

**MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**March 12, 2018 7:30 PM**  
**SCHOOL DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM**

**1. Call to order.**

The meeting was called to order by School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly at 7:32 p.m.

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

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

Visitors Present: Dan Coughlin, Donna Smallwood, George Danis, Tony Keady, Aisha Oppong, Libby Lewiecki, Raymond Estes

**2. Approval of Minutes.** None

**3. Questions and Comments.** None.

**4. Superintendent's Report.**

Dr. Galo commented on the great success of our HHS student athletes in the winter season. Hockey is playing now, our boys basketball program has had the best season in program history, and our girls won the Alpine ski championships. She noted that the March enrollment report is enclosed and noted a net increase of 4 students, all enrolled in PK, from last month's report. Dr. Galo noted that enclosed in the packet is also notice of an upcoming MASC session focused on School Resource Officers, and an upcoming Substitute Teacher Workshop on March 20.

Dr. Galo updated the Committee on the status of the two ongoing administrative searches: Foster School Principal and Director of Student Services. Three finalists were announced for the Foster School Principal position and Dr. LaBillois noted that the Committee has received the announcement and the schedule for the site visit to be held at Foster School on March 27, 2018. Dr. Galo further noted that the initial credential review process has been completed for the Director of Student Services applicants and that seven applicants have been extended invitations to come and meet with the interview team. Screening interviews have been scheduled for March 19, March 20, and March 22, 2018.

**5. Communications**

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: None

5.2 Student Communications: None

5.3 Other Communications: School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly noted that an email addressed to the School Committee was received and was a request from another School Committee to join-in on a resolution asking the President for stricter restrictions on firearms. The Committee discussed the email and the consensus was to table further discussion until all Committee members were present. Further, Liza O'Reilly noted that an email was received inviting the Committee to a welcome reception for the Commonwealth's new METCO Director. The event is scheduled for April 12, 2018 from 6-8 p.m.

**6. New Business**

6.1 The Committee received a MCAS 2.0 Assessment Planning update for Spring 2018. Dr. LaBillois noted that the district is ready for the online administration of the next-generation MCAS exams this spring in ELA and Math at grades 3-8, and readiness for all MCAS exams in Science, Technology, and Engineering in grade 10. Dr. LaBillois shared a presentation provided by the Assessment Office at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) outlining the multi-year plan to transition

the competency determination for high school graduation to the next-generation assessments that will first be administered next year. The current grade 7 students would be the first cohort to have to meet this new standard that is in the process of being developed.

Dr. LaBillois, responding to a question from the Committee, noted that he will provide an update relative to the state's plans for the proposed Accountability System.

#### 6.2 The Committee discussed the FY'19 Operating Budget Status

- 1) School Committee, Board of Selectmen, Advisory Committee votes
- 2) Current dollar gap between School Committee 2/26/18 vote and Advisory Committee 3/6/18 vote
- 3) Changes to proposed budget that have occurred since 2/26/18
- 4) Administrator recommendations for further budget reductions
- 5) School Committee discussion of FY'19 operating budget priorities

Dr. Galo reviewed the series of votes that have taken place by various board and committees over the past several weeks. Dr. Galo then provided an overview of the adjustments made to the proposed budget, based on the vote taken by the Advisory Board (constituting a 4.51% increase over FY18).

Dr. Galo then reviewed the FY'19 budget worksheet that outlined the initial proposal, then discussed the adjustments made to the proposal and, even after these adjustments, noted a shortfall of \$133,461. This shortfall, she noted, could be addressed by personnel adjustments and changes in the coming weeks.

The Committee then discussed the information provided by Dr. Galo and discussed priorities and options to make adjustments to the proposed budget.

A final vote on the budget will be held at the next Committee meeting.

#### 6.3 The Committee heard an update on the planned School Enrollment and Projection process. Director of Business and Support Services John Ferris noted that the Foster School Building Committee has been working with his office on the review of three quotes to conduct an enrollment study. Director Ferris noted that the quotes were reviewed and references have been checked. The Foster School Building Committee has selected the New England School Development Council (NESDEC) and will be initiating discussions with them to get the process underway. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly suggested that the Long Range Plan done by the Town Planning Board might be helpful in the endeavor.

#### 6.4 The Committee discussed the exploration of possible changes in school-related fees including athletic and other parent paid user fees. School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly discussed her proposal to move forward with a School Committee directed study of fees within Hingham Public Schools. She noted that this issue arose during the budget season and that it was time to begin to look at this as a topic for review. She then conceptualized the work in two areas of focus: athletic fees and other fees. She suggested the Committee begin by identifying the philosophy behind each fee and then work to survey other communities and begin the process of data collection.

Discussion ensued. The Committee consensus was to begin with a study of high school fees (athletic and others), before conducting the study district-wide. Michelle Ayer will take the lead on this and will begin preliminary discussions with HHS administration and will report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Community member Ray Estes questioned the Committee's intent with the exercise and questioned the extent to which this analysis should be done by the Committee, rather than the administration. He further asked for clarification relative to the purpose of the study.

School Committee Chair Liza O'Reilly explained that the topic emerged during the budget process and the Committee appreciated his feedback, and would be continuing with the plan, as outlined.

- 6.5 The Committee received notification of the retirements of Charlotte Hunt, teacher at Foster; Denise Kelley, special education teacher at East; Janet Whitney, science teacher at HHS; Deborah Rathnam, math teacher at HMS; Mary Ann Cushing, school psychologist at PRS, and Robert Stella, custodian at HPS, all effective during the summer of 2018.
- 6.6 The Committee received notification of the resignations of Heather Alden, teacher at Foster; Mallory Wuori, teacher at PRS; Anna Bernal, teacher at PRS; and Lori Carey, teacher at East, effective June 30, 2018.
- 6.7 The Committee received notification of the full year FY'19 leaves of absence of Holly Goggin, English teacher at HHS and Jessica Sullivan, teacher at East.

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

**8. Subcommittee and Project Reports**

Policy: A meeting was held last week where they discussed the proposed Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) policy. Upcoming meeting will be held on 3/21/18

Special Education: Liza O'Reilly will be attending the SEPAC meeting scheduled for Wednesday evening.

Long-Range Planning: It was reported that the window netting is up in the gymnasium at HHS.

Salary and Negotiations: Is supposed to meet tomorrow – new date to be proposed due to snow day; working on search firm outreach.

Community Outreach: Will be meeting this Wednesday at 9 am

Carlos Da Silva expressed thanks to the responsiveness of Hingham's elected state officials relative to school finance.

The Committee thanked the ACES Subcommittee for their work and advocacy on the district's budget.

**9. Adjournment**


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

It was

Voted: To adjourn the School Committee meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Cynthia Galko

Documents Included in Meeting Packet

3-12-18 Agenda.pdf 


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3-12-18 Annotated Agenda.pdf 

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Item 4 Foster Principal Search.pdf 

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Item 4 March Enrollment.pdf 


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Item 4 MASC Workshop-School Resource Officer.pdf 

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Item 4 Student Services Director Search.pdf 


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Item 4 Substitute Meeting.pdf 

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Item 5.3 Parkland email.pdf 


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Item 6.1 Next-Gen. MCAS HS Testing 3-7-18.pdf 


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Item 6.2 (1) Budget Votes.pdf 

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Item 6.2 Updated Forecast based on Ad Com Budget Votes.pdf 

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Item 6.3 School Enrollment Projection Proposal Comparison.pdf 

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