

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE
September 10, 2018 at 7:00PM
School Committee Conference Room

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ayer at 7.00 p.m.

Members Present: Michelle Ayer, Libby Lewiecki, Kerry Ni, Liza O'Reilly, Kay Praschma, and Ed Schreier.

Central Office Present: Dorothy Galo, James LaBillois, John Ferris and Suzanne Vinnos.

Visitors Present: Aisha Oppong, June Gustafson, George Danis, Mary Power.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the June 18, 2018 School Committee Meeting with the following changes: In item 4, paragraph 4, insert Jamie Kenney as the parent who read a statement; and change "district" to "Town" in Item 9.

2.2 School Committee Minutes of July 23, 2018. Liza O'Reilly made a motion to approve which was seconded by Kerry Ni. Discussion ensued and Kerry Ni noted that Carlos DaSilva asked a question about the SOI submitted to the MSBA. The motion was withdrawn so further research could be done.

2.3 On a motion by Kay Praschma and seconded by Michelle Ayer,

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting held on March 19, 2018.

3. Questions and Comments None

4. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Galo shared that the start of school went smoothly. The attendance was good, there were no transportation issues on day one, and food service went smoothly. A few parents had concerns with the high temperatures in the classrooms at Foster School.

Dr. Galo shared that enrollment at HHS is flat (up 1 from last year), HMS is down 52 students overall, and elementary enrollment is down by 7 children, for an overall total enrollment down by 58 children when comparing June 2018 to September 10, 2018.

The Kindergarten Entrance Age Report is being updated and will be shared on the website later this week. There are currently 285 K students enrolled at the four schools.

Hiring is ongoing, with one teacher position to cover for a leave of absence starting in November at South School yet to fill. The newly created Special Education Building Liaison positions are being filled as are the new elementary math tutors. Paraeducators are still being hired in a few cases.

The packet contains a facilities report from Doug Foley, showing completed August projects and planned September projects.

5. Communications

- 5.1 Superintendent Communications: Dr. Galo mentioned that Katie Roberts, Science Department Director has outdated curriculum materials that she would like to be approved a surplus. There were parent concerns about the high temperatures in some of the classrooms at Foster School.
- 5.2 Student Communications: None.
- 5.3 Other Communications: None.

6. New Business

- 6.1 The Committee heard a presentation by Selectman Mary Power titled “Financial Positions and Long Term Planning.” The Board of Selectmen still have a lot of questions to answer but hope that this information will be useful for the School Committee before they schedule Planning Meeting. Ms. Power explained that the analysis shown relates only to projects that are funded by Hingham taxpayers, the water company purchase will not impact this. The slides included Background: financial indicators (fund balance in millions, debt service as % of Total Annual Expenditures, pension liability (65.39% funded) , OPED liability (15.72% funded), Hingham Demographics, Annual Household income (50% over 100K, 50% under 100K) and Households by Age. The FY18 average assessed home value and property taxes (\$795,667 average assessed home value with an average property tax bill of \$9,875) increased by 2.5% per year or an average of \$255 per year. The current outstanding debt is \$68 million. There are two types of debt – excluded and non-excluded. Non-excluded is in the budget, excluded debt is outside of the budget. All borrowing requires 2/3 votes at Town Meeting. Ms. Power then reviewed current excluded and non-excluded debt. She then reviewed Town capital projects currently under consideration and the concept for financing new capital projects for both excluded (replace expiring debt which is tax payer neutral but still requires Town Meeting approval and ballot vote) and non-excluded debt (“create capacity”). She created a model to determine how much borrowing capacity can be created. A graph was shown of cumulative debt capacity vs. project costs. Available capacity is significantly less than the cost of projects under consideration. Borrowing authorization in excess of capacity will result in an additional tax increase. Steps taken by the town include exploring additional targeted tax relief options, identifying town assets that could defray the costs, excess unrestricted fund balance, restricted fund balance that could be applied (e.g., Hersey House proceeds), or sale of Town assets. The Town is pursuing grant and other funding opportunities. The Board of Selectmen want to live within the operating budget with no override. In summary, all Hingham Tax Payers pay for Capital projects and debt is not free money.

