

# HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 10, 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. Ralph Dumas, Director of Finance

### I. Pledge of Allegiance

### II. Recognitions:

- Sharon Timlin Memorial 5K Race Committee acknowledged the Hopkinton School District for its ongoing support of this fundraiser.
- 26.2 Foundation \$699.99 for the Purchase of Printer (as indicated in Item VIII. B) – The printer will be used in the Photography Class and was given in support and acknowledgement of the recently unveiled Boston Marathon mural displayed in the High School.
- The 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration kicks off tomorrow, September 11, 2015 at the Hopkinton Commons. Many activities will take place over the weekend.

III. Public Comment: None at this meeting

### IV. Reports

A. 7:06 – 7:06: Student Council – None at this meeting

B. 7:20 – 7:26: Middle School Court Yard Update – Mr. Keller (taken out of order, after IV. C.) – The amount for completion of The Sky's the Limit Courtyard project was estimated at \$275,000; \$235,000 has been raised to date. In addition to the money that was raised, in-kind donations of services, design work, engineering plans, product donations, and consulting were provided by businesses and community members. An updated drainage system, walkways and circular patios, and the performance base with stairs, ramp and pergola were recently added. The final goal in the first phase includes installation of electrical infrastructure underground and laying sod. The final phase of the project will include the addition of an irrigation system, shrubbery, benches, and outdoor classroom features.

C. 7:06 – 7:19: Director of Student Services Report – Dr. Zaleski (taken out of order, after II. Recognitions) – Dr. Zaleski reported on the information and observations she received during her entry plan. Dr. Zaleski explained the process used to identify plans and goals for the upcoming year.

D. 7:26 – 7:36 ESBC and Compass Project Management Report – Mr. Graziano reported on last week's meeting in Boston with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to review the final project budget and MSBA comments on the schematic design proposal. The Hopkinton project will be on the agenda for the MSBA's September 30, 2015 meeting to receive final approval for the project. Total project budget is \$45.6 million dollars and includes \$2.4 million for the Feasibility Study and purchase of the Irvine property. The maximum total reimbursement is \$14 million. The ESBC has formally asked the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager to schedule a Special Town Meeting and Election. Under consideration is a November 9, 2015 Special Town Meeting and a Special Town Election on November 23, 2015. The ESBC created a communication plan and several community members will

promote the project within the town. The future use of the Center School Building has not been decided but will be discussed as the project continues.

E. 7:36 – 7:37: Liaisons Reports

- First SPEAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015.

F. 7:37 – 7:53: Superintendent's Report

- TEC Agreement – A Memorandum Of Understanding has been signed with The Education Cooperative (TEC) for a therapeutic middle school program. The space vacated by the move of the preschool was remodeled and is now being used for this program. TEC has leased the space is for \$7,000.
- Opening of School – August 26, 2015 was an exciting day at the schools to prepare for the first day of classes; thirty-one new teachers were introduced to the district; on the 27<sup>th</sup> orientation was held at the Middle School; and professional development modules were offered for the first time to paraprofessionals.
- Student Enrollment as of September 1<sup>st</sup> – One hundred thirty-two new students were welcomed on the first day of school. The enrollment report will be given on October 1, 2015. Mr. Dumas reported that last year 72 students were wait-listed for transportation; this year 37 students applied after the deadline. The YMCA program reported 86 students enrolled in their program. Mr. Graziano suggested the creation of a group to study long-term facilities needs as enrollment continues to increase.

V. New Business

A. 7:53 – 7:55: **New Paraprofessional Position** – Dr. Zaleski

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of Superintendent for additional personnel to meet the needs of a new student as stated on the IEP; the District is required to provide a 1:1 paraprofessional for this student based on current IEP. Dr. MacLeod explained that funds are available in the Special Education budget due to the prepayment made last year with year-end balances. The exact cost of the position is not yet available but the approximate salary is about \$30,000.

Motion to approve the addition of a Paraprofessional at the Center School was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Bertschmann.

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

B. 7:55 – 8:25: **School Committee Policy: IHBG Home Education** (1<sup>st</sup> reading)

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of Superintendent to review and consider amendments to policy based on current practice. Policy IHGB was adopted in December 2007. The policy has not been shared through listserv but will be shared after tonight's discussion.

Discussion: Dr. MacLeod reported on the discussion with principals and building administrators and the concerns that were expressed with the proposed changes to the policy. A clear definition of 'extra-curricular' activities was requested by the Committee. General consensus supported the importance of maintaining a connection with families that choose to home school. Dr. MacLeod responded to School Committee questions by saying that the policy will be sent directly to the home school families; since the Policy Working Group was disbanded, making changes to policies is currently being done by the Superintendent's Admin Assistant; and many of the policies were updated last year so not a lot of policy work is necessary this year.

C. 8:25 – 8:35: **School Committee Policy: JFADB Homeless** (1<sup>st</sup> reading)

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of Superintendent to revise policy in response to updated regulations on Homeless Transportation. This policy JFADB was adopted in March 2010. Dr. MacLeod recommended no changes to the policy as it follows current regulations and practice.

D. 8:35 – 8:39: **Capital Project School Department Article Warrant #16-010 in the amount of \$1,000.00** - Mr. Dumas

For Consideration: Request and recommendation of Superintendent for payment of invoices for a Capital Project invoice as appropriated in Article 14.

Motion to approve the payment of Warrant #16-010 in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the vendor as outlined in the warrant was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Nickerson.

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

- E. 8:39 – 8:40 **Joint Capital Project with Town in the amount of \$29,726.50** – Mr. Dumas  
For Consideration: Payment of reimbursement for a joint Capital Project as appropriated in referenced Article 23. Due to the “joint” nature of this appropriation the Town Finance Department will be processing all payments using the REQUEST FOR PAYMENT – JOINT CAPITAL form, which requires three School Committee signatures on the upper right-hand section of the form.

Motion to approve the payment of \$29,726.50 to the vendor as indicated on the Request for Payment - Joint Capital form was made by Mr. Graziano, seconded by Ms. Knight.

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

## VI. Old Business

- A. 8:40 – 8:51 **School Committee Policy: JF School Admission and Residency (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)** - Dr. MacLeod  
For Consideration: Request and recommendation of Superintendent to revise the policy and define “reasonable” time frame. This policy was sent out on listserv and is noted on the district website as a policy which will be considered by the Committee.

**Discussion:** Dr. MacLeod expressed concern about using only the P&S as the determination for eligibility to attend Hopkinton schools. Several changes were suggested by the Committee. The policy will be brought back for a third reading after the changes have been incorporated.

## VII. Public Comments: 8:52 - None at this meeting

## VIII. Items by Consensus: 8:52

- A. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Operating Budget & Other Funds Warrant #16-009 in the amount of \$945,298.50.
- B. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to accept a gift of \$699.99 from the 26.2 Foundation for the purchase of a printer as indicated in the agenda materials.
- C. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve \$2,500 from the “The Sky’s the Limit” fundraiser be placed in the Middle School Gift Account as indicated in the agenda materials.

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

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

## IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Ms. Knight.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ellen Scordino, Chair  
Lori Nickerson, Vice Chair