

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
November 28, 2022**

Zoom Meeting: 5:30 PM – Regular Meeting

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, P. Phifer, E. Percy, C. Pipczynski, A. McKenzie

Absent: Brugger

Guests: S. Duncan, C. Desjardins, S. Bigda

1. Call to Order: 5:30pm

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

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. McKenzie suggested adjustments to the agenda including the review of a job description for Safe Schools and DEI specialist and stated she will give an update on NEASC accreditation. Additional action items include approval of tech upgrades and Ms. Duncan will ask for approval of a Nature's Classroom fieldtrip. There are no negotiations (as we are done with negotiations) and no Executive Session.

3. Public Comment – Chair Fasihuddin asked for any public comment and noted no participants for public comment were in attendance.

4. Presentations/Discussion Items

a. Nature's Classroom Field Trip

Ms. Susan Duncan, teacher at Hopkins Academy, gave an overview of the proposed Nature's Classroom field trip for the seventh grade at Hopkins Academy. This is an overnight field trip (three days) in Ocean Park, Maine. The focus of Nature's Classroom is to promote outdoor learning and team building, combining science, math, civics and English in the curriculum.

E. Percy inquired about costs and fundraising. Ms. Duncan explained that there are several fundraising opportunities as well as scholarships for students to defray the costs. H. Fasihuddin also thanked the Hopkins Trustees for their financial support of the trip.

Approve field trip to Nature's Classroom:

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

b. Proposed Tech and Security Upgrades (HPS Technology Director, Steve Bigda)

H. Fasihuddin introduced Steve Bigda, Director of Information Technology for Hadley Public Schools. Mr. Bigda explained that as security is a high priority in school systems, new technology is available to provide enhanced security on both Hopkins Academy and Hadley Elementary schools in the way of monitoring equipment. This will be a multiphase project. The company that is working with the school district is VERKADA. Their equipment offers environmental

sensors, video security and access control. Mr. Bigda stated that we are seeking a ten-year license and purchasing equipment up front. This includes tech support, ongoing maintenance and software costs.

Discussion ensued about price quotes for each school. Mr. Phifer asked if there are other vendors we have researched. Mr. Bigda stated that other vendors don't necessarily provide the whole range of services (manufacturing, installation and support) that Verkada provides. They have also been vetted by PEPPM and are on PEPPM's approved vendor list. Also, the district should plan to review in approximately five years to determine what needs to happen after the tenth year. Installation costs has yet to be determined. It was noted that School Choice would be the source of funding for this project. H. Fasihuddin asked that the schools track the utility of the equipment throughout the years in order to have a measure of the benefits from a safety and general standpoint; this will help determine ongoing funding in the future.

Approve purchase of technology and security upgrades as presented:

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

Mr. Phifer left the meeting at 6:45pm.

- c. First Reading Proposed SRO MOU / Current MOU with Police (Policy Subcommittee)
 - C. Pipczynski explained the new proposal contains more detail and explanation as to the nature of the agreement. The language contained in the new proposal is in direct response to the police reform bill in that it is explicit that the school resource officer is not a disciplinarian and will be trained in areas such as cultural proficiency, nonviolent response and de-escalation. H. Fasihuddin commented that this new document is very thorough in detail regarding the role of the school resource officer. She explained that as this is the first reading, it will come back for further deliberation and vote at the next School Committee meeting.
- d. Review and approval of Safe Schools and DEI Support Specialist
 - A. McKenzie requested that the School Committee approve the new position of Safe Schools and DEI Support Specialist. This would be funded for FY23 through ESSER funding and there is enough ESSER to sustain this through FY24. There may also future grant funding sources that can sustain the position. The salary would be prorated in FY23 and based on education and experience. The purpose is to have someone who can assist in moving forward with school safety and a culture of belonging, diversity, equity and inclusion. This position will lead restorative justice implementation and respond when students have conflict in a way that is trauma informed. This role will work with families, not just students. This position will cover both Hopkins Academy and Hadley Elementary, likely with more support at HA. This position works primarily with students and families.

