

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
September 26, 2023**

Zoom Meeting: 5:30 PM – [Regular Meeting recording](#)

Hadley Public Schools – We are guided by the mission to provide a safe and supportive environment that fosters cooperation, critical thinking, creativity, and integrity; and educating students to contribute positively to a global society.

Present: H. Fasihuddin, T. Brugger, E. Percy, P. Phifer, C. Pipczynski, A. McKenzie

Student Representative:

Absent: None

Guests: Jayce Lanzafame, HA Student; Chris Desjardins, Business Manager; Sara Ross (UndauntedK12); J. Chunglo, Hadley Select Board and liaison to SC; Kenneth Richards, President, HEA; Michelle Wojtowicz; Corrina Parsons, Friends of Hadley Preschool; Hadley Media representative

1. Call to Order: 5:30pm

Motion: Phifer

Second: Brugger

Vote: 3-0-0

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. McKenzie stated that School Committee student representatives are not available for this meeting. She also requested that the HA student representative request go first on the agenda (taken out of order). Update on clean energy innovation pilot program under item “b” was added. Under item “j” there is the addition of potential equipment enhancements for transportation. Also added were Business Manager Updates and School Committee updates.

(At the time Christine Pipczynski & Ethan Percy joined the meeting.)

Presentations/Discussion Items: (Taken out of order)

- a) Hopkins Academy Senior and Student Council Member Jayce Lanzafame presented a request for the HA Senior class student to paint parking spaces. (View [Presentation](#) and [Form](#) here.) This would be a fundraising activity for the Senior class, with some proceeds going towards a donation to the Western MA Food Bank.

ACTION: Approve HA Student Council request to paint parking spaces in Hopkins Academy parking lot, as outlined in attached presentation.

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Brugger Vote: 5-0-0

4. Presentations/Discussion Items (Bullet “e” taken out of order.)

- e. Information on [Thrive Act](#) and [bills related to MCAS](#) – *(Taken out of order.)* Kenneth Richards, HEA President, presented information on the Thrive Act, legislation sponsored by the Massachusetts Teachers’ Association meant to amend MGL 69 which delineates the powers and duties of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Thrive Act specifically addresses language around schools and underperforming status, and the competency determination for high school students which currently requires students to pass the MCAS in order to graduate. Mr. Richards spoke on behalf of the MTA and the HEA. He stressed that this does not do away with MCAS, it only seeks to remove MCAS as a graduation requirement for students. He stated that HEA and MTA are asking for a ceremonial vote stating that the School Committee is in support of the Thrive Act as a call to action for legislators.

Discussion ensued with general support for supporting the Thrive Act but asked for more time to review all materials and proposed bills. More information will be provided to committee members.

3. **Public Comment** – Chair Fasihuddin asked for any public comment from meeting participants via raising a digital hand. She noted that no participant raised a hand requesting to make a statement or comment.

4. **Presentations/Discussion Items (resumed)**

- b. Select [solar proposal](#) – A. McKenzie explained that the School Committee will deliberate about which energy conservation measures they would like to focus on with a Technical Assistance study. Options dramatically reduce or eliminate dependency on fossil fuel, some options increase consumption of electricity. HPS is exploring ways to generate electricity more efficiently. This is just information and discussion – if the School Committee decides to move forward, a letter of intent will be brought to a future meeting for consideration.

Sara Ross presented the solar proposal which is linked to the minutes. A. McKenzie stressed that this is information and meant to explain implications of moving away from fossil fuel consumption and how to offset costs of increased consumption of electricity.

After review and discussion, SC members asked for more analysis and an assessment of what is needed for upgrades in order to move to solar. Another key next question is whether there is a will to own or not.

- c. Determine [Energy Conservation Measures \(ECM\)](#) for Technical Assistance Study. Chair Fasihuddin reviewed the four different energy conservation measures that were put forth by the study conducted by Eversource. She explained that the decision that the School Committee is voting on tonight is selection of the measure the School Committee wants to pursue with a Technical Assistance Study. The four choices are:

2a – Replace Classroom Heating and Cooling using New Unit Ventilators with Air Source Heat Pump

2b – Replace Unit Ventilators and HV units with Air Source Heat Pumps

2c – Replace Existing Steam Heating and Cooling with Ground Source Heat Pumps

2d - Replace Existing Steam Heating and Cooling with Air Source Heat Pumps

Discussion ensued with support for option 2c.

