

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

December 3, 2018 at 7:00PM

School Department Conference Room, 220 Central Street, Hingham MA 02043

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Michelle Ayer at 7:02 p.m. Chair Ayer announced that the meeting is being recorded by Harbor Media.

Members Present: Michelle Ayer, Carlos Da Silva, Libby Lewiecki, Kerry Ni, Liza O'Reilly, and Ed Schreier

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

Visitors Present: Heather Rodriguez, Rick Swanson, June MK Gustafson, Maryellen Dever, Mary Andrews, Tim Dempsey, Emma Quilty, Carol M. Falvey, Christine Smith.

2. Approval of Minutes. None

3. Questions and Comments None

4. Superintendent's Report

- Chairman Ayer reported that Dr. Galo has delegated certain authorities to the Assistant Superintendent Dr. James LaBillois and Business Director John Ferris while she is on leave.
- Dr. LaBillois shared the good news that today was the kickoff of the celebration of the National Inclusive School Week where across the district HPS will celebrate inclusion and diversity with activities encouraging our community to be as welcoming and open as possible.
- Dr. LaBillois also reported that the Wednesday before Thanksgiving WGBH aired part three of a three part series about our Digital Literacy and Computer Science program, highlighting our elementary computer science initiative on the WGBH program "All Things Considered." He commended the teachers.
- The 2018 Winter Coaching Assignments and November 2018 Facilities Report were mentioned by Dr. LaBillois and included in the packet. Vice-Chair O'Reilly pointed out that in the winter coaching assignments she noticed that several of the girls' sports have fewer female coaches than we've had in the past. She recognized that we have great coaches and that it is challenging to recruit coaches but requested that HPS consider adding more female coaches. She also asked that if the Athletic Department is facing challenges in getting female coaches to bring that to the School Committee's attention.
- Dr. LaBillois reviewed the HTSS "Dear Community" Letter sent to the community highlighting the Hingham Tiered System of Support and invited Ms. Heather Rodriguez, Director of Counseling, to speak and give an update on the progress of our social-emotional initiative. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the letter included efforts made by HPS in the last couple of years coming to fruition such as the Toolbox program as part of the curriculum at the elementary level. She reported that the students and staff members have provided positive feedback utilizing the Toolbox program. She also spoke about the HTSS task force work and universal screening for all of our students. Dr. LaBillois noted that in January there will be a presentation to the committee on the Toolbox program.
- Dr. LaBillois introduced special guest Lauren Ciocca, an ELA Middle School Teacher who attended the meeting to talk to us about the program that the HMS implemented "HMS One Book, One School."

5. Communications

- 5.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: None
- 5.2 Student Communications: Emma Quilty reiterated that today we start the National Inclusive Schools Week and that this will provide a good opportunity to reflect and show how our schools strive to serve all students in Hingham. Emma informed the Committee that the Veterans Appreciation Club is collecting warm hats, gloves, coats, blankets, socks and sleeping bags for homeless veterans. Emma highlighted students' academic and athletic accomplishments.
- 5.3 Other Communication: Michelle Ayer distributed thank you card received from Central Office staff. Libby Lewiecki spoke about the November MCAS presentation by Dr. LaBillois and expressed her appreciation to the teachers on a job well done.

6. New Business

- 6.1 The Committee received the Hingham High School Improvement Plan for 2018-2019 and an update for 2017-2018 progress presented by HHS Principal Rick Swanson. The 2017-2018 goals were:

Goal 1: Expand Service Learning Opportunities for HHS students. The second annual Harbormen Helping Hingham Day was a wonderful success with almost all seniors participating. Mr. Swanson hopes to make this a cherished part of the school culture. Club engagement was very high – slides were presented highlighting the good deeds done by the many clubs including the Veterans Club. Athletic teams did a lot of community service, including the Volleyball team who received an award from the MIAA. In the academic environment, there was much good work – extreme couponing to apply algebraic skills to buy a lot of food for the Hingham Food Pantry funded by the HEF. International service trips were highlighted.

