

# HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 8, 2016

Regular Meeting 7:02 PM

High School Library

## MINUTES

### Call to Order in Open Session

School Committee Chair Lori Nickerson opened the regular meeting at 7:02 PM with the following present:

#### Members:

Ms. Lori Nickerson, Chair  
Ms. Kelly Knight, Vice Chair  
Mr. Jonathan Graziano, Member  
Ms. Jean Bertschmann, Member  
Ms. Nancy Cavanaugh, Member

#### Also Present:

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

### I. Pledge of Allegiance

### II. Recognitions

- HPTA Update – President Erin Graziano and Vice-President Tara Sanda presented an overview of the activities of the HPTA during the past school year. Ms. Graziano noted that the 2017 budget includes a 20% increase over the previous year, and many exciting activities are planned for the year.

### III. Public Comments:

- Concern was expressed about the athletic fields and grounds in general; this week's home football game was unable to be played on Hopkinton fields. Ms. Nickerson noted that this item is on the agenda for tonight's meeting and if further information is desired, she encouraged contacting either herself or Dr. MacLeod.

### IV. Reports

A. Student Council-None at this meeting

B. Liaisons Reports

- a. Formation of a Turf Field Sub-Committee to the School Committee- Athletic Director Dee King explained the roles for membership on the committee and the application process. Liaisons from the Board of Selectmen, Appropriations Committee and Capital Improvement Committee were also included. If interviews become necessary, Ms. Bertschmann, Mr. Graziano, Dr. MacLeod and Ms. King will conduct them. Two feasibility studies will be completed by mid-October and presentations will follow. School Committee approval of the sub-committee is projected for October 6, 2016.
- b. Irvine-Todaro property use discussion – Bus parking, a storage facility, a future school, cross country course, and administrative offices were suggested by committee members. Ms. Nickerson offered to draft a statement for review at the next School Committee meeting.
- c. Charter Review Committee-The first public forum will be held on Monday, September 19, 2016 at 7 PM.
- d. ESBC-The Planning Board issued approval of the site plan and permitting can now move forward. Ground breaking has been scheduled for Friday, October 28, 2016 at 10 AM.

C. SC Chair Report- On August 18, 2016 the School Committee held an Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing past executive session minutes in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, sec 22. The Committee voted not to release the minutes of the executive session held on August 8, 2014; to release with redactions executive session minutes for December 11, 2014; and to release executive session minutes for June 10, 2015.

D. Superintendent's Report-Faculty and students were welcomed back and the new school year is off to a great start. This year Back-to-School nights were scheduled one per evening so parents can attend all of their students' information sessions.

E. Building and Grounds Report – Mr. Rogers and Mr. Ghosh

- Middle School HVAC update-There is a substantial shortfall between the appropriation for the upgrades, which was based on the 2012 Habeeb report, and the recent estimate by MacRitchie Engineering. Once the project is put out to bid an accurate cost will be available. Unexpected increases to the cost were due to condensing units, cooling coils and insulation. Dr. MacLeod reported that projects more than 2 years out have been reviewed to ascertain if feasibility studies are needed to ensure projected costs are accurate.

**Discussion:** School Committee members expressed discomfort and frustration with the situation. A question was raised as to whether or not it is legal or appropriate to make up the funding difference from other funding sources. Determining the cost of a second feasibility study, the cost for the design phase, and a closer look at the Habeeb study were supported by the Committee. Further discussion will take place at a future meeting.

- Fields-Mr. Ghosh apologized for the conditions of the fields and noted that field conditions are being addressed. Mr. Rogers reported that repairs to the irrigation system were completed over the summer. Aerating, seeding, fertilizing and watering are underway. Field 3 should be ready for next week's football game. Field remediation work will continue throughout the fall. The school district uses wells and permission was received for the watering. Long term solutions are also being examined; such as a partnership with Parks and Recreation for field upkeep.

## V. New Business

- A. Capital Project School Department Article Warrant Hopkins Boiler – Mr. Rogers and Mr. Ghosh (taken out of order, after VI. B.) 1:44**  
For Consideration: Given the additional information based upon the bids received, and the recommendation for a high-efficiency boiler, the remaining funding in Warrant Article #13 is insufficient.

