HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 7, 2016
Regular Meeting 7:30 PM
Middle School Library
MINUTES

School Committee Vice Chair Lori Nickerson opened the regular meeting at 7:32 PM with the following present:

Members:

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

Also Present:

Dr. Cathy MacLeod, Superintendent

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Recognitions

- Officer Phil Powers received the SRO Exceptional Service Award from Mass Juvenile Officers.
- HHS Concert Band received a Gold Award at the MICCA competition and will perform at Symphony Hall in Boston on Saturday, April 16, 2016.
- HMS teacher John Parker was selected by the Massachusetts Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance as the 2016 Middle School Teacher of the Year.

III. Public Comments: None at this meeting

IV. Reports

A. Student Council – None at this meeting

B. F1 VISA Update – Mr. Bishop and Mr. Hanna: Mr. Bishop reviewed the proposal to increase the number of international students from 15 to 17. The high school can accommodate the additional students, the quality of applicants has increased, and an increase in international students will add further diversity to the student population. Fifteen international students have been accepted for the 2016-2017 school year with two on hold pending the decision by the School Committee. Tuition from 15 students is held in the F1 Visa Revolving Account. Tuition from the additional two students is proposed to be used for the student ambassador program and for an increase in FTE to teach Mandarin Chinese sections. Mr. Bishop explained that HHS students' interest in studying Mandarin Chinese has created the need for 6 sections rather than the current 5. Mr. Hanna explained that the student ambassador program matches 2 or 3 HHS students with each international student to broaden the international relationship, and funds from tuition would be used to offset activities to encourage deeper cultural and social understanding.

   Discussion: Finding host families is a limiting factor to accepting more international students. Once the number of international students is firm, a request for the transfer of funds will be brought to the School Committee.

C. Liaisons Reports:
   - Ms. Knight reported that the ESBC continues to move forward on the design development phase of the project. An update on the project will be prepared this week and will be available through HCAM. Plans for a Public Forum to keep the community updated are also underway.

D. SC Chair Report:
- Committee members were asked to complete disclosure statements before the end of the month.
- Ms. Nickerson reported that Dr. MacLeod and Ms. Scordino met with the Appropriation Committee. The school department's capital projects and their priority were discussed. Also discussed was the increase in bus service costs due to the elimination of transportation fees for K – 6 students. The Appropriation Committee requested moving that line item to strategic initiatives to meet the Board of Selectman's budget message for level service funding. The Committee noted that reduction of fees is not included in the current Strategic Plan. The elimination of the elementary bus fee was based on safety concerns for walking students, and the location of the new elementary school will require a new group of families to start paying the fee. A response to the Appropriation Committee's request will be crafted based on tonight's discussion.

E. Superintendent's Report:
- End of Cycle Progress Report – To date the report has been shared with the School Committee and will be shared with the community in the next couple months. Each School Committee member will provide feedback to the Superintendent on the self evaluation and evidence provided. Discussion will take place at the April 28, 2016 meeting. Dr. MacLeod requested feedback this week from members if they find there is missing evidence.
- TEC Budget – The budget proposal for TEC was provided for information. The TEC program continues to grow and be a positive experience.

V. New Business

A. **Middle School Club Stipends** – Dr. MacLeod
For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the request to reallocate $500.00 in stipend monies as outlined in the agenda material.

Motion: Move to approve the reallocation of $500.00 in stipend monies as outlined in the agenda material was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Knight.

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

B. **School Bus Contract Recommendation** – Dr. MacLeod
For Consideration: Request and recommendation that the School Committee reject the new bid and then exercise one of its two option years with Michael J. Connolly and Sons, Inc. for providing school bus transportation services for the 2016-2017 school year under the existing contract.

Motion: Move to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent that the School Committee reject the new bid and then exercise one of its two option years with Michael J. Connolly and Sons, Inc. for providing school bus transportation services for the 2016-2017 school year under the existing contract was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Knight.

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

C. **Expense Transfers** – Mr. Dumas
For Consideration: Request and recommendation that the School Committee approve the expense transfers as outlined in the documentation.

Dr. MacLeod reviewed each expense transfer. Several of the transfers are needed because of the Munis financial software. In response to Mr. Graziano's question, Dr. MacLeod offered to gather information about the possibility of using the software in a way that would eliminate the need for some expense transfers.

Motion: Move to approve the expense transfers as outlined in the agenda materials was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Knight.

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

D. **Capital Project Article Warrant #16-052 in the amount of $7,577.25** – Dr. MacLeod
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 #16-052 in the amount of $7,577.25 to the vendor as outlined in the warrant was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Knight.

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

VI. Old Business: No old business

VII. Public Comments: None at this meeting

VIII. Items by Consensus:

A. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Operating Budget & Other Funds Warrant #16-051 in the amount of $283,955.62.
B. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve $295.00 from the Tri-Valley "Spirit Wear" fundraiser to be placed in the Center School Gift Account as indicated in the agenda materials.
C. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve $384.00 from the HPTA "Spirit Wear" fundraiser to be placed in the Elmwood School Gift Account as indicated in the agenda materials.
D. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve $500.00 from the "The Sky's the Limit" fundraiser to be placed in the Middle School Gift Account as indicated in the agenda materials.

Motion: Move to approve items VIII. A. – D. was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Knight.

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

IX. Adjournment

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ellen Scordino, Chair
Lori Nickerson, Vice Chair