

**HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, May 12, 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 (late arrival)  
Mr. Jonathan Graziano, Member  
Ms. Jean Bertschmann, Member

Also Present:

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

**I. Pledge of Allegiance**

**II. Public Hearing: School Choice**

Motion: Move to open the Public Hearing on School Choice was made by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Ms. Bertschmann.

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

Dr. MacLeod recommended that the district not participate in school choice, citing the desirable class sizes in Hopkinton as the primary driver for the recommendation. No comments were made by either School Committee members or members of the public.

Motion: Move to close the Public Hearing on School Choice was made by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Ms. Bertschmann.

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

**III. Recognitions**

- Dr. MacLeod noted that this is Ms. Scordino's last meeting and expressed thanks to her for her service on the Committee and as Chair.
- HMS Wellness teachers Deb Pinto, John Parker and Bruce Elliot were welcomed. Ms. Deb Pinto was honored as the Eastern District Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year by SHAPE (Society of Health and Physical Educators) at the national convention on April 5 – 9, 2016. Mr. John Parker was honored as Teacher of the Year by the Massachusetts Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance. Mr. Bruce Elliot highlighted some of the contributions of Ms. Pinto and Mr. Parker to the students and the district. Congratulations were expressed to both faculty members.

**IV. Public Comments:**

- Denial of a building use request was reviewed. Documents relating to the denial were shared with Committee members. Dr. MacLeod offered to follow-up with the appropriate parties and will share that additional information soon.

**V. Reports to the School Committee:**

- A. Student Council – None at this meeting

B. Liaisons Reports (taken out of order, after V. E.)

- Irvine-Todaro Properties Advisory Group – Ms. Knight will attend the meeting scheduled for May 17, 2016. A new liaison to the committee will be discussed during a School Committee summer meeting.
- ESBC – Mr. Graziano reported that no date has been set for the next meeting due to a busy May calendar.

C. SC Chair Report

- The topic of recess time was addressed at the public forum during which Dr. MacLeod explained the next steps; the administration is reviewing the subject and a contact person was set up. Two emails were received on this topic both in support of extending recess time.
- An email was received about the Chinese abroad program and credit for it. Mr. Bishop followed up with the parents.
- The Attorney General’s office indicated that Town Meeting is an Open Meeting and is exempt from the requirements for posting and minutes. Draft documents were also addressed with the AG’s office with the AG advising that edits are to be made during the open meeting.

D. Superintendent’s Report

- The Recess Forum was well attended and a respectful conversation was held. During the forum Dr. MacLeod stated that withholding recess for disciplinary reasons is not an acceptable practice. Communications have gone out to teachers to alert them that loss of recess time is not to be used as a disciplinary action. Building principals should be alerted if a student’s recess time is shortened. Discussions about extending recess time are taking place; kindergarten and first grade recess times will be extended starting in September 2016.
- “Screenagers” was well attended by parents and students.
- Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests are concluding and seem not to have contributed to a rise in student stress levels.
- The second coffee with Dr. MacLeod will take place on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 from 4:30 to 6:00 PM in the Superintendent’s office. The coffee will be followed by a joint presentation at the SEPAC meeting by Dr. MacLeod and Dr. Zaleski.

E. YMCA – Heidi Kaufman and Jeanne Sherlock (taken out of order, after IV.)

Ms. Kaufmann and Ms. Sherlock presented an overview of the before and after school program in Hopkinton. The program has completed a successful first year, a survey to parents was sent out, and goals for the coming year will be established. School Committee members asked clarifying questions.

F. Quarterly Financial Report – Mr. Dumas

The projected positive variance for the third quarter is about \$500,000. There is one heating bill outstanding. Mr. Dumas reviewed the individual categories that increased or decreased.

## VI. New Business

A. **End-of-Cycle summative**

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the School Committee Chair to approve the Superintendent’s End-of-Cycle Evaluation Report.

Motion: Move to approve the Superintendent’s End-of-Cycle Evaluation Report and authorize the Chair to sign the report was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

B. **School Choice** - Dr. MacLeod

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent not to participate in School Choice for the 2016-2017 school year.

Motion: Move to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation not to participate in School Choice for the 2016-2017 school year was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

C. **Middle School Clubs** – Dr. MacLeod

For Consideration: Request and recommend of the Superintendent to approve the request to reallocate stipend money towards supporting the Robotics and Golf Clubs.

Motion: Move to approve the reallocation of \$500.00 from the Middle School First Lego League Club to the Robotics Club and \$500.00 from the Middle School Financial Literacy Club to the Golf Club was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

D. **Middle School Special Education Team Leader** – Dr. MacLeod

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the request for a Special Education Team Leader for 2016-2017. The funding for this person will come from a reduction in the number of Academic Team Leaders in FY17.

Motion: Move to approve the request for a Special Education Team Leader for 2016-2017 was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

E. **High School New Student Activities Account** – Dr. MacLeod

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a new high school Student Activities Account – Tech/Engineering.

Motion: Move to approve the request for a new high school Student Activities Account – Tech/Engineering was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

F. **Capital Project Article Warrant #16-064 in the amount of \$31,330.68** – Mr. Dumas

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of the Superintendent for payment of invoices for Capital Project invoices as appropriated in Articles 24 and 27.

Motion: Move to approve the payment of Warrant #16-064 in the amount of \$31,330.68 to the vendors as outlined in the warrant was made by Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

**VII. Old Business**

**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 #16-058 in the amount of \$303,375.62.
- B. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Revolving Account Refunds Warrant #16-063 in the amount of \$7,713.99.
- C. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the High School Student Activities Warrant #16-062 in the amount of \$26,672.30.
- D. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Elmwood School Student Activities Warrant #16-061 in the amount of \$2,527.00.

*(Voted to accept 7/7/16)*

- E. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Hopkins School Student Activities Warrant #16-060 in the amount of \$420.00
- F. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the minutes of the regular School Committee meetings of December 17, 2015 as amended, January 7, 2016, January 21, 2016, and March 24, 2016 as indicated in the agenda materials.
- G. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve \$572.30 from the “Box Tops for Education” and \$315.00 from the “Hannaford Helps Schools” fundraiser programs to be placed in the Elmwood School Gift Account as indicated in the agenda materials.
- H. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve \$5057.98 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 IX. A. – H. 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 Ms. Bertschmann, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ellen Scordino, Chair  
Lori Nickerson, Vice Chair