

# HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

Middle School Library

## MINUTES

School Committee Chair Ellen Scordino opened the regular meeting at 7:04 PM with the following present:

Members:

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

Also Present:

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

### **I. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **II. Recognitions:**

- Hopkinton Education Foundation – Ms. Alexis Miller, Ms. Jeneen Peschutter, and Ms. Jennifer Andrews were welcomed to the table. Dr. MacLeod recognized the tremendous amount of effort by the HEF to provide support to Hopkinton teachers and students. The process to choose which areas to support is thoughtful and the collaboration with the Hopkinton Parent Teacher Association (HPTA) provides a varied array of support for the school district. Dr. MacLeod reviewed the projects supported by the HEF this year, and Ms. Miller provided additional details of those projects. The Grand Gala, which will include a dinner and dance, will be held on February 27, 2016; the Silent Auction will once again be a part of the fundraiser.

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

### **IV. Reports**

A. Student Council – None at this meeting

B. ESBC – Mr. Graziano reported that the committee has begun the design development process. User group meetings are taking place, discussions about ways to make the building a LEED silver certified building are ongoing, and the initial steps to hire a construction manager have been taken.

Dr. MacLeod reported on the user group meeting with the preschool, K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers. Mr. Graziano explained that this part of the process determines details about the use of the space.

C. Liaisons Reports

- Ms. Nickerson reported that at the recent SEPAC meeting a large part of the discussion focused on reading issues in the upper elementary grades. Ms. Nickerson suggested inviting Dr. Zaleski to present an overview of the plans for the program.
- Ms. Bertschmann reported on a new initiative by the Director of Youth Services to encourage ‘safe and sober spaces and experiences’, with the kick-off tomorrow night.

D. SC Chair Report

- Communications received
  - Several communications in support of forming an Alpine Race Team
  - Emails requesting information on the budget presentation were addressed by Dr. MacLeod
  - Emails about the HTA contract were addressed by Dr. MacLeod who responded to both the individuals sending the email and to the public with a press release

*(Not yet voted to accept)*

12/17/15 – Page 1 of 4

- A meeting was held with a Borrego representative and a copy of the engineering report was requested by Borrego. The Town Manager is following up with Town Counsel about the engineering report and the lease with Boston Community Capital (BCC). Work on the roof cannot start until the contract is reviewed and discussions with BCC have taken place.

E. Superintendent's Report

- Many holiday events are taking place at the schools
- A math in-service was held at Hopkins School.
- Reductions in several positions and in extra clerical help were made to provide some of the funds for the psychologist position discussed at the last School Committee meeting. With these changes the FY17 Budget is a 4.44% increase over FY16.

- F. Fees Reduction Discussion – Appropriation Committee members Shahidul Mannan and Mike Manning, and Board of Selectmen (BOS) member John Mosher joined the table. Mr. Dumas reviewed the balances of the Revolving Accounts based on estimated receipts and expenses for the current year. Mr. Dumas reviewed the impacts to the budget if the transportation, parking and athletics fees were reduced by 10%. The numbers of students in grades K – 6 who ride the bus, and the impacts to the budget if changes were made were reviewed.

**Discussion:** Mr. Graziano, Ms. Nickerson, Ms. Knight and Ms. Scordino supported the elimination of the bus fee for K – 6 students living within 2 miles of school. Ms. Bertschmann supported reducing by 10% the parking, athletic and transportation fees and requested budget numbers that include a 50% reduction in the transportation fee for K – 6 students within 2 miles of school, and the impact of the elimination of that transportation fee on the final budget number. The impact of future housing developments on the number of busses and the cost of the transportation program is unknown. The current HHS athletic fee is lower than in most other surrounding districts. Full day kindergarten fees were eliminated several years ago and the fees for parking, athletics and transportation have been substantially reduced over the past several years. Mr. Manning and Mr. Mannan encouraged keeping the final budget number within the BOS budget message. Mr. Mosher noted the elimination of the K – 6 bus fee would benefit the community.

**V. Budget Presentations:**

- A. Middle School Budget Presentation – HMS Principal Alan Keller presented the FY 17 budget overview with the goal of maintaining a level funded budget. Enrollment, class size and expenses were reviewed. A reading specialist is requested in the personnel portion of the budget. There is no request to extend the foreign language program to grade 6. Dr. MacLeod and Mr. Berlo explained the process and decisions about the world language program. A significant amount of funding and time would be required to expand the program to grade 6. Raising proficiency in reading in the elementary school and in foreign language in the High School were identified as high priorities.

School Committee members, Mr. Mosher, Mr. Manning, and Mr. Mannan asked clarifying questions.

- B. High School Budget Presentation – HHS Principal Evan Bishop presented highlights of the FY17 budget. A request for a .6 FTE is included in personnel. The majority of expense accounts were level funded with the exceptions of science supplies, the library, and technology/engineering courses. The increases in expenses will enable spaces in the high school to be used to their maximum potential.

School Committee members, Mr. Mannan, and Mr. Mosher asked clarifying questions. Mr. Mosher exited the meeting.

- C. Athletics Budget Presentation – Athletic Director Eric Karjel presented the highlights of the FY17 budget which maintains current programs with slight increases due to contractual obligations. There are no new personnel requests, and the majority of expenses are level funded with some increases due to step increases and contractual services. A proposal for a two- year pilot for a budget neutral Boys and Girls Alpine Ski Team was briefly reviewed and the full proposal will be presented to the Committee at a future date.

School Committee members and Mr. Manning asked clarifying questions. Mr. Mannan and Mr. Manning exited the meeting.

## VI. New Business

### A. **High School Girls Hockey Field Trip to the Vineyard** – Dr. MacLeod

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent for participation in a field trip to the Vineyard.

Motion: Move to approve the field trip for the HS Girls Hockey Team to take place was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

### B. **Capital Project School Department Article Warrant #16-029 in the amount of \$108,236.95** – Mr. Dumas

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent for payment of invoice(s) for a Capital Project invoice(s) as appropriated in Articles 24 and 26.

Motion: Move to approve the payment of Warrant #16-029 in the amount of \$108,236.95 to the vendors as outlined in the warrant was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

### C. **Joint Capital Project with Town in the amount of \$15,348.10** – Mr. Dumas

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

Motion: Move to approve the payment of \$15,348.10 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

### D. **MCAS/PARCC participation 2016** – Dr. MacLeod

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent to provide a decision to DESE regarding the district's participation in MCAS or PARCC. Districts that participated in MCAS in 2015 have a choice between MCAS and PARCC for 2016. The recommendation is that we continue to participate in MCAS for spring 2016.

Motion: Move to approve participation in MCAS testing in spring of 2016 was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

### E. **Budget Transfer Request** – Mr. Dumas

For Consideration: This transfer covers the deficit in the Hopkins School Technology Supply account.

Motion: Move to approve the budget transfer amount of \$9,452.00 as indicated in the agenda materials was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

## VII. Old Business – None at this meeting

## VIII. Public Comment (taken out of order, after V.C.)

- Support for the Alpine Ski Team was expressed and the timeline for its consideration was requested.

- Support for the Alpine Ski Team was expressed and an offer to share information gathered on the ski team was made.

**IX. Items by Consensus:**

- A. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Operating Budget & Other Funds Warrant #16-028 in the amount of \$402,609.94.
- B. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve \$135.00 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. – B. was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

**X. Adjournment**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ellen Scordino, Chair  
Lori Nickerson, Vice Chair