

HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 28, 2011

Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

Middle School Library

MINUTES

School Committee Chair Rebecca Robak opened the regular meeting at 7:30 PM with the following present:

Members:

Ms. Rebecca Robak, Chair
Ms. Jean Bertschmann, Vice Chair
Mrs. Nancy Alvarez Burdick, Member
Mr. Richard de Mont, Member
Mr. Troy Mick, Member

Also Present:

Dr. John Phelan, Superintendent
Dr. Mary Colombo, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Ralph Dumas, Director of Finance

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Executive Session

On a motion made by Mr. Mick, seconded by Mr. de Mont, the School Committee voted to go in to Executive Session for the purposes of discussing contract negotiations with unit and non-unit personnel. A roll call vote was taken:

Rebecca Robak, Chair	- yes
Jean Bertschmann, Vice Chair	- yes
Nancy Burdick, Member	- yes
Richard de Mont, Member	- yes
Troy Mick, Member	- yes

The School Committee discussed contract negotiations with non-unit personnel and the Hopkinton Teacher's Association (HTA).

On a motion made by Mr. Mick, seconded by Mr. de Mont, the School Committee voted to go out of Executive Session at 7:25 PM. A roll call vote was taken:

Rebecca Robak, Chair	- yes
Jean Bertschmann, Vice Chair	- yes
Nancy Burdick, Member	- yes
Richard de Mont, Member	- yes
Troy Mick, Member	- yes

III. Recognitions/Presentations:

- The Adopt-A-Marathoner event was held at Elmwood School again this year.
- Several Hopkinton Music Department groups participated in the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA) Festival held this past weekend. The Middle School 8th Grade Chorus, under the direction of Lisa Conant, received a silver medal. The 8th Grade Band, under the direction of David Purdy, received a bronze medal. The 8th Grade String Ensemble, under the direction of Fiona Fornwalt, chose to attend the festival for judge's comments only.

The High School Chorus received a silver medal and the A Cappella Choir received a gold medal. Donna Eichorn directs both groups. The High School Repertory Band received a silver medal and the Concert Band received a gold medal. Based on receiving gold medals, both the A Cappella Choir and the Concert Band have been invited to perform in the MICCA “Star at Symphony” Showcase at Symphony Hall in Boston or Mechanics Hall in Worcester.

- Hopkinton faculty member Peter Torilli will be inducted into the Massachusetts State Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame on Sunday, May 1, 2011.
- Former Hopkinton football coach David Hughes will be inducted into the Massachusetts State Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.
- Dr. Colombo announced that the American Councils for International Education recently approved the grant for a teacher from China to teach in Hopkinton for the 2011-2012 school year.
- The Green Expo will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2011. The Hopkinton Parent Teacher Association’s website provides more details.

IV. Public Comments: None at this meeting

V. Reports to the School Committee:

A. Superintendent’s Update

- Budget Booklet - Dr. Phelan reported that the School Committee’s Proposed FY12 Budget is available online. The Town Meeting will be held on Monday, April 31, 2011.
- Transition Meetings with New Superintendent – Dr. Phelan reported that meetings with Dr. Landman have begun, and several more are planned, to allow him to become familiar with the Hopkinton schools before July 1.
- State of the Town – Dr. Phelan reported that he presented information to the community at the recent State of the Town event. Dr. Phelan presented information on the Proposed FY12 Budget, the Capital Articles submitted by the school department, the progress the district has made from 2000 to 2010, and other current accomplishments.

B. Quarterly Financial Report – Mr. Dumas reported that the projected positive variance for the third quarter is considerably less than the number reported at the end of the second quarter. He stated that increases in two areas are responsible for this reduction. He noted there has been a significant increase in the number of requests for leaves of absence and that natural gas usage has inexplicably increased at Hopkins School and the High School. Mr. Dumas stated that the gas meters were checked and are functioning properly. Natural gas is used for hot water and heat and the thermostats are controlled by computer. The energy initiatives that were implemented last year target electrical usage. In that area, he stated that the district will see savings of about 30% next year. He reviewed changes in account balances that occurred during the third quarter.

C. School Committee Chair Update

- Hopkinton Elementary School Building Committee Update – Ms. Robak reported that the committee has not met since the last report was given.
- Public Forum – Ms. Robak reported that the Public Forum was held Wednesday night, April 27, 2011. She stated that the forum was well attended and feedback was received from community members in attendance. Mrs. Burdick suggested compiling a list of email addresses of community members as another way to communicate information. This subject will be added to a future meeting of the School Committee.

Community members indicated a desire for more information on the condition of all of the facilities that fall within the school department's responsibility.

- Appropriation Committee Presentation – The Proposed FY12 Budget and Capital Articles were presented to the Appropriation Committee and received their support.
- Annual Town Meeting – Ms. Robak stated that the Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School Auditorium. The School Department submitted two articles for voter consideration in addition to the budget. Article 37 seeks approval for funding to improve the wiring in the Middle School at a cost of \$125,000 and Article 37 seeks improvements for the audio and visual systems in the Middle School Auditorium at a cost of \$47,000.
- Mr. Dumas reminded parents that the deadline for the bus transportation fee is June 15, 2011.

VI. New Business:

- A. Approval of Contract with New Superintendent – Ms. Robak stated that contract negotiations with Dr. Jonathan Landman for the position of superintendent have concluded and a contract is ready for School Committee approval.

On a motion made by Mr. Mick, seconded by Ms. Bertschmann, the School Committee voted to approve the contract as written.

Mr. de Mont and Mrs. Burdick both expressed their enthusiastic support for Dr. Landman, but noted that they do not support the terms included in the contract.

Vote: Favor: 3 Opposed: 2 (Mr. de Mont, Mrs. Burdick) Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

- B. School Committee Policy: *KHCB* Dissemination of Information by Non-School Groups – Dr. Colombo explained that this policy was created to more accurately reflect the current practice of disseminating information electronically and identifies what information is allowed to be sent out via listserve and the eflyers website. This policy will be placed on a future School Committee meeting agenda.
- C. School Committee Policy: *GBEB/JLCC* Communicable Diseases – Dr. Colombo reported that this policy was reviewed by the School Physician, the District Nurse Leader, and the Director of Human Resources and their recommendations were included in this draft. Dr. Colombo noted that the policy has been expanded to include staff. Mrs. Burdick suggested informing the staff that this policy is under consideration for implementation by the School Committee. This policy will be placed on a future School Committee meeting agenda.
- D. School Committee Policy: *KE* School-Related Problems and Concerns - Dr. Colombo noted that the policy was revised to include the person who should be contacted when problems or concerns arise. Mrs. Burdick suggested adding this policy to the Student Handbook. School Committee members suggested several changes to this draft of the policy. This policy will be placed on a future School Committee meeting agenda.

Ms. Bertschmann suggested planning a School Committee meeting to only address policies. By general consensus the School Committee supported this suggestion.

- E. Action Copy Invoice # 3379 for \$24.50

On a motion made by Mr. Mick, seconded by Mr. de Mont, the School Committee voted to approve Action Copy invoice #3379 for \$24.20.

Vote: Favor: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

(Voted to accept 6/23/11)

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F. Superintendent's Review – Ms. Robak stated that the Superintendent's review includes areas of assessment and evaluation as well as success in accomplishing Strategic Plan Goals. She noted that the state's requirements for the process of conducting the review are unclear. By general consensus School Committee members supported seeking the advice of legal counsel to determine the correct process. The public review of the Superintendent is targeted for June 9, 2011.

VII. Old Business:

A. Proposed FY12 Budget – Dr. Phelan reported that the Proposed FY12 Budget was submitted to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Dumas suggested reducing the balances of some revolving accounts to cover the \$45,373 needed for the budget.

On a motion made by Mr. Mick, seconded by Mr. de Mont, the School Committee voted to approve the budget allocations as presented.

Vote: Favor: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

VIII. Executive Session:

On a motion made by Mr. Mick, seconded by Ms. Bertschmann, the School Committee voted to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with collective bargaining units and non-unit personnel. A roll call vote was taken:

Rebecca Robak, Chair	- yes
Jean Bertschmann, Vice Chair	- yes
Nancy Burdick, Member	- yes
Richard de Mont, Member	- yes
Troy Mick, Member	- yes

The School Committee discussed contract negotiations with the HTA and the non-unit personnel.

On a motion made by Mr. Mick, seconded by Ms. Bertschmann, the School Committee voted to go out of Executive Session at 10:13PM. A roll call vote was taken:

Rebecca Robak, Chair	- yes
Jean Bertschmann, Vice Chair	- yes
Nancy Burdick, Member	- yes
Richard de Mont, Member	- yes
Troy Mick, Member	- yes

X. Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Mick, seconded by Ms. Bertschmann, the School Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Favor: 5 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Robak, Chair
Jean Bertschmann, Vice Chair