

HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Executive Session 6:30 PM

Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

Middle School Library

MINUTES

School Committee Chair Ellen Scordino opened the regular meeting at 6:30 PM with the following present:

Members:

Also Present:

- Ms. Ellen Scordino, Chair
- Ms. Lori Nickerson, Vice Chair (late arrival)
- Ms. Kelly Knight, Member
- Mr. Jonathan Graziano, Member
- Ms. Jean Bertschmann, Member

Dr. Cathy MacLeod, Superintendent

I. Executive Session

On a motion made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Bertschmann the School Committee voted to enter into an Executive Session to ratify the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Paraprofessionals and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Hopkinton Teacher’s Association. A roll call vote was taken:

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

On a motion made by Mr. Graziano seconded by Ms. Bertschmann the School Committee voted to exit of Executive Session for the purpose of entering into the regular session. A roll call vote was taken:

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Recognitions: No recognitions this meeting

IV. Public Comments:

- Comments were offered regarding the Home Education policy and a proposal was distributed to the Committee. An ‘open’ policy was requested along with consistency of activities which are available.

V. Reports

- A. Student Council – HHS Senior Jack Cote reported: The be Free Fall Jam was held on October 2, 2015; Capture the Flag was held on October 15; Spirit Week and Pep Rally went very well; 2 representatives from Boston Children’s Hospital provided information on the psychological effects of marijuana on the brain; heart screenings were performed; 2 college fairs were held; 157 students were inducted into the National Honor Society , Senior Halloween will be on October 30; MCAS scores are higher than ever; the Golf Team won the Tri Valley League

title; both Girls and Boys Cross Country Teams had an undefeated season; Powder Puff football will be held on November 20; the Thanksgiving football game will be at home on November 26; and the TVL cheerleading championship will be held on Oct. 29 in Hopkinton.

- B. ESBC – Special Town Meeting is scheduled for next Monday, October 26, 2015 with a ballot vote scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2015. Communication and awareness have been the focus of the ESBC. The Appropriation Committee and the Capital Improvement Committee each endorsed the project. A number of Town committees have endorsed the Article for Special Town Meeting, and Mr. Graziano suggested that the School Committee also vote to endorse the Article.

Motion: Move to endorse Warrant Article #1 on the Special Town Meeting Warrant for October 26, 2015 to appropriate funds to build the new elementary school located on Hayden Rowe was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Bertschmann.

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

C. Liaisons Reports

- Ms. Bertschmann reported that on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 the Director of Youth and Family Services will facilitate a presentation on opioids. The presentation will be held in the HHS library at 7 PM.
- Ms. Nickerson reported that the Special Education Parent Advisory Council met several times and voted to change the organization’s name to SEPAC. This aligns with the acronym used by other districts. The presentation on the new elementary school building was given by Dr. MacLeod, and was received enthusiastically at the SEPAC meeting.

D. SC Chair Report

- No further communications were received on IHBG Home Education policy. One email was received on JH Student Attendance policy; the Committee had decided not to review that policy at this time.

E. Superintendent’s Report

- This month is National Principals Month and Dr. MacLeod recognized the importance of their work in the district.
- The official ribbon cutting for “The Sky’s the Limit Courtyard” project was held last night.
- Enrollment as of October 1, 2015 is minus 3 compared to last year. NESDEC projections were extremely close to actual numbers. Enrollments will continue to be monitored. Plans for the new school building include enough flexibility to handle fluctuations in enrollment. The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) will not support a building which includes empty classrooms.

VI. New Business

A. Vote to Ratify the MOU with Paraprofessionals

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent that the School Committee vote to ratify the MOU with the Paraprofessionals.

Motion: Move to approve the vote to ratify the MOU with the Paraprofessionals was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Knight. A roll call vote was taken:

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

B. Joint Capital Project with Town in the amount of \$72,810.56 – Mr. Dumas

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent for payment of a joint Capital Project as appropriated in referenced Article 23.

Motion: Move to approve the payment of \$72,810.56 to the vendors as indicated on the Request for Payment-Joint Capital form was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

C. **Capital Budget Recommendation** – Moved to November 5, 2015 meeting

VII. Old Business

A. **School Committee Policy: IHBG Home Education (3rd reading)**

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent to provide additional definition of extra-curricular. Policy IHBG was adopted in December 2007. The policy has been shared through listserv, and public feedback encouraged.

Dr. MacLeod explained that the goal of school district policies is to provide clear boundaries and guidance. The inconsistent application of this policy motivated its review. Safety and work load are concerns identified by the Committee. As part of the procedure related to this policy, the Committee supported providing a communication to parents who home school to explain which activities are available and how to access those activities. The Committee also supported including the terms ‘ungraded’ and ‘receive no academic credit’ in the definition of extracurricular.

Motion: Move to adopt Policy IHBG as amended during tonight’s meeting was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Knight.

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

VIII. Public Comments: None at this meeting

IX. Items by Consensus:

- A. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Operating Budget & Other Funds Warrant #16-016 in the amount of \$142,589.28.
- B. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Middle School Student Activities Warrant #16-017 in the amount of \$36,906.54.
- C. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the High School Student Activities Warrant #16-018 in the amount of \$41,092.13.
- D. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve \$375.00 from the “The Sky’s the Limit” fundraiser be placed in the Middle School Gift Account as indicated in the agenda materials.

Motion: Move to approve items IX. A. – D. was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

X. Executive Session

On a motion made by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Ms. Knight the School Committee voted to enter into Executive Session conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, and to review Executive Session minutes for release. A roll call vote was taken:

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

On a motion made by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Ms. Knight the School Committee voted to exit out of Executive and enter back into regular session for purpose of adjournment. A roll call vote was taken:

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

XI. Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Knight.

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