Goal 2: Foster a positive school climate by expanding community-building opportunities. This goal is complete but always ongoing. This year, HHS spent a lot of time improving mentoring and the Freshmen Advisory. They once again ran the “Catching Kindness” program. Seniors visited the elementary schools they attended to speak to students there. They launched the unified track program. METCO students along with one Hingham peer and their teacher advisors saw “Black Nativity.”

Goal 3: Investigate Renewable Energy Options. This goal is in progress and remains a part of our vision. A solar array is a goal for the future. Mr. Swanson highlighted grow towers that grow lettuce that is harvested daily for the school lunch program.

Goal 4: Engage in a systematic review of school disciplinary policies. This goal is complete.

For 2018-2019, the School Council has four goals: Systematically review school security policies and recommend measures to enhance school safety; explore the possibility of expanding the “Freshman Advisory program; consider avenues for bolstering “civics education” across the curriculum; and explore ways to expand service-learning opportunities for HHS students.

- 6.2 The Committee heard the report and presentation for the class of 2018 college testing and placement from Director of Counseling Heather Rodriguez. She began with a breakdown of the plans of the class of 2018. She explained the changes to the SAT and how HHS students did on the new exam. She explained SAT Subject tests, the ACT, AP exams, AP mean grades, AP course enrollment and National Merit Scholarships.

- 6.3 Vice Chair Liza O'Reilly presented the report of the Screening Committee and an update on the Superintendent search process. The work of the Screening Committee has been completed. The Screening Committee is honored to present the full School Committee four finalists for further consideration: Dr. Paul Austin, Dr. James LaBillois, Dr. Earl Metzler, and Dr. Donna Straight.

On a motion by Kerry Ni and seconded by Carlos Da Silva,

It was

Voted: To accept the report of the Screening Committee and proceed with the interviewing and vetting of the candidates as recommended by the Superintendent Screening Committee.

- 6.4 The Committee received notification of the overnight field trip of the Hingham High School DECA club to the Quincy Marriott on January 10 – 11, 2019.

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

8. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Salary and Negotiations: The Subcommittee met earlier today.

Long Range Planning: Conducted a walk around with elected and appointed Town officials on December 1, 2018.

Hingham High School Council will be meeting on December 5, 2018.

Community Outreach: Libby Lewiecki reported on a recommendation by the Community Outreach Subcommittee concerning the use of social media. A productive and positive discussion ensued. There seems to be a consensus to authorize a single social media spokesperson who will share, on behalf of the School Committee, posts relating to items discussed or acted upon by the School Committee. When sharing posts to social media, comments should be disabled as the Committee will not be able to continually monitor posts to address comments. Kerry Ni will schedule a presentation from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Social Media expert to the School Committee to help guide our use of social media. It was agreed that we should table additional discussion of social media usage until Kay Praschma is present as she is the chair of the Policy and Community Outreach subcommittees.

Hingham Education Foundation: Libby Lewiecki reported that HEF is having their Holiday Party on December 4, 2018.

Policy: Will meet on Friday, December 7, 2018.

Special Education: SPED subcommittee will not meet in December.

SNAP – Winter program are open for registration, etc.

Long Range Planning – Community Preservation Committee final presentation will be on January 2, 2019

9. Adjournment


On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Kerry Ni,


It was

Voted: To Adjourn at 8:47PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Carlos Da Silva

Documents included in meeting packet:


[12-3-18 Agenda.pdf](#) 

[Item 4 Facility Dept November Report.pdf](#) 

[Item 4 HTSS Dear Community Letter.pdf](#) 

[Item 4 Winter 2018 Coaching.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.1 HHS School Improvement Plan1718.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.1 HHS School Improvement Plan1819.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.2 CEEB Report 2018.pdf](#) 

[Item 6.4 HHS DECA Field Trip.pdf](#) 

[Item 8 Warrants.pdf](#) 
