

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

May 8, 2017

The Town Clerk, Eileen McCracken, administered the oath of office to the new member of the School Committee, Michelle Ayer and to Edward Schreier.

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by Ed Schreier at 7:27 p.m. As senior member of the Committee, he presided over the beginning of the meeting. Dr. Schreier thanked Carol M. Falvey for her service and welcomed Michelle Ayer to the Committee.

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

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

Visitors Present: Alec Porter, Kathleen Jordan, Brad Paterson, Helaine Silva, Mary Andrews, Kerry Ni, Courtney Orwig, Aisha Oppong, Ted Hirsch.

The Committee conducted its annual election of officers pursuant to ballots previously prepared and submitted. As the Committee's senior member, Dr. Schreier conducted the election.

1.3. On a nomination by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To elect Cynthia Galko as Secretary of the School Committee.

1.2. On a nomination by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Kay Praschma,

It was

Voted: To elect Aylene Calnan as Vice-Chair of the School Committee.

1.1. On a nomination by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Michelle Ayer

It was

Voted: To elect Liza O'Reilly as Chair of the School Committee.

Comment: Carlos Da Silva noted that it's great to see Liza O'Reilly, Aylene Calnan and Cynthia Galko back in the roles of officers.

2. Approval of Minutes.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on April 24, 2017.

3. Questions and Comments. None

4. Superintendent's Report.

- Dr. Galo noted that the booklet from the Rising Star Awards ceremony is included in the packet. High School Special Education teachers Jessica Mathews and Nicole Piantes were both honored at the event.
- Dr. Galo also noted that a news release regarding National History Day and Christine O'Connor's trip to Normandy was included in the packet.
- A copy of the Hingham High School Newsletter for May is in the packet.
- Dr. Galo introduced Mary Andrews to the Committee and a copy of her resume was included in the packet. Ms. Andrews has been appointed to the position of Director of the English/Drama/Secondary Reading Department, following Helaine Silva's retirement.
- Dr. Galo also announced that Charleen Fabrizio has been selected to be the next Assistant Principal of Plymouth River School and Dr. Galo will be meeting with Ms. Fabrizio to finalize the appointment in the days to come.
- Dr. Galo updated the Committee on the Hingham High School Principal Search process and noted the final event of the process, the Public Interview, will be held tomorrow evening at Hingham High School.
- Dr. Galo updated the Committee on a number of teacher-leadership openings including the Art Resource Teacher, Music Resource Teacher, and the Secondary Mentoring and Induction Co-Chair position.
- Dr. Galo noted that the 8th grade trip to Washington, DC was a success and 308 students attended the trip with 30 chaperones and 2 nurses. Those students who did not attend experienced "Civics Week" with daily trips to local historical points of interest.
- Dr. Galo congratulated the high school students who acted in the high school production over the weekend.

Comment: Chair Liza O'Reilly welcomed Mary Andrews to the Director position.

5. Communications

- 5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: Dr. Galo noted that a communication from Hingham High School regarding graduation-related activities was included in the packet. It is important for parents and students to review the information.
- 5.2 Student Communications: Brad Patterson was in attendance and congratulated Michelle Ayer and Edward Schreier on their elections to the Committee. Brad noted that AP exams have begun at the High School and the students are looking forward to the end of the year activities. In that vein, the Junior Prom is scheduled for this Friday at the Pembroke Country Club and tickets for the Senior Prom are on sale now. Brad also commended his student colleagues for the performances in the play over the past weekend, and noted the upcoming Class Officer elections on May 19.
- 5.3 Other Communications: The packet included a list of current School Committee Subcommittee memberships. Chairperson Liza O'Reilly asked the Committee to let her know by Friday, May 12 of individual subcommittee interests so she can compile the revised list in time for the May 22 meeting. Several communications were received regarding the play over the weekend. Ms. O'Reilly also announced the results of the most recent SEPAC elections and congratulated the new executive board. Kay Praschma requested that the SC Communications Log sheet be included in the electronic packet for each meeting.

Comments: Dr. Galo made note of the HCAM video on the *Harbormen Helping Hingham* senior class community service day and Michelle Ayer noted that HCAM also filmed the talkback session from the Friday performance of *SLUT, The Play*. That video should be posted soon.

6. New Business

- 6.1 The Committee considered approval of the proposed school calendar for 2017-2018. Dr. Galo noted that the draft 2017-2018 school calendar was included in the packet and has not changed since first reading. Dr. Galo did note a request from the HEA to consider an early release day on the Friday before the winter vacation. Dr. Galo noted that Christmas is not until Monday and it is not our practice to have an early release day so far in front of the actual holiday. Discussion ensued and, following which, the Committee called a vote.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the 2017-2018 calendar as proposed by the administration.