Recommended Motion: Move to approve the awarding of a contract for the Hopkins Boiler replacement to Enterprise Equipment Company at a cost of \$166,394 to be funded as outlined in the agenda materials.

**Discussion:** During the design phase the engineer determined that replacing the boiler with the same type of boiler would be unwise. In addition, the high-efficiency boiler would save energy costs. Committee members expressed concern with the procedural question identified during the Middle School HVAC discussion. The possibility of using other funding sources to make up the difference between the appropriation and actual cost of the project will be pursued with the Town.

No action was taken.

- B. Capital Project School Department Article Warrant #17-011 in the amount of \$76,314.61 – Mr. Dumas**  
For Consideration: Request and recommendation of Superintendent for payment of invoices for Capital Projects as appropriated in Articles 24, 27, and 13K.

Recommended Motion: Move to approve the payment of Warrant #17-011 in the amount of \$76,314.61 to the vendors as outlined in the agenda materials. Motion made by Mr. Graziano seconded by Ms. Cavanaugh.

Vote: Favor: 5

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

## VI. Old Business

- A. High School Music Department NYC Trip - Final Approval**

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of Superintendent to approve the NYC Music Department trip to take place October 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Initial Approval was provided in January, 2016.

Recommended Motion: Move to vote Final Approval of the Music Department's trip to NYC. Motion was made by Ms. Cavanaugh seconded by Mr. Graziano.

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

**B. Alpine Ski Team Pilot (taken out of order, after IV. E.)**

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of Superintendent to review the updated Alpine Ski Team proposal including a detailed budget outline.

**Discussion:** Adding language to the pilot sport program guidelines to state that the School Committee will vote, following the second season of the sport, to decide whether or not to continue the sport was supported by the Committee.

Recommended Motion: Move to approve the Alpine Ski Team Pilot proposal as outlined in the agenda materials.

Motion: Move to approve the Alpine Ski Team Pilot proposal as outlined in the agenda materials and amended during discussion at the meeting. Motion made by Ms. Cavanaugh seconded by Mr. Graziano.

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

**C. School Committee Policy: *KF Community Use of School Facilities* (2<sup>nd</sup> reading) – Dr. MacLeod**

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of Superintendent to revise the rental fee schedule.

**Discussion:** Dr. MacLeod reported on the response from legal counsel about tutoring by faculty. Legal counsel advised that faculty members must be charged the same rate as outside organizations. The use of classrooms, music, and art rooms was discussed. Use by faculty members is governed by state ethics regulations which supersede school policy.

Recommended Motion: Move to adopt Policy *KF* as amended in the agenda materials and during this evening's meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Graziano seconded by Ms. Knight.

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

**VII. Public Comments**

**VIII. Items by Consensus:**

Recommended Motion: Move to approve the Items by Consensus as outlined below,

- A. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Operating Budget & Other Funds Warrant #17-009 in the amount of \$354,223.20.
- B. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the High School Student Activities Warrant #17-010 in the amount of \$49,337.93.
- C. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve \$2500.00 from the Griffiths family in support of the START program to be deposited in the High School Gift Account as indicated in the agenda materials.

D. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meetings of November 19, 2015 and July 7, 2016 and the special School Committee meeting of December 22, 2015 as indicated in the agenda materials.

Motion was made by Mr. Graziano seconded by Ms. Knight.

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

**IX. Executive Session:** To review Executive Session minutes for release.

Recommended Motion: Move to enter into Executive Session to review Executive Session minutes for release.  
Motion was made by Ms. Bertschmann seconded by Mr. Graziano.

Lori Nickerson, Chair	- yes
Kelly Knight, Vice Chair	- yes
Jonathan Graziano, Member	- yes
Jean Bertschmann, Member	- yes
Nancy Cavanaugh, Member	- yes

**X. Adjournment**

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Mr. Graziano seconded by Ms. Cavanaugh.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori Nickerson, Chair  
Kelly Knight, Vice Chair