Approve "Safe School and DEI Support Specialist" position:
Motion: Percy Second: Pipczynski Vote: 3-0-0
- e. FY24 Budget Timeline (McKenzie)
 - A. McKenzie explained that she will provide a local contribution request to the Town on 12/16/2023. This is a significant portion of the budget but not all numbers are finalized. A.

McKenzie stated that as always, the district request is responsive to school needs but also fiscally responsible. More information will be brought to the school committee at their December meeting.

f. [NEASC Accreditation Update](#) (McKenzie)

A. McKenzie informed school committee members that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges has issued a letter that Hopkins Academy is no longer in warning status of losing their accreditation. She states that the staff, teachers and administration are to be commended for their work.

5. Business Manager Reports

- a. [Expense](#) – Business Manager C. Desjardins reported on expenses, pointing out that the expense reports show special education tuition as over budget. This is due to the fact that DESE has been slow in approving the grants. These expenses will be transferred as soon as the funds come in.
- b. [Revolving](#) – Mr. Desjardins explained that in regard to the Revolving Account for Lunch, a deposit of \$32,460.32 did not post until November, this will be reflected in next report. Also, the student activity account showed a large increase in the month of October but subsequently expenses for the Washington DC trip have been paid. These changes will reflect in next report.
- c. Grants – Nothing new to report as grant approvals are running slowly.

6. School Committee Reports/Discussion

- a. Finance – Fasihuddin – reported that there have been no finance or Tri-board meeting.
- b. CES – H. Fasihuddin stated that T. Brugger would report next month, and Ms. Brugger will forward any Executive Director reports received.
- c. Policy – Percy – the committee will be reviewing all school committee policies. The policy subcommittee will bring any policies with revisions to the School Committee for review.
- d. Fields – A. McKenzie reported that work is being done to be able to go out to bid, hopefully in January or February of 2023 – once Conservation Commission items are approved. This would place schools in good timing to begin work in Summer of 2023. H. Fasihuddin thanked everyone involved for their support of this project.
- e. Capital – Pipczynski – no new report. The Committee will not meet again until Spring 2023.

7. Announcements

- a. Select Board Liaison - Joyce Chunglo – not in attendance, no announcements
- b. Upcoming Events HPS [Calendar](#) – A. McKenzie announced that the next delayed start/early dismissal day for the district is December 20th. Also, December 23rd is a half day for both schools to begin the December break. Chair Fasihuddin asked how the late arrival / early dismissal is being received thus far. A. McKenzie reported that faculty and staff have appreciated the collaboration time. The single tier transportation has experienced some glitches in terms of routes and times, but it is hard to tell if these problems are related to the single tier versus other obstacles including new drivers, coverage for illness etc. No behavior issues have been reported. We will continue to evaluate.

8. Action Items

- 1. Approval of [Minutes October 24, 2022](#)

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Percy

Vote: 3-0-0

2. Approval of [Executive Session Minutes October 24, 2022](#)

Motion: Percy Second: Pipczynski Vote: 3-0-0

3. Approval of Warrants October 2022

Motion: Percy Second: Pipczynski Vote: 3-0-0

4. Approval to Utilize School Choice Funding for new technology/security upgrades (See previous discussion – 4b.)

Motion: Pipczynski Second: Percy Vote: 3-0-0

5. Approval of Nature's Classroom Field Trip (See previous discussion – 4a.)

6. Approval of Safe Schools and DEI Support Specialist Job Description and use of ESSER Funding in FY23 (See previous discussion – 4d.)

9. Next Meeting Dates

A. McKenzie will poll School Committee members regarding availability to meet in December.

10. Adjourn Meeting: 7:16pm

Motion: Percy Second: Pipczynski Vote: 3-0-0

Approved 12/20/2022