

HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 28, 2016
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 (absent)
Mr. Jonathan Graziano, Member
Ms. Jean Bertschmann, Member

Also Present:

Dr. Cathy MacLeod, Superintendent

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Recognitions:

- The “RoboHillers”, the HMS robotics team, attended the VEX Worlds in Kentucky. The team placed first in Massachusetts and placed 68th out of 200 in their division worldwide.

III. Public Comments:

- Request for a subcommittee to study recess time was made.
- Support for recess time was expressed.

IV. Reports

A. Student Council – None at this meeting

B. Liaisons Reports:

- Town Charter Review – Ms. Bertschmann reported that the committee is seeking feedback as to what items in the charter work and do not work. The timing and length of the budget process were identified as topics meriting discussion. The Committee and the Superintendent stated that moving the budget timeline up would be extremely challenging for the school department. The timeline for approval of Capital Articles and consistent use of a Capital Asset Management Plan were other suggested topics for consideration.
- ESBC (take out of order, after IV. C., 2nd bullet) – Mr. Graziano reported that the detailed design phase is still underway with review of additional proposals from the architect as well as cost estimates. The project is still on time.

C. SC Chair Report (taken out of order, after IV. D.):

- Irvine-Todaro Properties Advisory Group intends to gather suggestions and ideas for use of the property from a broad range of town groups. A replacement School Committee liaison will be needed in May.
- End-of-Cycle Evaluation Feedback – Individual member’s feedback was compiled into the summary. Each goal and rating was discussed, compared to the rubric, and adjusted based on the discussion. The ratings were assessed independently by School Committee members and were in agreement for the majority of goals. Mr. Graziano clarified that Dr. MacLeod received positive ratings of ‘met’, ‘exceeded’, ‘proficient’ and ‘exemplary’.

D. Superintendent's Report:

- Screening of "Screenagers" Documentary (taken out of order, after V. A.) – The problems associated with the amount of 'screen time' will be presented in this documentary on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 in the HMS auditorium. A panel discussion will take place following the presentation.
- Turf Field Update (taken out of order, after V. B.) – Mr. Bishop explained that a committee with members from the school and town communities was formed to study the possibility of a turf field. One of the conclusions drawn by this committee was that in order to create a multi-purpose sport field, Fields 4 & 5 are best suited for the turf field. Field 3 (the football field) is too small due to the track around it. Dr. MacLeod learned earlier this evening that the Appropriation Committee and the Capital Improvement Committee recommended taking 'no action' on this Capital Article. The Town Manager encouraged the school department to request funds to pursue investigation of the feasibility of a turf field. This field would be used by community sports teams as well as school sports teams. The Committee supported removing this article from the Warrant with an explanation of the reasons behind this decision. Collecting the desires and ideas of the community around a turf field is essential.

Motion: Move to remove Article 27, Artificial Turf Field, from the Warrant was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded Ms. Nickerson.

Vote: Favor: 3 Oppose: 1(Scordino) Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 (Knight)

- Response to Public Inquiry Regarding Recess – A petition was received requesting more recess time to which Ms. Scordino responded. A Public Forum to begin the discussion on the constraints and advantages of additional recess times is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 7 PM in the HMS Library. A listserv will be sent out announcing the Public Forum. Ms. Scordino noted that earlier in this meeting a request was made for the formation of a committee to study this topic. By general consensus, the School Committee supported delaying the formation of a committee until after the Public Forum is held.

V. New Business

A. **Middle School Program of Studies** – Mr. Keller (taken out of order, after IV. D.)

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Middle School Program of Studies as outlined in the agenda materials.

Mr. Keller reviewed the changes in the Program of Studies for the 2016-2017 school year. Concern from parents, teachers and students about the current configuration of math classes was considered and prompted changes to the HMS math class offerings. Mr. Keller explained that Grade 6 classes will remain the same; Grade 7 will include Math 7, Honors and Pre-Algebra; and Grade 8 will consist of Math 8, Honors, and Grade 8 Pre-Algebra. Placement criteria will be used to assign students to math classes. Dr. MacLeod explained that this recommendation will allow students to move to algebra classes in high school if their interest in math increases.

Motion: Move to approve the Middle School Program of Studies was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

B. **High School Program of Studies** – Mr. Bishop (taken out or order, after IV. B., 1st bullet)

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the High School Program of Studies as outlined in the agenda materials.

Mr. Bishop provided a brief overview of the changes in class offerings for the 2016-2017 school year.

Motion: Move to approve the High School Program of Studies was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

C. **Capital Project Article Warrant #16-057 in the amount of \$6,057.00** – (taken out of order, after IV. B., 2nd bullet).

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent for payment of invoice for a Capital Project invoice as appropriated in Article 24.

Motion: Move to approve the payment of Warrant #16-057 in the amount of \$6,057.00 to the vendor as outlined in the warrant was made by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Graziano.

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

VI. Old Business: No old business

VII. Public Comments: No public comments

VIII. Items by Consensus:

- A. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Operating Budget & Other Funds Warrant #16-054 in the amount of \$343,158.79.
- B. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the High School Student Activities Warrant #16-055 in the amount of \$11,579.74.
- C. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Elmwood School Student Activities Warrant #16-056 in the amount of \$3,016.00.
- D. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to accept a gift of \$5,000.00 from First Corporation for Robotics and \$1,000.00 from the Pioneer Institute for Public Safety Research, to be placed in the High School Gift Account as indicated in the agenda materials.

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

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

IX. Adjournment

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Scordino, Chair
Lori Nickerson, Vice Chair