

MINUTES OF THE HINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE

August 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Michelle Ayer at 7:00 PM.

2. Legislative Update

The Committee heard a budget update from Senator Patrick O'Connor and Representative Joan Meschino. The state budget process concluded in July, showing a likely surplus of approximately \$1 billion. In FY 20, Hingham will receive a 2.7% increase in Chapter 70 and Unrestricted General Government Aid over FY 19. Other statewide education funding increases include an additional \$345 million for the Special Education Circuit Breaker, \$115 million for Charter School reimbursement, \$1.5 million for civics education, \$75.8 million for regional school transportation and \$24.225 million for METCO funding. Additionally, Hingham was recently awarded \$56,980 for electronic access locks, public announcement systems and other safety upgrades under a Safer Schools Grant Award.

Senator O'Connor and Representative Meschino updated the Committee about other bills under discussion during the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, including The PROMISE Act, The CHERISH Act, a bill addressing high stakes testing, a bill proposing mandatory recess and a potential classroom temperature study. Additionally, Senator O'Connor and Representative Meschino updated the Committee on proposals to address the gaps in the foundation formula.

The Committee thanked the Senator and Representative for all their efforts on behalf of Hingham, and particularly for procuring additional education funding. Additionally, the Committee encouraged all State Senators and Representatives to move forward as quickly as possible with Education Reform, particularly an update to the foundation formula.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1. On a motion by Carlos Da Silva and seconded by Libby Lewiecki

It was

Voted: To approve the minutes of the School Committee meeting held on July 29.

4. Questions and Comments None.

5. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Austin reported that summer hiring is nearly complete. There are approximately 51 more students who will enter HPS over the June estimate.

6. Communications

- 6.1 Communications Received by the Superintendent: The MSBA informed the Superintendent that of the 61 applicants for this cycle of funding, Foster is one of 30 “senior applicants.” MSBA representatives will visit Foster on September 10, 2019.
- 6.2 Other Communications: Nes Correnti informed the Committee about a MASC event she attended called Equity, Understanding the Dynamic of Power, Privilege and Prejudice. She found it valuable and informed the committee that one of the presenters invited School Committee members to visit his school to see the work they are doing around race, culture and inclusion. She asked that the Committee and Administration consider the idea of hiring an Equity Inclusion Specialist to ensure that our students have the skills they need to navigate the world after they leave Hingham.

7. Unfinished Business

- 7.1 The Committee reviewed a proposed revision of HPS Policy 1.3.2 that would revise the date of the Superintendent’s annual evaluation.

On a motion by Liza O’Reilly and seconded by Carlos DaSilva,

It was

Voted: To adopt the proposed revision to Policy 1.3.2

- 7.2 The Committee reviewed the proposed School Committee calendar for 2019-2020.

On a motion by Carlos DaSilva and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was

Voted: To adopt the proposed School Committee meeting dates for 2019-2020 with two changes. First, the School Committee planning meeting date was changed from September 21, 2019 to September 22, 2019 8-11AM. Second, Item 5 will be edited to read 2020 Budget dates instead of 2019 Budget dates.

8. New Business

- 8.1 The Committee heard a Food Services update. Food Services Director Kim Smyth and Assistant Director Annabelle Ho presented an update on the Food Services Department. There has been a 10% increase in participation in the program since 2013, and the department is now financially self-sustaining. Important changes since the last update include the addition of a deli bar and salad bar at HHS; addition of an Assistant Director; grow towers enabling Hingham High School to grow 36% of its own lettuce; and the addition of the MA Farm to School Initiative. Future projects include the addition of breakfast service at Hingham High School; a hot chocolate milk bar using a grant from the

New England Dairy Council and plans to collaborate with the Science department using the green houses.

Kerry Ni inquired about the progress of phasing out plastic straws. Kim Smyth replied that the next order includes only paper straws and that plastic straws will be phased out. Nes Correnti voiced concern that some plastic straws should be available for students with disabilities. Libby Lewiecki suggested that the Food Service department consider growing potatoes. Kim Smyth replied that the goal is to grow more food at HHS. The Committee thanked Ms. Smith and Ms. Ho for their excellent work with the Food Services Department.

- 8.2 Dr. Austin presented his Superintendent goals for 2019-2020. The Committee requested a few changes. Dr. Austin will present updated proposed goals in September, after meeting with his NSIP mentor.
- 8.3 The Committee received a draft of the Superintendent's entry and data questions for NSIP interviews with stakeholders. Liza O'Reilly noted that the proposed report of findings overlaps with the budget cycle, providing an opportunity to share the findings with other groups, such as the Selectmen and Advisory Committee.

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

It was

Voted: To accept the Entry Plan questions as proposed by the Superintendent.

- 8.4 Liza O'Reilly updated the Committee on the hiring process for legal counsel. The Salary & Negotiations subcommittee voted a screening committee of Dr. Austin, Dr. LaBillois, John Ferris and Liza O'Reilly who narrowed down the applicant pool to three firms. Interviews will be held by Salary & Negotiations with full School Committee participation on Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 9:30AM.
- 8.5 Carlos DaSilva updated the Committee on a proposal by the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee to purchase of a solar powered scoreboard for the Varsity softball field at Hingham High School. The scoreboard will cost approximately \$20,000. Funds would be drawn from the High School Field Fund, which contains money raised during the initial field project. That fund currently contains \$148,000. Next steps include visiting with neighbors to hear any concerns and applying to the Planning Board for a waiver of public hearing. Liza O'Reilly expressed concern that the scoreboard was not included in the Athletic Department Capital priorities in last year's report. Additionally, she cautioned that the turf field would need to be re-carpeted in the near future, which will be expensive. She also asked if the subcommittee had requested contributions from any booster groups to help fund the project. Carlos Da Silva committed to following up with the booster groups.

On a motion by Carlos DaSilva and seconded by Libby Lewiecki,

It was

Voted: To authorize the Director of Business and Support Services to move forward with the waiver application to the Planning Board.

8.6 The Committee considered the homeschool application of Jahangir Khan.

On a motion by Liza O'Reilly and seconded by Nes Correnti,

It was

Voted: To accept the homeschool application of Jahangir Khan, Grade 1, for 2019-2020.

8.7 The Committee received notification of the appointments of Vanessa Bryer, Adjustment Counselor at South School; Ashley Corcoran, Special Education teacher at HMS; Alyssa DeLuca, LTS Teacher at Foster School; Maia Heggie, Special Education Inclusion Facilitator at HHS; Linda Kelly, School Psychologist/Chair at HMS; Melissa Maguire, Special Education teacher at HMS; Lindsey Troy, Special Education Inclusion Facilitator at HMS; and Diane Vallee, ELL teacher for HPS; all effective August 26, 2019.

8.8 The Committee received notification of the appointments of Sara Daly as the Library/Media Center Resource Teacher, effective September 1, 2019 and Edward Chiappini, Evening Custodian at Foster School effective August 1, 2019.

8.9 The Committee received notification of advancements on the salary scale on September 1, 2019 of Paul Riser to M30.

8.10 The Committee received notification of the resignation of Christine Gendron, paraeducator at Foster School, effective August 1, 2019.

9. 48 Hour Items. None

10. Subcommittee and Project Reports

Community Outreach: Libby Lewiecki presented a proposed Social Media agreement for members of the School Committee. Several members expressed concern that one clause was too broad, hampering members' ability to interact on social media. The subcommittee will revisit the proposed agreement and revise it.

Policy: Kerry Ni presented an update. The Committee discussed engaging MASC to assist with a Policy Manual update. This would be expensive. Dr. Austin identified a Central Office staff member to assist with aligning our current policies with the MASC/NSBA format and the Committee will revisit the idea of working with MASC, if needed. Additionally, the Committee is making progress on the amendments to the Public Comment Policy. The Subcommittee discussed the need for a Social Media Policy to protect students, staff and the district. Dr. Austin will bring the MASC model policy to the leadership team for input on how best to craft a policy for Hingham. Finally, the Subcommittee will examine the School Committee Agenda Policy to give the Chair and Superintendent some flexibility. Michelle Ayer stated that she had discussed the possibility of a Consent Agenda with Dr. Austin and they may bring that to the Committee.

Long Range Planning: Carlos DaSilva presented an update. John Ferris informed the Committee that the original estimate for the PRS vestibule was approximately \$50,000, but will cost approximately \$110,000 because of a design change. Additionally, the Master Facilities Plan is progressing. Finally, the administration is considering submitting a Statement of Interest to the MSBA next year, to purchase new windows for PRS.

Liza O'Reilly updated the Committee on the Town-wide Master Plan. The Committee will meet once the Selectmen appoint three community members to the Committee.

11. Adjournment:

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

It was

Voted: To adjourn to Executive Session at 9:39PM for the purposes of discussing strategy related to the collective bargaining (Unit A) process, the public discussion of which may be detrimental to the Committee's bargaining position

- M. Ayer – aye
- C. DaSilva – aye
- K. Ni – aye
- L. O'Reilly – aye
- L. Lewiecki – aye
- N. Correnti - aye

Respectfully Submitted by:
Kerry Ni

Documents Included in Packet

- [8-12-19 Agenda.pdf](#) 

- [8-12-19 Annotated Agenda](#) 

- [Item 3.1 7-29-19 Minutes.pdf](#) 

- [Item 7.1 Proposed Update to Policy 1.3.2 Superin...](#) 

- [Item 7.2 Draft SC Meeting Calendar19-20.pdf](#) 

- [Item 8.1 Food Services presentation.pptx](#) 

- [Item 8.2 District Level Administrator Rubric.pdf](#) 

- [Item 8.2 Proposed Superintendent Goals 2019-2...](#) 

- [Item 8.3 Draft Superintendent Entry Plan and Que...](#) 

- [Item 8.5 Scoreboard.pdf](#) 

- [Item 8.6 Homeschool.pdf](#) 

- [Item 10 Social Media Agreement Draft.pdf](#) 

- [Item 10 Warrants Signed.pdf](#) 

- [Item 11 6-17-19 SC Executive Session Minutes.d...](#) 