

## MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

All Town PTO Forum  
January 31, 2018 7:00 PM  
HINGHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

### To Attend the All Town PTO Parent Forum

The meeting/forum began at 7:15pm with a welcome by Josh Ross, Co-President of the HMS PTO, who introduced the Moderator, Panel Members and other PTO leaders present.

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

Forum Moderator: Jim Taylor

Forum Panel Members:

Superintendent Dr. Dorothy Galo  
Assistant Superintendent Dr. James LaBillois  
Hingham High School Principal Richard Swanson  
Hingham Middle School Principal Derek Smith  
East School Principal Anthony Keady  
Foster School Principal Debbie Stellar  
Plymouth River School Principal Melissa Smith  
South School Principal Mary Eastwood  
Hingham School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly

Mr. Taylor had reviewed the questions submitted prior to the event and presented ones representative of those to the panel. Members of the panel answered as appropriate. Questions were presented with regard to technology, online portals, teacher training, the new coding initiative, cell phone use policy, recognition of student achievement, student class placement, homework and testing policies, starting times, full-day kindergarten, succession planning, curriculum, co-teaching, foreign languages, civics education, health education, life skills/study skills, special education, school/district culture, budgets and spending.

With regard to budgets and spending, Mr. Taylor presented a brief overview of the Town budget process as well as some historical information. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly gave an overview of the school budget process and Board of Selectmen Chairperson Mary Power (audience member) added additional Town budget, tax and demographic information.

After approximately two hours of prepared questions Mr. Taylor requested questions from the audience. There were none. Mr. Taylor thanked the panel members and the PTOs for organizing the event.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Galko

Documents Included in Meeting Packet  
Meeting Agenda

*Note: The event was recorded by Harbor Media and can be viewed at [harbormedia.org](http://harbormedia.org)*