

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035
January 23, 2023**

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, T. Brugger, E. Percy, C. Pipczynski, A. McKenzie

Absent: P. Phifer,

Guests: C. Desjardins, Joyce Chunglo, Michelle Wojtowicz

1. Call to Order: 5:30pm

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

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

A. McKenzie reviewed adjustments to agenda – stating Agenda item 4b will be a discussion about survey and interpreting results. Approval of policy subcommittee minutes has been added and there is no Executive Session. There will also be an honor for Mr. Driver's class announced.

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. FY24 Budget Update and Annual Town Meeting Warrant -A. McKenzie explained that the schools will not have any capital items for Town Meeting warrant as these items were already approved in the fall and there are no additional capital items at this time. The School Department budget will be on the Town Meeting Warrant. There are no changes to the budget that was presented to the School Committee at their December 2022 meeting, however information on revenue and expense trends were added to the budget overview document. The way schools receive revenue is through local contribution from the Town and School Choice revenue. Expenses include choice out, charter out and vocational educational out placement. School Choice in to HPS remains strong. Numbers in virtual schools have come down. In most districts we receive more students than are going out. In addition to school choice numbers, information regarding diversity show that the school is more diverse than the town itself. Charter school enrollment has remained constant, but tuitions have increased. Career and technical education out has seen a steady decrease. A. McKenzie noted that there is only one path in to the Hadley School District, but three paths out (vocational schools, charter schools, and school choice) – and for the first time in several years choice in to Hadley Schools is higher than the total number out.

McKenzie noted that the Town is always generous to the school department and gives more than the minimum required by the State. She further noted that Department Revenue statistics from FY2021 show that school department expenditures at 39% of the total operating expenses for the Town. Further, in FY19 Hadley per pupil expenditures was one of the highest in the region.

The official budget review and public hearing is scheduled for March 2023 – a public notice will be placed in the paper prior to the budget hearing. The budget must be voted on before it goes on the warrant for Spring Town Meeting in May 2023.

- b. District plans for administering [Equity and Inclusion Survey](#) and [Family and School Relationships Survey](#) and [sharing information](#) – A. McKenzie informed the School Committee that she plans to utilize the services of Panorama, a company that works with a number of districts in the area and assists in designing and administering surveys. The links illustrate the type of surveys available and what the end result might look like for illustrating results. The challenges of being a small district and how to obtain and interpret data was discussed.
- c. Energy Audit Update (Desjardins) and Energy Grant Update (McKenzie) – Business Manager Chris Desjardins reviewed the four-phase project. We have completed the first two steps including having an internal building audit that showed that there are many opportunities. The assessment results will be submitted to Eversource, and a plan will be developed (scope and study) and will be available in approximately three weeks. From there the schools will have to decide how to move forward. Some of the work will be incorporated in the capital plans, depending on how projects align. Once schools decide next steps, work will commence with Eversource (with a cost to HPS) and a plan developed. A. McKenzie discussed grant opportunities, the Infrastructure Reduction Act (IRA) grant discussed at the previous meeting has been ruled out as most likely Hadley would not have been a candidate due to timing and grant thresholds. Other grant opportunities will be pursued.
- d. [Workforce Development and Internship Coordinator](#) (McKenzie) – A. McKenzie asked the School Committee to consider approval for this position through the end of this fiscal year. The funding for this position is through grant money from pathways funding.

5. Student Representative Report

Priscilla Cruz (HA Grade 10) and Grant Donta-Venman (HA Grade 10) will be the student representatives to the Hadley School Committee. They will participate in the next School Committee meeting as neither was available to participate this evening.

6. Business Manager Reports

- a. [Expense](#) – Business manager Chris Desjardins reported that work has begun to transfer expenses to grants that have been awarded to schools.
- b. [Revolving](#) – Student activity account balance was not available but will be reported on at next meeting. Other accounts are stable, the lunch account is missing December deposits. All accounts show healthy balances.
- c. [Grants](#) – some grants we have made expense transfers to, some have just come in. We have not touched the ESSER III – there are expenses we have earmarked to charge to this account.

7. School Committee Reports/Discussion

- a. Finance – Fasihuddin – no report, Finance Committee has not met.
- b. CES – Brugger – CES meeting scheduled for later this week. Brugger will send out director's report to School Committee members by the end of the week.
- c. Policy – Percy – Policy Committee did first read of the Library Materials policy. It will be brought to School Committee next month.
- d. Fields – Phifer – C. Desjardins stated that we are waiting for Conservation Commission approval. He will reach out to Berkshire Design for update on status.
- e. Capital – Pipczynski – no new information.

8. Announcements

- a. Select Board Liaison - Joyce Chunglo stated appreciation for the work of the School Committee and Superintendent for their work with the Town. She also stated that there was a meeting on

the “HAWK” traffic signal on route 9. The light will not be moved but there will be improvements based on suggestion to lower the light and make it more visible.

- b. School Committee Member Updates – H. Fasihuddin stated that the group “Hadley Learns” is taking a survey, please email her at humera@humera.com to get the link and participate in the survey.
- c. Congratulations to Mr. Driver’s Class – The fifth-grade class at HES was announced as one of the winners of the Massachusetts DOT 2022-2023 competition to name a snow plow in the Commonwealth. The name “Snow Day, No Way” was chosen in highway district 2.
- d. Upcoming Events HPS [Calendar](#) – A. McKenzie stated that this coming Friday is the end of the quarter and both schools will have early dismissal. She noted that early dismissal and late start days do count toward the 180 days of school year.

9. Action Items

- a. Approval of [Minutes](#) December 20, 2022
Motion: Pipczynski Second: Percy Vote: 4-0-0
- b. Approval of Warrants December 2022
Motion: Pipczynski Second: Percy Vote: 4-0-0
- c. Approval of Workforce Development and Internship Coordinator
Motion: Brugger Second: Pipczynski Vote: 4-0-0
- d. Approval of [November 28, 2022 Policy Subcommittee Minutes](#)
(Policy Subcommittee members only)
Motion: Pipczynski Second: Percy Vote: 2-0-0

10. Next Meeting Dates

Policy Subcommittee - February 27, 2023 @ 4:30 pm

Regular School Committee - February 27, 2023 @ 5:30 pm

11. Executive Session - No Executive Session

12. Adjourn Regular Meeting – 6:45pm

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