- 6.2 The Committee considered a resolution withdrawing from participation in the state's School Choice program for 2017-2018. Dr. Galo provided the Committee a copy of the Massachusetts General Laws pertaining to School Choice. The Committee must, annually, vote to either participate or decline to participate in the School Choice program. Dr. Galo noted that the vote is typically taken at the first meeting in May to ensure the Committee is prepared to report their decision to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by June 1.

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

It was

Voted: To not participate in School Choice for 2017-2018 school year.

- 6.3 The Committee reviewed the appointment of the district's representative to the South Shore Educational Collaborative's Board for 2017-2018. Dr. Galo noted that this is an annual appointment and she is willing to serve on the Board for the 2017-2018 school year. Carlos Da Silva asked how often they meet. Dr. Galo noted there are monthly meetings scheduled for Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. Chair Liza O'Reilly noted that the role of the SSEC Board is akin to the role of the School Committee, in that it is focused primarily on finance and policy.

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

It was

Voted: To appoint Dorothy Galo as the board of South Shore Educational Collaborative for 2017-2018.

- 6.4 The Committee received a midyear update of the Superintendent's goals. Dr. Galo presented an update on her goals. She noted that her evaluation cycle runs from the end of October to the beginning of November. Dr. Galo briefly reviewed her goal focus areas and asked the Committee if there were questions regarding the document that was provided. Carlos Da Silva asked Dr. Galo the status of the update regarding the Walker Report. Dr. Galo noted that the presentation will be given by the end of the school year, and Chair Liza O'Reilly added that they are waiting until the new SPED Subcommittee is formed before scheduling the meeting to present the report. Carlos Da Silva then asked Dr. Galo the status of negotiations with the HEA and Dr. Galo noted the next meeting of the Salary and Negotiations Subcommittee was scheduled for this coming Wednesday.

Audience member Kerry Ni asked Dr. Galo for an update on goal 1: Special Populations. Kay Praschma provided Kerry Ni a hard copy of the document for her review.

- 6.5 The Committee heard an update on the proposed North Fire Station project and its impact on school department transportation and maintenance functions. Ed Schreier has been attending the meetings and Liza O'Reilly provided an update to the Committee on the status of the work, as well as a copy of the PowerPoint report of the North Fire Station committee. Discussion ensued and Dr. Galo will reach out for a status update.

- 6.6 The Committee received the March 2017 HHS and April 2017 HMS and HHS Transition Room Reports. Dr. Galo noted that this is the first monthly report from the Hingham Middle School Transition Room, which functions similarly to the High School Transition Room. Discussion ensued relative to the students who attend the Transition Room and Dr. Galo noted that students coming and going from the program will continue to be monitored.

- 6.7 The Committee received notification of the appointment of paraeducators Lauren Casey at HHS, effective March 1, 2017; Kyle Duval at HMS, effective April 13, 2017; and Kelly Gill, effective March 6, 2017.
- 6.8 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Robert O'Day, HMS Interim Transition Room Coordinator, effective March 29, 2017.
- 6.9 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Michelle Pearson, Assistant to the Food Services Director, effective April 24, 2017. It was noted that this is not a new FTE, but a replacement of a previous clerical position.
- 6.10 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Heather Benner, Foster teacher, effective June 30, 2017.
- 6.11 The Committee received notification of the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Anita Brooks and Elaine Foley, paraeducators at Foster; effective June 30, 2017.
- 6.12 The Committee received notification of the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Gail Sadowski, teacher at South School, effective June 30, 2017.

7. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Dr. Galo provided a budget update and noted that the administration has met the budget voted by the Committee, the Advisory Board, and Town Meeting. The previous \$100,000 projected deficit has been closed, and additional changes have allowed for the HHS Post Secondary Counselor salary to be increased to a full counselor salary rate. This change was a top priority for the Committee during budget discussions if funds allowed. Discussion ensued and Dr. Galo reviewed the simple tally meeting with the High School and Middle School administration and noted that a meeting with the elementary administration regarding class size and sections was scheduled for tomorrow. Dr. Galo also noted that the tallies indicate a need for additional teachers in Math, Science and Social Studies at the high school in FY'19.

Liza O'Reilly noted that she has been in discussions with members of the School Committees from Newton, Lexington, Winchester, and Arlington regarding MSBA applications. Carlos Da Silva noted advocating for the Foster School project when meeting the state treasurer and the Committee discussed advocating as much as possible for the Foster School project.

8. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Ed Schreier made two brief announcements. The 4th Annual Hingham Sports Partnership Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 19, 2017 and the Hingham Rotary Golf Tournament, benefitting SNAP, is scheduled for June 19, 2017.

9. Adjournment

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

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko