

HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 21, 2014
7:45 PM Town Hall
MINUTES

I. 7:45 – 8:15: Report: Cross Country Bus Incident – Dr. MacLeod

School Committee Chair Jonathan Graziano opened the emergency meeting at 7:52 PM with the following present:

Members:

Mr. Jonathan Graziano, Chair
Ms. Ellen Scordino, Vice Chair
Ms. Jean Bertschmann, Member
Ms. Kelly Knight, Member
Ms. Lori Nickerson, Member

Also Present:

Dr. Cathy MacLeod, Superintendent

Others Present: Diane Maillet, Hopkinton Teachers Association

Dr. MacLeod provided the School Committee and the public with a report of an incident involving a bus transporting the Hopkinton Cross Country teams home from a meet in Falmouth on Saturday, October 18, 2015. One of the coaches on the bus called Hopkinton police to report that the bus driver may be intoxicated. Hopkinton police met the bus at the High School upon its return and arrested the driver. No students, staff or citizens were injured.

Dr. MacLeod reported on the steps taken regarding the incident. She has worked closely with Chief Lee on the investigation; held a press conference for all local and regional members of the press; communicated with Hopkinton families via listserv; and responded to calls and e-mails from parents, community members, and the media. She has also researched state standards regarding licensing of bus drivers, and determined that they are not sufficiently rigorous for Hopkinton standards. She has communicated to Connolly Bus Company her new requirements regarding driving records for all regular and substitute drivers in Hopkinton, and has checked CORIs personally on all drivers. She will take the same action with the ACCEPT Collaborative, who provide special education bus service to the district. Dr. MacLeod will also work with our local legislators to express concern to the state regarding the limited look-back period (5 years) included in licensing bus drivers.

Members of the Committee asked clarifying questions and requested a review of relevant School Committee policies, safety training and protocols for coaches and staff, and communication practices. The Committee praised Dr. MacLeod for her swift and decisive actions, as well as her communications to the public over the last several days.

Members of the community were invited to ask questions. Five parents addressed the Committee. Questions were asked regarding potential disciplinary action related to the coaches. Dr. MacLeod was unable to answer those questions, due to employee rights to privacy. Several parents expressed support and gratitude toward the coaches.

II. Adjournment

On a motion made by Ms. Scordino, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, the School Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Graziano, Chair
Ellen Scordino, Vice Chair