

**HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, May 28, 2015**  
**Regular Meeting 7:00 PM**  
**Executive Session 9:00 PM**  
**Middle School Library**  
**MINUTES**

School Committee Chair Jonathan Graziano opened the regular meeting at 7:00 PM with the following present:

Members:

Mr. Jonathan Graziano, Chair  
Ms. Ellen Scordino, Vice Chair (remote participation/absent)  
Ms. Jean Bertschmann, Member  
Ms. Kelly Knight, Member  
Ms. Lori Nickerson, Member

Also Present:

Dr. Cathy MacLeod, Superintendent  
Mr. Ralph Dumas, Director of Finance

**I. Call to Order in Open Session**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Re-Organizational Meeting**

Mr. Graziano explained that Ms. Scordino was unable to attend tonight's meeting but will participate remotely. Ms. Scordino confirmed her understanding and acceptance of Town policy on remote participation. Mr. Graziano turned the meeting over to Dr. MacLeod.

Dr. MacLeod opened the floor to nominations for School Committee Chair, and read a letter submitted by Ms. Scordino indicating Ms. Scordino's desire to serve as Chair for the coming year.

On a motion made by Ms. Knight, seconded by Mr. Graziano, the School Committee voted to elect Ms. Ellen Scordino as School Committee.

Additional nominations were sought by Dr. MacLeod; Ms. Bertschmann expressed her interest in serving as Chair.

The policy on remote participation requires a roll call vote:

Jonathan Graziano, Member	- yes
Ellen Scordino, Member	- yes (remote participation)
Jean Bertschmann, Member	- no
Kelly Knight, Member	- yes
Lori Nickerson, Member	- yes

Vote: Favor: 4                      Oppose: 1 (Bertschmann)                      Abstain: 0                      Absent: 0

Dr. MacLeod sought nominations for Vice Chair. Ms. Nickerson expressed interest in serving as Vice-Chair.

On a motion made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Knight, the School Committee voted to elect Ms. Lori Nickerson as School Committee Vice-Chair.

Ellen Scordino, Chair	- yes (remote participation)
Kelly Knight, Member	- yes
Lori Nickerson, Member	- yes
Jean Bertschmann, Member	- yes
Jonathan Graziano, Member	- yes

Committee members changed seats with Ms. Nickerson moving to the Chair's seat as the remote participation policy prohibits chairing a meeting remotely. Dr. MacLeod turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Lori Nickerson. Ms. Scordino exited participation in the meeting.

**IV. Public Comments:** None at this meeting

**V. Reports to the School Committee**

- A. High School Advisory Council Representative – None at this meeting
- B. Superintendent’s Report
- School and Administrative Offices will have longer days Monday – Thursday and will close at 2 PM on Fridays. These Summer Hours will run from July 6 through the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - The most recent iteration of the Center Elementary School Educational Program is available and is in response to the Massachusetts School Building Authority’s (MSBA) feedback. A presentation of the plan to the MSBA is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2015 with a Public Forum scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2015.
  - HHS Senior’s last day is tomorrow and graduation will be next week. Students participated in the Prom and thanks were expressed to parents for their work to create a safe, enjoyable post prom party.
- C. ESBC Report – Mr. Graziano thanked voters for the approval of the purchase of 135 Hayden Rowe as the site for the new elementary school. Last week the ESBC saw the preliminary schematic designs for the new school. The next Forum on June 15, 2015 at 7 PM in the Middle School Library will include information on how the educational model will be delivered in the new building. Collaboration with the MSBA continues and Mr. Graziano noted that the project is on track for a Special Town Meeting in the fall of 2015.

**VI. New Business**

- A. Application of School Committee Policy *IHBG* Home Education Discussion – Dr. MacLeod explained that this policy was approved in 2007 and is under discussion tonight due to parent interest. The current policy only addresses access to extra-curricular activities, and does not allow the Superintendent any leeway in addressing requests. Dr. MacLeod stated it is important to maintain connections with the homeschooling students and families, and recommended that the Policy Group review this policy. School Committee members asked clarifying questions. By general consensus the Committee supported sending the policy to both school and home-school communities for feedback, prior to the Committee’s consideration of the policy.

- B. Budget Transfer – Mr. Dumas reviewed the changes that led to the need for these budget transfers. Dr. MacLeod recommended the budget transfers.

On a motion made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Mr. Graziano, the School Committee voted to approve the budget transfers as presented.

Vote: Favor: 4                      Oppose: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Absent: 1 (Scordino)

- C. Expense Transfer – Mr. Dumas explained the requests for expense transfers and Dr. MacLeod recommended these expense transfers. School Committee members expressed appreciation to Mr. Dumas for the explanation of these transfers and for the work done to provide the details about the transactions.

On a motion made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Mr. Graziano, the School Committee voted to approve the expense transfers as presented.

Vote: Favor: 4                      Oppose: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Absent: 1 (Scordino)

- D. Physician’s Contract – Dr MacLeod explained that this is an annual request for the renewal of the Physician’s Contract. Dr. MacLeod recommended that the School Committee approve the contract with Dr. Stephanie Bodor. By general consensus, the Committee supported the suggested change in language to clarify the insurance that is required.

