

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

December 5, 2016

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: Heather Rodriguez, Paula Girouard McCann, Alec Porter, Kerry Ni, Barbara Cook, Brad Patterson, Kevin Quilty, Doug Wendell, Geoffrey Willison, Katherine Forbes, Mal Noonan, Eugenie Murray Brown, Raymond Estes.

2. Approval of Minutes.

2.1 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Carol Falvey,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on November 19, 2016.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on November 21, 2016.

3. Questions and Comments. None.

4. Superintendent's Report.

- Dr. Galo shared news of the VFW Essay Contest ceremony that occurred on Saturday, December 3, 2016. The district had 6 of our students honored. More than 400 students wrote essays for the contest.
- Dr. Galo also congratulated Kim Smyth of the Food Service Department on being awarded a Level 2 Certificate in School Nutrition. The honor was given by the School Nutrition Association of Massachusetts.
- Dr. Galo also noted that the School Committee website has been updated to include the school committee email addresses and a statement about communications.

5. Communications.

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent:

Dr. Galo shared that on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 the Town will be holding a memorial service in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

5.2 Student Communications:

Brad Patterson provided the committee an update on athletics events and contests. He also noted the upcoming student-principal forum and the delayed start on Wednesday for professional development. Brad offered congratulations to the HHS Quiz Bowl Team for making the competition again this year and updated the committee on two fundraising efforts by the gymnastics team and Student Council. Brad also reminded the Committee of the upcoming HHS Band concert on December 13th.

5.3 Other Communications:

Dr. Galo shared the Hingham High School Newsletter with the Committee and noted the wealth of information included in it. This included an article highlighting Chrissy O'Connor's participation in the Understanding Sacrifice program.

6. New Business.

- 6.1 Chair Liza O'Reilly notified the Committee that Town Administrator, Ted Alexiades was unable to attend the meeting and provide a pre-budget Financial Forecast. She will reach out to him to reschedule.
- 6.2 The Committee heard a report from Hingham High School, including the School Council Improvement Plan update from 2015-2016 and the proposed plan for 2016-2017. Dr. Paula Girouard McCann, Hingham High School Principal, presented a review of Hingham High School's 2015-2016 goals. There were four goal areas (Health Curriculum, NEASC, Stress in Students, and Waste Reduction). Dr. Girouard McCann noted that all activities, as outlined, were completed and provided a brief review of the work done on each goal. Looking ahead to this year's goals, Dr. Girouard McCann outlined five goal focus areas, one of which (study of students' GPAs at HHS) was already completed. Hingham High School will continue to work on developing a positive school climate, keep preparing for the NEASC decennial review (scheduled for September 24-27, 2017), providing support to struggling learners and seeking a participatory role in the 2017 US-China Climate Change Leaders' Summit to be hosted in Boston. The Committee thanked Dr. Girouard McCann for her presentation and congratulated her on all of the great work being done at Hingham High School.
- 6.3 The Committee heard the Annual Placement and Testing Report for the Class of 2016. Heather Rodriguez, Director of Counseling, presented the Annual Placement and Testing Report of the Hingham High School Class of 2016. The presentation began with an overview of the percentage of students (95.9%) continuing their education in either 4-year, junior colleges/specialized schools or preparatory schools. Ms. Rodriguez then presented a brief review of the SAT and SAT subject tests and information on the performance of the Class of 2016 on these tests. Ms. Rodriguez also presented on the performance of the Class of 2016 on the ACT and data comparing Hingham against state and national results. Generally, performance on all metrics remains consistent with the performance of previous classes. Ms. Rodriguez also presented information of the performance of our high school students on a variety of Advanced Placement tests. The Committee posed questions and received answers relative to specifics about the tests and programmatic offerings. The Committee thanked Ms. Rodriguez for her presentation.
- 6.4 The Committee received a report from the Hingham High School GPA committee. Dr. Girouard McCann and Ms. Rodriguez presented the results of the committee and the work that was done to address concerns expressed over the past 6-8 months relative to the High School GPA. Dr. Girouard McCann and Ms. Rodriguez began by reviewing the goal of the group, the members of the group, and the three outcome options: keep the current GPA calculation, adopt a new GPA calculation, or report no GPA. Dr. Girouard McCann and Ms. Rodriguez provided some historical context of the use of the GPA at Hingham High School, considerations the group made as they worked to provide a recommendation, the sources of data that were consulted in their decision-making, and the results of their research. During the presentation, Dr. Girouard McCann and Ms. Rodriguez also presented information regarding the college admissions process and the perspectives of a variety of admissions officers. Dr. Girouard McCann and Ms. Rodriguez also discussed the variation in processes used for awarding of Merit Scholarships among colleges.

Dr. Girouard McCann and Ms. Rodriguez presented the recommendation of the GPA Committee that was to move Hingham High School to a 4.0 scale, using the College Preparatory level as the anchor level. They proposed that full implementation begin with the class of 2019, with the class of 2018 having the same option that was available to the class of 2017 (report the current HHS GPA only or both the current HHS GPA and the new GPA.)

Following the presentation questions were presented from both the School Committee and members of the audience.

On a motion by Carol M. Falvey and seconded by Aylene Calnan

It was

Voted: To approve moving to a 4.0 scale, using the College Preparatory level as the anchor level, with full implementation to begin with the class of 2019, with the class of 2018 having the same option that was available to the class of 2017 (report the current HHS GPA only or both the current HHS GPA and the new GPA.).

- 6.5 Dr. Galo, following a period of review, had updated her goals for the 2016-2017 school year. Dr. Galo reviewed the process to develop the goals and then reviewed the goals she is proposing.

On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Carol M. Falvey

It was

Voted: To approve the Superintendent goals for 2016-2017.

- 6.6 John Ferris, Director of Business and Support Services, reviewed the memorandums in the school committee packet regarding the effort to clean out Buildings 12 and 179, the Depot grounds and the Depot garage bays and declare surplus any contents that have no value to HPS, and to declare surplus Van #112. He then answered various questions from the school committee members about this process.

On a motion by Ed Schreier and seconded by Cynthia Galko

It was

Voted: To declare surplus and to authorize the Director of Business, John Ferris to dispose of to the highest bidder, or for lowest cost disposal in accordance with MA Procurement laws of all non-operating vehicles, equipment, furniture, fixtures, surplus building supplies and other contents of Building 12, Building 179, the Depot grounds and the Depot Garage Bays (collectively-equipment), where such equipment has no value to the Hingham Public Schools. Funds received, in excess of the cost of disposal, which may include advertisements, commissions for online auctions, additional hourly wages for personnel managing the disposal process, and other costs associated with disposal, shall be deposited to the general fund.

On a motion by Ed Schreier and seconded by Cynthia Galko

It was

Voted: To declare Van #112 as surplus and sell it to the highest bidder. Any funds received would revert to the general fund.

- 6.7 The Committee received notification of winter coaching assignments.
- 6.8 The Committee received notification on the overnight field trip of the HMS Adventure Club to Zoar Outdoor Adventures in Charlemont, MA from June 10 to June 11, 2017.
- 6.9 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Kimberley Richards, Kids in Action teacher, effective 11/28/2016; Allyson Murnane, paraeducator at Hingham Middle School, effective 11/14/2016; and Elizabeth Redmond, Central Office Administrative Assistant, effective 12/12/2016.

6.10 The Committee received notification of the resignations of Colleen Houde, Counseling Department Administrative Assistant at Hingham High School, effective 12/5/16 and Christopher Groleau, paraeducator at Hingham High School, effective 12/23/16.

8. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting: The School Committee discussed possibly updating policy 3.7.5 to include reference to anonymous communications. The policy subcommittee will discuss at their next meeting. Carlos Da Silva stated that he is on the Town Wide Field Taskforce but has received no information relative to meeting dates or times. Aylene Calnan noted that due to an issue with Verizon, some viewers may have had trouble with audio if watching the meeting on HCAM that evening.

9. Subcommittee and Project Reports.

- Policy Subcommittee: There will be a meeting on Monday 12/12 at 11:00 a.m. to continue working on section 6 and review a minor change for first reading to 3.7.5
- Special Education Subcommittee: They have been busy over past month. Several meetings and discussions – next scheduled SEPAC Meeting will be on 12/14/16.
- Long-Range Planning Subcommittee: Will be joined by the full committee this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. to hear a presentation on school facilities and maintenance procedures and the asset inventory.
- Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee: There will be a meeting on Tuesday 12/6/16 at 1:00 p.m.
- Community Outreach Subcommittee: There will be a working session meeting on 1/3/16 at 11:00 a.m. to work on the HPS website.
- PRS Principal Search – Chair Liza O’Reilly reported that Kay Praschma and Ed Schreier will represent the school committee on the search committee for the PRS Principal.

10. Adjournment.

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

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko