

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

October 10, 2017 7:30 PM

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: Cathleen Savery, Katherine Forbes, Heather Rodriguez, June MK Gustafson, Tony Keady, Becky Case, Rick Swanson, Linda Hill, Christina O'Connor, Cynthia Barrett, Carol M Falvey, Mike Raso, Aisha Oppong, Ted Hirsch, Katie Roberts, Marilyn Noonan, Timothy M O'Neill, Ray Estes.

2. Approval of Minutes.

School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly announced that the Executive Session minutes from September 9 and September 11 would be approved in the Executive Session later that evening.

2.1 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Michelle Ayer,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Planning Session held on September 9, 2017.

2.3 On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Michelle Ayer,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting held on September 11, 2017.

3. Questions and Comments. None

4. Superintendent's Report.

Dr. Galo shared the good news that the district has realized approximately \$16,000 dollars in electrical costs savings. Dr. Galo also shared and reviewed the HPS Enrollment report as of October 1 2017. Dr. Galo noted that this is an important report as the October 1 enrollment report is the one used for district comparisons.

5. Communications

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: Dr. Galo provided two illustrative examples of the curriculum work underway in the district – one example from math and one from science. Dr. Galo also shared Dr. LaBillois' "Dear Community" letter outlining the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan, as well as the September/October Facilities Report. The Transition Room reports from both Hingham Middle School and Hingham High School were also shared with the Committee.

5.2 Student Communications: School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly noted that the HHS Student

Council Representative Emma Quilty was unable to attend due to a soccer game.

5.3 Other Communications: None.

6. Unfinished Business

6.1 The Committee discussed the proposed Budget Calendar for FY'19.

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

Voted: To approve the Budget Calendar for FY'19 as a working draft.

6.2 The Committee discusses the proposed Budget Guiding Principles for FY19. Dr. Galo noted that there have not been many changes since the last iteration of the principles. Following brief discussion, it was decided that the specific reference to the MA Department of Public Health would stay in the document.

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

Voted: To approve the Budget Guiding Principles for FY'19.

7. New Business

7.1 The Committee discussed authorization of the Foster School Building Committee to expend up to \$30,000 from the Master Plan capital appropriation of \$45,000 for the purpose of evaluating the suitability of the site located at 55 Downer Ave for a project that may involve a new building or a remodel/renovation of the existing school. Linda Hill, Chair of the Foster School Building Committee (FSBC), and Ray Estes, Vice Chair, were in attendance and provided the Committee with a brief review of the steps taken to date relative to the SOI submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Chair Linda Hill reviewed the first meetings of the FSBC and updated the Committee on a walk-through of Foster School attended by the FSBC, Hingham's State Senator, State Representative, and the Chair of the Massachusetts School Building Authority. It is anticipated that the district should hear sometime in December if the SOI has been accepted. Vice Chair Ray Estes then provided background information on the physical site and reviewed the FSBC's proposal to conduct some preliminary analysis of the land on the Foster School site. The FSBC has coordinated with Foster School Principal Dr. Stellar to conduct the work on November 1, 2017 as the students will be dismissed on an early release schedule.

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

It was

Voted: To approve the Foster School Building Committee to expend up to \$30,000 from the Master Plan capital appropriation of \$45,000 for the purpose of evaluating the suitability of the site located at 55 Downer Avenue.

7.2 The Committee received the East School Improvement Plan for 2017-2018 and an update of the 2016-2017 plan progress. East School Principal, Mr. Anthony Keady, was present and reviewed the East School Improvement Goals for the 2016-2017 school year. During the last school year, East School focused on literacy, mathematics, building a home-school

connection, and on supplemental enrichment for the students of East School. Mr. Keady then reviewed the proposed East School Improvement Goals for 2017-2018, to be focused on a close analysis of student performance on MCAS relative to literacy and mathematics performance, a continued focus on an improved partnership between home and school, as well as the East School Vertical Communities initiative.

- 7.3 The Committee received the GPA Update Report and HTSS Survey Information and Schedule. Heather Rodriguez, Director of School Counseling, was in attendance to discuss the status of the HHS GPA Committee. Director Rodriguez opened by introducing the members of the HHS GPA Committee in attendance. The presentation began with a review of the procedures used to examine HHS's GPA and noted that the official change will take effect with the HHS Class of 2019. It was noted that the HHS GPA Committee doesn't feel that they have enough information to make any broad determinations relative to the impact the change has made on the college acceptance rates of the HHS Class of 2017. Director Rodriguez then addressed the issue of merit scholarship funds and some of the challenges of trying to track and monitor awards provided to our graduates. Director Rodriguez, following a brief question and answer period, thanked members of the HHS GPA Committee for their hard work and thanked the School Committee for their support of this work.

