

HOPKINTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 15, 2016

Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

High School Library

MINUTES

Call to Order in Open Session

School Committee Chair Lori Nickerson opened the regular meeting at 7:06 PM with the following present:

Members:

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

Also Present:

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

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Recognitions

- A. Varsity Girls Volleyball State Champions – Ms. King introduced the coaches of the volleyball team. The team members introduced themselves. Congratulations were expressed to the team and coaches.

III. Public Comments: None at this meeting

IV. Reports

- A. Student Council – Student representatives Ryan Branch and Parker Patruni reviewed the events at the high school over the past two weeks: Holiday concerts were given by the band, choral and orchestra; an ALICE drill was held and a K9 Unit visited; the new competitive Ski Team has started; the toy drive for Keep Smilin has kicked off; Keep Smilin Day will be held on Monday; ugly sweater day will be held tomorrow; HHS Press was started this year; Student Council will volunteer at Boston City Hall; beFree coffee house was held last week at the HCA; and HHS hosted their first robotics competition with another planned in January.
- B. Liaisons Reports
- Charter Review Committee held a Public Forum and recommendations were drawn up. These recommendations will be presented to town committees in January. The Special Town Meeting will be held on January 30, 2017.
 - SEPAC meeting included a presentation by ACCEPT on transportation and the improvements to address concerns. Benefits of membership in ACCEPT were also explained. Dr. Cavanaugh presented the information on increases in student achievement.
- C. SC Chair Report – One communication was received about curriculum for Special Education. The email was acknowledged and forwarded to Dr. MacLeod and Dr. Zaleski. Scheduling a public forum to provide more information on reading, intervention, and the purpose of reading coaches is under discussion.
- D. Budget Reports – Dr. MacLeod, Mr. Dumas, and Dr. Cavanaugh
- a. Superintendent's Budget Recommendation – Mr. Manning and Mr. Herr were welcomed to the table. Dr. MacLeod began by thanking the School Committee, Central Office Team, Administrative Team, Community and Committee Liaisons for their contributions and support of the process to construct this budget. This budget focuses on the whole child, not strictly academics. Dr. Cavanaugh provided

examples of how athletics, fine arts, and engineering supported the whole student. Professional Development supports faculty as they meet the needs of the whole student. Student academic growth at each school was presented. Dr. MacLeod provided information on some of the programmatic changes in past budgets and the positive effects they have had on student achievement. The Strategic Initiatives targeted in the FY18 budget were identified as were the unfunded mandates. Mr. Dumas reviewed the enrollment projections and the additional reductions made since last week. As a result, the adjusted budget number is \$42,591,311, which is a 4.13% increase over FY17. Payroll obligations continue to take up 82% of the budget. Mr. Dumas reviewed personnel positions and their funding sources. Also reviewed were the non payroll expense changes and a list of per pupil expenditures in 2015 from surrounding school districts. Hopkinton rates 3rd from the bottom on this list of per pupil expenditures while maintaining a high ranking. School Committee members, Mr. Herr, and Mr. Manning asked clarifying questions and offered comments.

V. New Business

A. Turf Field Public Forum – Dr. MacLeod

For Consideration: and in preparation for a public forum, the Turf Field Committee needs to negotiate a fee to develop a presentation describing the committee’s recommendation.

Discussion: The presentation will also be given at the School Committee meeting scheduled for January 5, 2017. The public forum will be held on January 10, 2017.

Motion: move to approve funding not to exceed the amount of \$4,500 for the Turf Field Committee to negotiate a fee to develop a presentation describing the committee’s recommendation to be funded from the Central Office gift account. Motion made by Ms. Bertschmann seconded by Ms. Cavanaugh.

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

B. Elementary Literacy Coach Position – Dr. MacLeod

For Consideration: of the recent notification rescinding funding in the amount of \$180,000.00 from Grant Fund 179. The district needs to identify funding for the Literacy Coach position.

Discussion: Dr. MacLeod explained the importance of keeping this position filled and the benefits already received by having the literacy coach this year. Mr. Dumas noted that due to the retirement of a reading teacher in the FY18 budget, this position is included in that budget.

Motion: move to approve \$50,595.00 to fund the Literacy Coach position to be funded from balances in the Special Education accounts. Motion made by Ms. Cavanaugh seconded by Ms. Bertschmann.

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

C. Preschool Paraprofessional Need – Dr. MacLeod

For Consideration: of an increase of Level C Paraprofessional to meet the varied needs identified in the preschool program as outlined in the December 8, 2016 memo.

Motion: move to approve the addition of 1.9 Level C Paraprofessionals to be funded by the preschool revolving account. Motion made by Ms. Cavanaugh seconded by Ms. Bertschmann.

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

VI. Old Business

A. HCA Parking Agreement – Dr. MacLeod

For Consideration: a request from the Hopkinton Cultural Arts to formalize a parking agreement with the Hopkinton Public Schools. This agreement has been updated based on School Committee comments.

Motion: move to approve the parking agreement between the HCA and HPS as amended and included in the agenda materials. Motion made by Ms. Bertschmann seconded by Ms. Cavanaugh.

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

VII. Public Comments: None at this meeting

VIII. Items by Consensus:

Motion: move to approve the Item by Consensus as outlined below,

A. The Superintendent recommends the School Committee vote to approve the Operating Budget & Other Funds Warrant #17-038 in the amount of \$492,906.25.

Motion made by Ms. Bertschmann seconded by Ms. Cavanaugh.

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

IX. Adjournment

Motion: move to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Ms. Cavanaugh seconded by Ms. Bertschmann.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori Nickerson, Chair
Kelly Knight, Vice Chair

