# MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## **March 26, 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 7:31 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

Visitors Present: Kerry Ni, Andrew Nyamekye, Aisha Oppong, George Danis, Emma Quilty, Kevin Quilty, Rick Swanson, Donna Smallwood, Katie Gaughen, June MK Gustafson, Dan Coughlin

**2.** **Approval of Minutes**.

2.1 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 February 26, 2018.

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 March 12, 2018.

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

**4. Superintendent’s Report**.

Dr. Galo shared the good news that HHS junior, Zach Bradshaw, has been awarded a summer biotechnology internship with the Bryce Thompson Institute at Cornell University. Dr. LaBillois informed the Committee that Hingham Public Schools has been selected as one of 11 districts across the Commonwealth to be part of the first cohort of the PACE Project. The PACE project is the joint effort of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) and MASSCAN and will focus on our implementation of the 2016 Digital Literacy and Computer Science Curriculum Frameworks.

Dr. Galo updated the Committee on the status of the Kindergarten enrollment process. While enrollment is ongoing, current numbers indicate that the additional kindergarten teacher requested as part of FY’19 budget is not necessary. We will continue to monitor the status of kindergarten enrollment.

Dr. Galo updated the Committee about the Substitute Teacher forum that was held last week. Forty individuals were in attendance and most in attendance were noted to pick up an application. Attendees heard an overview of the process to apply to be a substitute teacher and had an opportunity to ask questions.

Dr. Galo shared a copy of the Town Warrant budget comment that was submitted to the town. Further, Dr. Galo reminded the Committee about the upcoming SNAP Pizza Palooza this Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Hingham High School.

**5.** **Communications**

5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: Dr. Galo notified the Committee of a $5,000 gift by Rabbi Joseph’s family intended to provide teacher training, such as by funding teacher trips to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. Others interested in donating may donate to the fund by sending a check (noting the Rabbi Joseph Holocaust Studies Fund) to HPS c/o John Ferris.

5.2 Student Communications: Emma Quilty informed the Committee about the school walkout held on March 21 and read a poem that was read during the walkout.

5.3 Other Communications: School Committee Chair Liza O’Reilly reviewed an email received by a member of the Dover School Committee requesting that the Committee sign on to a letter to be sent to President Trump. Discussion ensued and the Committee agreed that Michelle Ayer, Carlos Da Silva, and Ed Schreier would collaborate on a draft. The Committee will discuss this draft at the next meeting.

**6. New Business**

6.1 The Committee received a report on the METCO program. Andrew Nyamekye, Hingham METCO Director, delivered a presentation that began with a review of Hingham METCO fast-facts. Director Nyamekye then reviewed METCO enrollment, program mission and engagement strategies, the METCO budget, transportation, academic, social, and emotional services and a long-term plan for increasing enrollment in the program by 2021. Questions and answers ensued, and Mr. Nyamekye informed the Committee that METCO will be sponsoring a showing of the film “On the Line” on Friday, April 27 at 6pm, location TDB. He also noted the METCO “Day on the Hill” on March 15 and issued an open invitation to the Friday METCO “Chew and Chat” luncheons at HHS. The Committee thanked Mr. Nyamekye for the presentation and commended him on a successful first several years in the role.

6.2 The Committee heard an update on the NEASC accreditation visit to Hingham High School. Hingham High School Principal, Rick Swanson, reported that he has been informed that Hingham High School has successfully navigated the reaccreditation process and has earned accreditation for the next 10-year period. They are waiting on a final report to be released to the district once formal notice of the accreditation vote has been received. It was noted that, on the draft report, commendations vastly outnumbered recommendations.

* 1. The Committee discussed the FY’19 Operating Budget. Dr. Galo reviewed the budget process to date and, given the vote of the Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectmen, asked the Committee to entertain a new vote which aligns the Committee’s budget with the numbers voted by the Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

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

It was

Voted: To approve a FY’19 Operating Budget of $52,006,697

The Committee then discussed and reached consensus about possible items to incorporate into the budget, if budget savings are realized. Discussions addressed a human resources position, secondary FTEs, and central office clerical support. There will be an update during the first meeting in May.

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

It was

Voted: To authorize the budget to include the $887,848 of items listed under the revised kept amount column on the budget worksheet presented and further, should additional funds become available, to authorize the HPS Administration to come back to School Committee with additional information and seek another vote on priorities to include in the budget at that juncture.

* 1. The Committee heard a report on the proposed MA Next Generation Accountability System. Dr. LaBillois provided the Committee with an overview presentation of the newly revised state accountability framework, and the timeline for implementation. Questions and answers ensued throughout. Dr. LaBillois noted that more information would be presented in the fall, once the district has received its accountability ratings.

6.5 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of high school students to Galapagos Islands, Ecuador on April 13 to 19, 2019.

6.6 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of high school students to New York City on April 6 to 8, 2018.

6.7 The Committee received notification of the appointments of Food Service technicians Shelby Valiyev at Foster School, effective March 12, 2018; Bus Drivers Suzanne Tocchio and Laurie St. Pierre, effective February 28, 2018; Bus Monitor Joyce Kimball, effective February 28, 2018 and Van Driver Dermot Walsh, effective February 12, 2018.

6.8 The Committee received notification of the retirement of William Kannaly, Custodian at Foster School, effective March 15, 2018.

**7**. **Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting**.

The Committee discussed changing the date of the next meeting from April 10 to April 9. The committee agreed that the meeting would be changed and would be held on Monday, April 9, 2018.

**8**. **Subcommittee and Project Reports**

Policy: At the last meeting the subcommittee discussed SBIRT Opioid screening policy. They are hoping to have a draft at the next meeting.

Long-Range Planning: Will schedule a meeting soon, to be announced.

Special Education: The subcommittee met this evening, approved minutes and got an update on the Middle School evaluation.

Community Outreach: The survey is complete and ready to go live for submissions. Discussion ensued regarding the various avenues for announcing and distributing the survey link.

Salary and Negotiations: Meeting to be announced

Carlos Da Silva expressed thanks to the responsiveness of Hingham’s elected state officials relative to school finance and noted the Day on the Hill on April 25. The Committee thanked the ACES Subcommittee members for their work and advocacy on the district’s budget.

**9.** **Adjournment**

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

It was

Voted: To adjourn to Executive Session at 10:45 p.m., not to return to regular session for the purpose of updating the Committee members on security measures.

Michelle Ayer - yea

Aylene Calnan - yea

Carlos Da Silva - yea

Cynthia Galko - yea

Liza O’Reilly - yea

Kay Praschma - yea

Ed Schreier - yea

Respectfully Submitted by:

Cynthia Galko

Documents Included in Meeting Packet