On a motion made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Bertschmann, the School Committee voted to approve the Contract for Services with Dr. Stephanie Bodor for July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 to serve as the School Physician as amended, and authorize the Chair to sign the contract on behalf of the Committee.

Vote: Favor: 4                      Oppose: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Absent: 1 (Scordino)

- E. Capital Article Warrant Payment #15-062 in the amount of \$4,350.00 – Mr. Dumas reported that the Capital Article Warrant #15-062 consists of one invoice, #0108443, in the amount of \$4,350.00 to Garcia Galuska DeSousa Consulting Engineers, Inc. for electrical engineering for the Middle School Fire Alarm upgrade as appropriated in Article 14 of the May 2014

Annual Town Meeting. Bids for the fire alarm will be opened on June 12, 2015 and the results will be brought to the School Committee soon after.

On a motion made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Knight, the School Committee voted to approve payment of Invoice #0108443 in the amount of \$4,350.00 to Garcia Galuska DeSousa Consulting Engineers, Inc. for electrical engineering for the Middle School Fire Alarm Upgrade.

Vote: Favor: 4                      Oppose: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Absent: 1 (Scordino)

- F. Goncalves and White Memorial Scholarships – Ms. Bertschmann stated that the final year for the Goncalves Scholarship was 2014. Dr. MacLeod recommended the School Committee authorize payment from the Town Treasurer for the Lou and Cathy White Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00. The scholarship will be awarded on June 4, 2015 at the Class of 2015 Senior Recognition Night.

On a motion made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Knight, the School Committee voted to authorize payment from the Town Treasurer for the Lou and Cathy White Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500.00.

Vote: Approve: 4                      Oppose: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Absent: 1 (Scordino)

- G. Appoint School Calendar Advisory Committee – Dr. MacLeod distributed additional information on the role of each of the School Calendar Advisory Committee members. Committee members will include the Superintendent, 2 MS teachers, 2 HS teachers, 1 HS student, 1 MS student, 1 elementary level administrator, 1 MS administrator, 5 elementary school parents, 5 secondary school parents, 3 religious leaders, and 1 School Committee member. The first meeting will be held at 7 PM on Monday, June 1, 2015 at Faith Community Church. The meetings are open meetings and anyone can attend.

On a motion made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Knight, the School Committee voted to appoint the School Calendar Advisory Committee as indicated in the agenda materials.

Vote: Favor: 4                      Oppose: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Absent: 1 (Scordino)

## VII. Old Business

- A. School Committee Policy *IMDC* Religious Holidays – Dr. MacLeod distributed Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) comparative language as previously requested by the School Committee. This draft includes significant changes which were suggested at the first reading. The number of religious holidays covered by this policy was increased and a form was created for parents to notify the school when their student will miss school due to the observance of a religious holiday. The Calendar Advisory Committee will not address this policy, and by general consensus the Committee supported sending the policy out again via listserv for feedback and comments.
- B. TEC Agreement Amendment – Dr. MacLeod reviewed each of the amendments that The Education Cooperative (TEC) is seeking to have approved by school committees.

On a motion made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Mr. Graziano, the School Committee voted to approve the amendments to the TEC Collaborative Agreement as indicated in the agenda materials.

Vote: Favor: 4                      Oppose: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Absent: 1 (Scordino)

## VIII. Public Comments

- A question was posed about a section of the policy *IMDC* Religious Holidays that is not included in the current draft. In response to the question, Dr. MacLeod explained that the section identified was intentionally omitted as the information was covered under another section of the policy. Ms. Nickerson encouraged additional feedback be submitted to the Committee after the current draft of the policy is sent out.

## IX. Items by Consensus:

- A. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Operating Budget and Other Funds Warrant #15-059 in the amount of \$359,175.17.
- B. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Middle School Student Activities Warrant #15-060 in the amount of \$34,279.74.
- C. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Hopkins School Student Activities Warrant #15-061 in the amount of \$6,208.00.

D. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve \$6,075.76 from the “The Sky’s the Limit” fundraiser to be placed in the Middle School Gift Account as indicated in the agenda materials.

On a motion made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Knight, the School Committee voted to approve Items by Consensus as stated in the agenda materials

Vote: Favor: 4                      Oppose: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Absent: 1 (Scordino)

**X. Executive Session**

On a motion made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Mr. Graziano, the School Committee voted to enter into an Executive Session for the purpose of conducting strategy in preparation for negotiations as it relates to collective bargaining with the HTA unit A; and with respect to a Level 3 grievance to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements; being the stated federal student record law and for the purpose of entering into discussion with the Superintendent for a successor agreement and salary. A roll call vote was taken:

Ellen Scordino, Chair	- absent
Lori Nickerson, Vice Chair	- yes
Kelly Knight, Member	- yes
Jean Bertschmann, Member	- yes
Jonathan Graziano, Member	- yes

On a motion made by Ms. Knight seconded by Mr. Graziano, the School Committee voted to go out of Executive Session for the purpose of adjournment. A roll call vote was taken:

Ellen Scordino, Chair	- absent
Lori Nickerson, Vice Chair	- yes
Kelly Knight, Member	- yes
Jean Bertschmann, Member	- yes
Jonathan Graziano, Member	- yes

**XI. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Graziano, seconded by Knight the School Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Ellen Scordino, Chair  
Lori Nickerson, Vice Chair