ACTION: Approve moving forward with commissioning a Technical Assistance study for replacing existing Steam Heating and Cooling with Ground Source Heat Pumps.

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Percy Vote:5-0-0

Chair Fasihuddin stated that she would like to have the TA study ready to review at the February 2024 School Committee meeting.

Discussion ensued and the School Committee agreed to move forward with placing bullpens as described in Athletic Fields plans.

- d. Hopkins Academy Awarded [Clean Energy IP Pilot Grant](#) - A. McKenzie stated that Hadley Public Schools is one of only six high schools in Massachusetts that has been awarded a Clean Energy grant to create a clean energy innovation pathway.

(At the time Christine Pipczynski left the meeting.)

- f. Update capital plan and HES playground project – A. McKenzie acknowledged Corrina Parsons and the Friends of Hadley Preschool for their contributions to the preschool program. They are now hoping to replace the preschool play structure. They have done extensive research, and based on

g. Job Description - [Director of Finance and Operations](#) A. McKenzie state that the language in the job description for the inhouse position of Director of Finance and Operations (linked to these minutes) has been approved by legal counsel and is in front of the School Committee for their consideration. The language will be updated to reflect Hadley Public Schools and brought back to the School Committee for approval. School Committee members did not have any revisions to the content as presented.

h. Approval of Classroom [Flag](#) – In accordance with HPS Policy KG, A. McKenzie recommended two classroom flags for approval. These flags are connected to curriculum and reflect culturally responsible practice.
ACTION: Approve two classroom flags as presented.
Motion: Brugger Second: Percy Vote: 4-0-0

i. Review of [Conditions of Assistance](#) – A McKenzie explained this was brought forward at the August School Committee meeting for review ahead of Chair Fasihuddin signing the document. SC members had no questions or concerns.
ACTION: Approve the Conditions of Assistance document for signature.
Motion: Percy Second: Brugger Vote: 4-0-0

j. Potential equipment enhancements transportation – A. McKenzie explained that parents and community members have been asking about cameras on bus stop arms and the possibility of using tracker apps to know where the bus in at any given time on the daily route. More information on security concerns will be investigated. A. McKenzie also explained that there is possible legislation that allows transportation contractors to add cameras to bus stop arms.

k. [2023 Accountability Data](#) – A. McKenzie referenced the Accountability Data linked here, HA is in the 83rd percentile which is a huge jump from 2019 and same as 2022. She noted high growth in ELA in all grades. There is strong growth in ELA and Mathematics.

I. Family Survey Data Spring 2023- [HA](#) and [HES](#) – A. McKenzie reviewed a summary of responses from the family survey administered last spring. 34 responses were from Hopkins Academy and 44 responses from HES. Themes identified were around communication around contact discipline, communication around threats at school, consistency in grading practices, and engagement opportunities for parents. The survey will be conducted again in November and then again at the end of the school year. Both schools have been working on restorative justice training, training on culturally proficient practices and how to intervene if microaggressions occur, responsive

classrooms, enhanced communication and creating connection to improve the experience every family has at HPS. Chair Fasihuddin asked that all items that scored under 65% be examined.

5. Action Items

e. Approval of Minutes ([08/21/2023 SC Meeting](#))

ACTION: Approve the Minutes of 08/21/2023 as presented.

Motion: Percy Second: Phifer Vote: 4-0-0

f. Approval of Minutes ([08/28/2023 SC Retreat](#))

ACTION: Approve the Minutes of 08/28/2023 as presented.

Motion: Percy Second: Brugger Vote: 4-0-0

6. Business Manager Reports (tabled until October SC meeting)

7. Announcements

- a) Chair Fasihuddin shared condolences to the Kieras-Ciolkos family on the passing of David Ciolkos, a community member with connections to Hadley Public Schools.
- b) Select Board member Joyce Chunglo stated the warrant for Fall Town meeting will close next week, and that the Fall Town meeting will be October 26, 2023.
- c) A. McKenzie thanked the Finance Committee for their support of placing locker room renovation on the warrant for Town Meeting.

8. Next Meeting Dates – Chair Fasihuddin stated that the next meeting(s) of the Hadley School Committee is scheduled for October 23, 2023: the policy will meet at 4:30 pm; regular school committee at 5:30 pm.

9. Adjourn Regular Meeting: 7:50pm

Motion: Brugger Second: Percy Vote: 4-0-0