Questions or comments: Dr. Galo asked what is happening with the library project and its timing. Ms. Power stated that in July the State library commissioners awarded a \$9 million grant which is contingent on the town coming up with funding within 6 months. Library trustees voted unanimously for an extension beyond April 30th. Where does the funding come from for the library? It comes from the state every 5-6 years. It is \$9 million dollars. This is fixed dollars, not a percent.

- 6.2 The Committee reviewed the proposed School Committee Special Reports Calendar for 2018-2019. Liza O’Reilly stated that the Superintendent finalists will be announced at the December 3, 2018 meeting. Additional meetings will be scheduled in December for public interviews. On January 7 or 22, 2019, there will be a discussion of final candidates and then a vote. Superintendent search steps are on a different timeline.
- 6.3 The Committee received the Pre-K-5 curriculum flyers for the 2018-2019 school year. Dr. LaBillois commented on the changes since 2017-2018.
- 6.4 The Committee reviewed plans for the September 15, 2018 School Committee Planning Meeting. The meeting is to begin with coffee at 8:00 and will end at 11:30. The agenda will include budget items, philosophy on fees, subcommittee goals for the year, an update on the five-year plan, and an update on the superintendent search.

6.5 The Committee considered the home school application of Annelise Ling (Grade 1) for 2018-2019.

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Kay Praschma,

It was

Voted: To approve the homeschooling of Annelise Ling, Grade 1, for the 2018-2109 school year.

6.6 The Committee considered the home school application of Emmet Doran (Grade 1) for 2018-2019

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Kay Praschma,

It was

Voted: To approve the homeschooling of Emmet Doran, Grade 1, for the 2018-2019 school year.

6.7 The Committee received notification of the appointments of the following teachers, all effective August 27, 2018: Rachel Petit, Special Education and Regular Education at East School; Amy Miller, Special Education at Foster School; Molly Baggott and Jamie Cataldo, Social Studies at Hingham High School; Stephanie Whalen-McCosker, Special Education at Plymouth River School; and Megan Whoriskey, Classroom Teacher at South School.

6.8 To Committee received notification of the following appointments effective August 29, 2018:

- Maryellen Holler, Elementary Substitute Caller
- Food Service Technicians Bobbi-Jo Hamilton at Foster; Sherilyn Biagini, Kelly Cusick, and Joyce License at HHS; and Tammy Nyman and Coralys Perez at PRS.
- Food Service Assistant Director Annabelle Ho.
- Kids in Action Assistant Director Jacquelyn Sansone and Teacher Annemarie Castro.
- Paraeducators: East School: Julia Ferrante, Shannon Hayward, Alexis MacLeod, and Beth Weiner. Foster School: Karly Atturio, Christine Gendron, Karen Kazolias, and Cindy Shea. Hingham High School: Dorian Brady, ElizaBeth Cloutier, Donald Edwards, Melissa Gaffney, Caroljo Killeen, Michael LaBelle, Maureen McCarthy-Dunn, Jennifer Murphy, Amanda Ross, and Marlee Stanley. Hingham Middle School: Tracy Coughlin, Jennie Donahue, Bridget Eason, Megan Lynch, Meaghan Morrissey, and Jillian O'Leary. Plymouth River School: Alyssa Baldwin, Sarah Ellis, and Stephanie Hennessy. South School: Kirstyn Tanous and Tara Toomey-Barry.
- Title I Math Tutors Allison Ford at HMS and Letitia Riel at PRS.

6.9 The Committee received notification of advancements on the salary scale on September 1, 2018 of Maura Albrecht to D Step 8, Zachary Bagan to B15 Step 3, Joann Bellis to M15 Step 6, Brianne Elinoff to B15 Step 4, Nicole Finneran to M Step 5, Corrina Ford to M60 Step 13, Tim Galvin to B15 Step 5, Audrey Healey to M60 Step 13, Elizabeth Moore to M60 Step 5, Brian Pattison to M60 Step 13, Shawna Reames to M15 Step 9, Alexandra Ricciuti to M Step 5, Magdalena Ross to M15 Step 4, Boris Samarov to M30 Step 9, Brad Santarpia to M15 Step 7, Carrie Beth Sorokoff to M60 Step 13, Chelsea Vangel to M Step 4, and Sarah Vogel to M15 Step 5.

