza O'Reilly noted that this was placed back on the agenda to redirect the Committee's attention to the work. She noted materials in the packet that outline the school district's mission and core values, as well as the mission and core values of all of the six schools in the district. She also noted that more work needs to be done to identify the main areas of focus, but that Foster School, Human Resources needs, the Culture of Respect, and long-term forecasting and budget sustainability are current priorities. Ms. O'Reilly asked the Committee to review the items in the packet and do further research as possible/practicable to bring to the discussion. The topic will be picked up again in a workshop format, likely during the summer of 2017 in conjunction with the HPS Senior Administrative Leadership Team workshop, and possibly in additional weeknight meetings.

Dr. Galo commented that the Senior Administrative Leadership Team workshop is often held at the end of July, and that the priorities of the administrators will need to be taken into account as well, especially as a new Strategic Plan is now in place. She also noted that the NEASC review in September will be a good source of information.

7.6 The Committee received the March 10, 2017 Report from the SSEC.

7.7 The Committee received Spring Coaching 2017 recommendations.

8. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Dr. Galo noted that a Committee member reached out with a question regarding the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's plan to administer a measure of social-emotional learning to students following MCAS administration in grades 5, 8, and 10. Discussion ensued and Dr. LaBillois noted that he is coordinating a position with all school principals, and that parents will be notified of whether or not Hingham would be administering this optional survey.

9. Subcommittee and Project Reports.

- Community Outreach: Chair Cynthia Galko noted that the next meeting would be on April 5 at 11:15 a.m.
- Special Education: Chair Ed Schreier noted that SEPAC is engaging in future planning for their leadership, that the annual Hingham SNAP (Special Needs Athletic Partnership) "Pizzapalooza" will be held tomorrow evening at Hingham High School from 5:30 pm–7:30 pm, the successes of the HEF/HSP Substance Abuse talk and the HSP Coaching Leadership conference and the SNAP paint afternoon at the Hingham Community Center.

10. Move to Executive Session.

On a motion by Carol M. Falvey and seconded by Cynthia Galko,

It was

Voted: To move to Executive Session, not to return to Open Session, for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to matters related to contract negotiations with all Hingham Public School Units, the public discussion of which could be detrimental to the Committee's bargaining position.

11. Adjournment at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko