

**HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2011 REGULAR SESSION
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The following are highlights of the September 1, 2011 School Committee meeting. They are not meant to be a replacement for the minutes. The minutes will be voted and posted within a few weeks of the September 1 meeting.

For further information on any topic, please watch a live stream of the meeting on HCAM.tv, or contact any member of the School Committee.

School Committee Recognitions:

- Welcomed to the district
 - Dr. Jonathan Landman, Superintendent of Schools
 - Ms. Marijane Hackett, Director of Student Services
 - Ms. Maryellen Grady, Assistant Principal, Hopkinton Middle School
 - Dr. Christopher Kennedy, Principal, Center School
 - Ms. Xiaona Wang, the new High School Mandarin Chinese teacher
- HPTA – thank you for the New Staff Orientation and Opening Day Professional Day luncheons at each school.
- Middle School Teacher, Ms. Cathy Anusaskas - kudos for leading the DESE Summer Mathematics Content Institute, hosted at the Hopkinton Middle School.
- Administrative Leadership Team – kudos for the quick response to the hurricane, and for opening the Middle School to residents without water to be able to utilize the showers.
- High School Unite and Middle School Ignite leaders – orientation activities they facilitated for the incoming sixth and ninth grade students.

Highlights of Key Discussions/Actions Taken:

1. Dr. Landman presented his initial impressions and Entry Plan. The Entry Plan is posted on the district website.
2. In the facility update, maintenance and improvements made at all schools during the summer, including cleaning the steam traps at Center School (which should improve the heat/cold situation in the classrooms) was described.
3. Citizen/volunteer Paul Flaxman of Boston Research Group presented an Executive Summary of the town-wide School Committee Communications Survey conducted over the summer. The survey report is posted on the website.
4. A School Committee draft Communications Plan for 2011-12 was discussed.

5. A plan for reviewing and refreshing the Strategic Plan was discussed.
6. Plans were discussed for collaborating with town leaders to develop a comprehensive town-wide plan for facilities needs and maintenance.
7. The School Building Assessment Subcommittee will draft a communications plan and timeline to present at the September 15, 2011 meeting which will direct the efforts toward gathering community input into the next steps needed in the resolution of the Center School situation.
8. Clarification from the MSBA is being sought regarding their offer to holding money in the capital pipeline for Hopkinton should the district be interested in presenting the 'same' project to the Town for Town meeting support by the MSBA imposed deadline of March 28, 2012.
9. The Memorandum of Agreement between the School Committee and the Custodians was ratified.
10. The first reading of a suggested revision to the Transportation of Students Policy was held. The primary proposed change would allow students to get off the bus at a different bus stop on their regular bus route. The proposed revisions also change the date for parents to register their students for a bus to childcare, and clarify the number of childcare stops allowed per child. The policy will be sent to the community and to the staff, and will be presented for a Second Reading at the September 15, 2011 meeting.

Public Comment:

Several members of the public commented on the Center School situation. One resident asked about the progress on moving forward, and lamented the lack of apparent progress. Other comments included requesting information on costs and practicalities involved in potentially renovating Center School. Additional comments included concerns about factors which would make renovating/building on the Center School site difficult and impractical.