6.10 The Committee received notification of the resignations of Dorothy Morin, Bus Driver; Daria Rindone, Kids in Action Teacher; Mary Courtney Whamond, Paraeducator at PRS; and Katherine Shaughnessy, Paraeducator at Foster School.

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

Dr. Galo noted that Hingham Public Schools received \$896,000 in Kindergarten tuition.

The Committee discussed a memo received from Katie Roberts on September 7, 2018, requesting that science textbooks be declared as surplus.

On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Ed Schreier,

It was

Voted: To declare surplus approximately 300 science texts for Grade 5 from the publisher Harcourt and direct the Director of Business and Support Services to dispose of the texts via donation at no cost or to otherwise dispose of such texts at the least cost.

8. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Policy: Kay Praschma requested that members advise her of their availability for an upcoming meeting.

Special Education: There will be a meeting at 6:00PM on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 followed by a SEPAC meeting at 7:00PM.

Community Outreach: The subcommittee met today and discussed communication plans for the Superintendent search. They will divvy up the work of communicating the steps, focus groups, and opportunities for involvement. Each School Committee member is a liaison to a school and each will liaise with their school and give updates on the timeline and search process. Chair Michelle Ayer has no school but will communicate with community groups, social media, and the website. the next meeting will be on October 11, 2018 at 11 a.m.

Salary & Negotiations: The subcommittee met on August 30, 2018 and discussed the Superintendent search: focus groups, the online survey, screening committee, updated timeline, and focus group letters. They will work with Rick Swanson to involve high school students. The press release will go out tomorrow. They had a discussion about the formation of the screening committee and roles to be filled in the 15-member committee. Kay Praschma noted that the central office representative should be from School Administration, Kerry Ni and Liza O'Reilly are working on FAQs.

Long Range Planning: They have submitted an application to the Community Preservation Committee for the Plymouth River School playground.

School Building Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 7:30.

SNAP: Registration is now open for Fall Programs. SNAP is offering Rowing for Middle and High School students, Yoga/Zumba for Middle and High Schoolers, as well as Soccer and Learn-to-Skate/Hockey for students with special needs, ages 4-22. More information is available at www.southshoresnap.com under "Program Offerings". SNAP is also partnering with the McCourt Foundation, an organization that assists people affected by neurological disorders. We are hosting a SNAP team for their Tour de South Shore on Saturday, September 22 at Wompatuck State Park. Money raised will support SNAP Programs, as well as the McCourt Foundation.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Ed Schreier,

It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 10:05 p.m. Just a guess judging by length of video.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Kay Praschma

Documents included in meeting packet:

9-10-18 Agenda.pdf

Item 2.1 6-18-18 Minutes.pdf

Item 2.2 7-23-2018 Minutes.pdf

Item 2.3 Community Outreach Minutes 3-19-18 .pdf

Item 4 Facility Dept August Report.pdf

Item 6.2 Special SC Reports 18-19.pdf

Item 6.5 Ling Homeschool.pdf

Item 6.6 Doran Homeschool.pdf

Item 7 Surplus Science Texts.pdf

Item 8 Hingham Ed Week Hard Copy Ad - Draft from NESDE...

Item 8 Superintendent Search Timeline - 9.10.18

Draft - Hingham Focus Groups letters

Focus Groups and On Line Survey 9.10 release draft - |

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HinghamMA Timeline 2.pdf

At Large form - introduction.docx

HinghamMA Timeline 2.pdf

Invitation - Administrators - Hingham Screening Committe...

Invitation - Advisory Committee - Hingham Screening Com...

Invitation - Copy of Item 5.2a - Hingham Screening Commit...

Invitation - Glenn Olsson - Hingham Screening Committee ...

Invitation - Principals - Hingham Screening Committee Sa...

Invitation - PTO - Hingham Screening Committee Sample I...

Invitation - SEPAC - Hingham Screening Committee Sampl...

Invitation - Teachers - Hingham Screening Committee Sam...

Screening Committee announcement 9.10 release draft - NE...

Superintendent Search Screening Committee Composition ...