Director Rodriguez then provided the Committee an update of the work of the Hingham Tiered Systems of Support: Social-Emotional Task Force. The update began with a brief review of events leading to the group's formation, how the group was formed, and a review of those constituent groups represented on the group. A group of community members have been trained as "Parent Ambassadors" to support the initiative and communication relative to the initiative in the community. The universal, confidential surveying of students in grades 4-12, parents of all students grades K-12, and teaching faculty from all 6 schools will begin in November. Parent communication and further information on the initiative will be sent on Monday, October 23, 2017.

- 7.4 The Committee received an end of cycle update of the Superintendent's 2016-2017 Goals. Dr. Galo provided an overview of the updates to her goals since the mid-year review several months ago. Dr. Galo reviewed progress made on all goals. Following this presentation, School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly reviewed the process to be used for the Superintendent's Evaluation and reminded the Committee to send her their individual evaluation by October 23, which will be compiled to be voted on. Dr. Galo noted that the survey of people who report to her was not yet complete, but that the information would be made available as soon as possible.
- 7.5 The Committee received information about KnowledgeLink Exchange Program. Dr. Galo reviewed the request of Director of Foreign Languages Erica Pollard to participate in the KnowledgeLink Exchange Program, which is a short-term exchange program with students from China. HHS Principal Mr. Richard Swanson was in attendance and explained that the organization came to their attention through the positive experience that surrounding districts have had with them. Following a brief discussion, it was noted that students from China would stay with local host families for a week and would shadow students in school.
- 7.6 The Committee discussed a proposal from the Director of Business and Support Services, John Ferris, to add an additional bus to the HPS fleet to be acquired via a three-year lease

with Dattco that specifies a used bus at a cost of approximately \$14,000 per year. Director of Business and Support Services Mr. John Ferris provided an overview and rationale for the leasing of the additional bus versus a continued contract with First Student Transportation. Following brief discussion, a motion was made.

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

It was

Voted: To add an additional bus to the HPS fleet to be acquired via a three-year lease with Dattco that specifies a used bus at a cost of approximately \$14,000 per year.

7.7 The Committee reviewed the homeschool application for Lavinia (grade 5), Christian (grade 3), and Eloise (grade 1) Claydon for the 2017-2018 school year.

On a motion by Aylene Calnan and seconded by Michelle Ayer,

It was

Voted: To approve the homeschool application for Lavinia (grade 5), Christian (grade 3), and Eloise (grade 1) Claydon for the 2017-2018 school year.

7.8 The Committee received notification of the appointment of Stephen Henderson, HMS paraeducator, effective September 5, 2017.

8. Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting. None.

9. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Policy: The subcommittee met today and reviewed Section 4 (Financial Management) of the School Committee Policy Manual and discussed a gift from the class of 2017. The next meeting will be held on 10/30/17.

Long-Range Planning: The subcommittee, slated to meet next week, will be examining various projects and requests. They will study these carefully and will be report back to the School Committee at a future meeting.

Community Outreach: The next meeting is scheduled for 10/26/17 at 11:15. The Committee was reminded of the invitation to attend this meeting with STACKR, a website and social media organization.

Salary & Negotiations: The Committee will be updated on progress made with two bargaining units during Executive Session.

Special Education: The subcommittee met on 9/28/17 to follow-up on the HMS Special Education Evaluation Plan. The Subcommittee received an update that 5 individuals/organizations have submitted an Intent to Quote on the project. The subcommittee also reviewed the Collaborative Work Plan and will be making some tweaks to make it more user friendly. Tomorrow night is the annual rights and responsibilities presentation that will be held in Town Hall, second floor, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly provided an update of discussions with the Advisory Committee.

Carlos Da Silva thanked Christina O'Connor and her student, Dylan Davis, for their work on the Fallen Heroes Project. Ms. O'Connor noted that there will be a presentation about their trip to Normandy on November 1, 2017 at 7:00PM at the Hingham Public Library, sponsored by the Hingham Veterans Council.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Cynthia Galko,

It was

Voted: To adjourn to Executive Session at 10:00 p.m., not to return to regular session.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Cynthia Galko