

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

June 19, 2017

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order by School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly at 7:31 p.m.

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, Kerry Ni, Ted Hirsch, Beth Koyce

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 June 12, 2017.

3. Questions and Comments. None

4. Superintendent's Report.

- Dr. Galo congratulated the Hingham High School Boys Lacrosse team on their Division II state championship. The Committee, too, offered their congratulations.
- Dr. Galo updated the Committee on the status of the Athletic Director search and the process to be used for identifying candidates for interviews. School Committee Chair, Liza O'Reilly, noted that Aylene Calnan and Carlos DaSilva will be the School Committee representatives on the search committee.
- Dr. Galo then updated the Committee relative to the sale of Chromebooks to rising Hingham High School Freshmen at a price set at \$42.50, and the "HHS Info for Incoming Freshmen" that is posted on the HMS website. The committee discussed the possibility of posting that information on the HHS site as well. Dr. Galo also noted that the online testing went very well this spring and no significant challenges were noted. The HPS administration has received notice that the results from the spring 2017 testing will be less comprehensive and will arrive later than in past years.
- Dr. LaBillois updated the Committee on a number of initiatives including a revised professional development program, a new professional development management system, the Special Education Continuous Improvement Task Force, the Hingham Tiered Systems of Support: Social-Emotional Task Force, and the roll-out of Computer Science to all elementary students beginning in the fall. Discussion ensued relative to the best way to communicate these updates to the community, and the decision to wait until the opening of school was reached.
- The 2017-2018 Calendar has been finalized with the early-release / late-start dates and times, and due to the changes in professional development some of those times will vary from the pattern of recent years. The Committee suggested that that information be given to families as soon as possible for planning purposes.
- The Committee asked about the progress of the High School Assistant Principal search, and Dr. Galo reported that interviews are in progress.

5. Communications

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: None

5.2 Other Communications: Dr. Galo reminded the Committee about the SEPAC parent survey and encouraged all in the community to complete it. Kay Praschma noted that the email sent out

about the School Committee Community Forum Meetings may have confused some as it was from the School Committee, but was sent out by the Superintendent. Discussion ensued relative to the best way to communicate information from the School Committee to the community.

6. New Business

- 6.1 School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly noted that both State Representatives James Murphy and Joan Meschino were unable to attend due to urgent matters. She asked the Committee to send her questions they may have for the state representatives. Ms. O'Reilly stated that she will reach out to reschedule their attendance at a future meeting. Ed Schreier voiced a question about the status of the security grant funding from last year, and Ms. O'Reilly said that she would be interested in learning more about the status of the paid family leave issue that has come before the legislature.
- 6.2 The Committee received and discussed recommended changes to the building use and transportation fee schedules. Director of Business and Support Services, John Ferris, reviewed the recommend revisions to the schedules. Discussion ensued and the Committee will further review the recommendations ahead of the July 17 scheduled vote on the revisions.
- 6.3 The Committee heard an update on the FY17 budget closeout. Director of Business and Support Services, John Ferris, noted that the district currently has approximately \$98,000 left in the FY17 Operating Budget. Relative to the Capital budget, Mr. Ferris noted \$69,000 left.
- 6.4 The Committee discussed proposed end of year expenditures. School Committee Chair, Liza O'Reilly, opened the discussion relative to end of year expenditures. Discussion ensued. Edward Schreier recommended transferring funds into the Special Education Reserve Fund, subject to fund availability.

On a motion by Edward Schreier and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To appropriate \$50,000 of the amount left in the FY17 operating budget to the Special Education Reserve Fund.

Discussion ensued relative to end of year expenditures in the Capital budget. Discussion included a truck for Facilities and Procurement Manager Doug Foley, repairs to the high school tennis courts, ADA-compliance repairs to the school playgrounds and Mr. Ferris recommended allocating up to \$15,000 to put toward an ongoing security initiative.

On a motion by Edward Schreier and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To appropriate \$15,000 of the amount left in the FY17 capital budget for use for security purposes to enhance surveillance and multi-hazard planning and other security initiatives that may come about as a result of the work of the current task force.

- 6.5 To hear an update on the 2017 Building Committee appointment process. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly noted that she and Vice-Chair Aylene Calnan have been attending the interviews of individuals who have applied to be a part of the Foster School Building Committee. Ms. O'Reilly said that she will write up her notes and share them with the Committee. She proposed a meeting on Jun 28, 2017 to have a working session regarding the applications, with a final vote to come before the Committee at the July 17, 2017 meeting. The Town Moderator is scheduled to make his two appointments on July 11 and the Selectmen to make their two on July 25. The Chair of the School Building Committee will be determined jointly once the committee is established.

7. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Kay Prachma presented the committee and administration with a 1973 brochure for the proposed Foster School Building at the time. She also asked about the timing of upcoming meetings and the role of the School Committee in the NEASC visit to the high school in the fall. Dr. Galo explained the process and said that the Committee will receive the report submitted to NEASC in advance of their visit.

8. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Community Outreach Subcommittee: Two community forums were held, one on the evening of June 12 and on the morning of June 19. The meetings drew a good representation of the community, and both the dialogue and feedback was productive. The information will be used in many different ways. More will be discussed at the next meeting of the subcommittee meeting, which was rescheduled for June 29.

Long-Range Planning: No report.

Special Education: There is a meeting planned for June 27, at which Dr. Galo will present an update on the Walker Report. Chair Liza O'Reilly noted that the subcommittee will engage in some long-range budget planning relative to Special Education and reported on a productive meeting with the SEPAC Board to discuss a communication plan between the SEPAC Board, School Committee, and Administration.

Salary & Negotiations: There is a meeting scheduled on June 18 for a bargaining session with the HEA and bargaining with the other unions will begin soon.

Policy: The subcommittee is currently working on duties of the School Committee in the policy manual. Cynthia Galko outlined the subcommittee's decision not to recommend a revision of the policy on EpiPens, and there was some discussion relative to the topic. A proactive review of the Student Activity Accounts has been contracted through the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officers (MASBO) in order to inform the committee on any necessary changes to current policies. The next Policy subcommittee meeting is scheduled for June 23.

School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly requested that each subcommittee make a list of their goals for the year. Those goals will inform the overall goals of the School Committee.

9. Adjournment

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

It was

Voted: To adjourn the School Committee meeting at 10:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko