

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035**

**Minutes February 27, 2017 Hopkins Academy Music Room**

**5:30 PM**

*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.*

**Call to Order/Members Present**

Dunlavy called the meeting order at 5:30 PM. The following members were present: Fasihuddin, Klesch and Dunlavy.

**Record of Votes**

- *Approval of January 30, 2017 minutes– Grant moves to approve minutes of January 30, 2017 School Committee meeting. Fasihuddin seconds. Vote 4-0-0.*
- *2017-2018 Calendar – Fasihuddin moves to approve the 2017-2018 HPS district calendar as presented. Klesch seconds. Vote 4-0-0.*
- *Letter opposing PVCICS expansion– Fasihuddin moves for School Committee to write a letter stating its opposition to the expansion of PVCICS. Klesch seconds. Vote 4-0-0.*
- *ABA Technician Position - Klesch moves to approve creation of ABA Technician position as presented in school committee handout with position title amended to read ABA Technician. Grant seconds. Vote 4-0-0.*
- *Revisions to Graduation Requirements– Fasihuddin moves to make Personal Finance Course a graduation requirement beginning with the class of 2020. Klesch seconds. Vote 4-0-0.*
- *Declaration of Surplus Food Services – Klesch moves to declare wooden food preparation table as surplus. Fasihuddin seconds. Vote 3-0-0.*
- *Revisions to HA Program of Studies 2017-2018 – Klesch moves to approve the 2017-2018 HA Program of Studies as presented. Grant seconds. Vote 4-0-0.*
- *Adjournment – Klesch moves to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm. Fasihuddin seconds. Vote 3-0-0.*

**Decisions/Actions**

- Votes as recorded in record of votes

**Summary of Discussion on Each Subject Presented to Committee for Consideration**

Adjustments to the Agenda

Superintendent requests a presentation by Mr. Simmons be moved to the top of the agenda.

Revisions to Graduation Requirements – Personal Finance Course

Nicholas Simmons, HA teacher, presented a proposal that would make the personal finance course he currently teaches at HA a graduation requirement for the class of 2020. Simmons reviewed the proposal. 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders would be able to take the course. The class would be offered A and D periods opposite 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade physical education and offered four times per year. There would be no additional cost to the district. Simmons provided an overview of the curriculum and provided data demonstrating the need to teach financial literacy to students. Simmons provided summaries of various House Bills currently under consideration that would require a course in personal finance and testimonials from students who have taken the class. Grant noted the course would replace high school computer science. Beck commented that demand for that class had decreased and making personal finance a requirement would not eliminate high school computer science entirely. Grant asked if HA offers other electives in computer science including coding. Simmons said HA offers two courses currently. Most students take courses in middle school. Simmons noted that students have ample opportunities to take a course in robotics and/or coding. Klesch asked how much overlap there is between personal finance course and economics course.

Beck indicated the curricula in courses would be evaluated to eliminate redundancies. Fasihuddin stated she wished she had a course like this. She expressed her support for the course.

#### Grinspoon Educator Excellence Award Winner

McKenzie announced Ms. Charlotte Mugnier, special educator at HA, has been selected as the Grinspoon Award winner for 2017.

#### Old Business

McKenzie said she would discuss enrollment data later in the meeting. McKenzie informed the committee that Attorney Dupere recommends the School Committee approve all field trips. McKenzie stated she had followed up on Dunlavy's request to review the capital plan. There were no small items to be included in the warrant.

#### FY18 Budget Update

McKenzie stated the town budget recommends a local contribution for the FY18 school budget of \$6,934,167. The level services budget presented to the School Committee required a local contribution of \$7,151,059 which is roughly a \$217,000 gap. Dunlavy asked if level services included the additional teacher in grade four. McKenzie said that the level services request did not include the additional teacher. McKenzie identified places where the school department may be able to reduce the FY18 budget. These possible reductions included fewer students attending Smith Vocational, another possible retirement, lower costs for heating oil, electricity, and contracted transportation. McKenzie stated the district may be able to reduce expenses for science supplies as well. Dunlavy asked if the possible reduction for oil was a reduction from FY17. Desjardins said that the price of oil may be less than we expected for FY18 but it is not a savings from FY17. McKenzie reviewed programs and services the school district could develop to reduce costs in FY18. These include creating a behavior technician position instead of paying a third party contractor to provide behavior support services and creating a program for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders at HA. McKenzie noted that the savings would be offset by decreases in circuit breaker revenues. McKenzie said that as the school district has definitive and final figures she will share the information with the School Committee and the town. McKenzie noted that if reductions she presented did not come to fruition, the district would need to consider cutting programs and services. Dunlavy asked how much choice is applied to the FY18 budget. McKenzie indicated \$435,000. Dunlavy stated that she recalled that the district is bringing in less choice revenue because several choice students graduated and will graduate. Klesch stated that the committee may need to revisit adding a teacher. Grant indicated this would be something the committee should use school choice revenues for. Klesch agreed. Dunlavy said if the potential savings do not come to pass; the district should use choice for the new teacher and look at cuts in other areas. Committee members agreed that adding a teacher to fourth grade next year is a priority. Klesch said if the district is faced with cuts the committee needs to balance those cuts against the additional teacher. McKenzie pointed out the notification from the Department of Early Education and Care that indicates EEC will cut one of the district's grants by \$18,000 in FY18. McKenzie said she would keep the School Committee apprised about how the district will manage the reduction in grant revenues.

#### 2017-2018 Calendar

McKenzie presented the calendar for the 2017-2018 school year. McKenzie stated the HES open house will be determined later.

#### PVCICS Charter Expansion Response

McKenzie stated the BESE was voting on the expansion of PVCICS at its meeting this evening. McKenzie stated the School Committee had discussed taking a position on charter schools. McKenzie stated her understanding was that the committee was not looking to take a position on a particular charter school but was more interested in taking a position on charter and choice policy in general. Fasihuddin asked for clarification on the difference between expanding the number of charter schools and expanding the number of seats. Klesch stated it was interesting that PVCICS was not at capacity but is requesting additional seats. McKenzie said charter schools will do this in order to be eligible for construction/facilities financing. Grant stated the Amherst letter is well written. Klesch and

Fasihuddin stated that the district would be negatively impacted by the expansion. Fasihuddin asked what options the committee has. Dunlavy stated the committee could write a letter outlining why they are not in favor of the expansion. Dunlavy said an easy letter to write would be to say that it does not make sense to expand any charters when the entire region is losing enrollment. Fasihuddin said she would support that. Dunlavy asked committee members if they would like to add anything to the letter. Grant stated Amherst's data made a strong case against the expansion of PVCICS. McKenzie stated that those arguments do not apply to Hadley. Percentages of English Language Learners and Economically Disadvantaged in Hadley and PVCICS are comparable.

#### Enrollment Projections

McKenzie reviewed enrollment projections from NESDEC. McKenzie pointed out that the birth rate in Hadley is steadily declining. In 2000 there were 45 births. Most recent cohort data indicate the birth rate has fallen to 27 births. McKenzie stated that HES is a net "in migration" district meaning grade six enrollments are consistently higher than K enrollments. McKenzie stated NESDEC projects enrollments will have a net decrease of 72 students by 2025-26. Grant asked if the projection only included children living in Hadley. McKenzie stated NESDEC used a cohort survival method for projections which includes students currently enrolled and factors in real estate and construction activity. Klesch asked the committee what it could do in the near future to address the problem. Klesch pointed out that the committee has approved an increasing number of choice seats over the years. Klesch would like to see an analysis of how many choice seats are filled. McKenzie said the district typically has a waiting list in kindergarten but there are openings in other grades. Wickman said that the district recently accepted a student in grade five and that there are seats available in grade two. Klesch asked what the district should do to market itself. Dunlavy said the district places an ad in the newspaper indicating available slots. Klesch asked committee members if they had ideas about outreach efforts. Fasihuddin stated the more the district improves and innovates the more the district will attract students. Grant stated she would be interested in hearing about the impact of advertising in Hatfield. Klesch said it is important to dispel the notion that our curriculum might be limited because we have a small district.

#### Hadley PD Site Visits to HA and HES

McKenzie thanked the Hadley PD for assigning resources to our schools. Wickman said recent walk throughs with local law enforcement helped the crisis team and school administration identify opportunities to improve safety and security. Wickman thanked the town police and fire department for attending HES lunches as part of its positive behavior program. Beck stated his faculty discussed having additional training in Active Bystander protocols. He also noted that Officer Romano is attending the social justice and equity professional development currently being offered to HA staff.

#### HA Program of Studies

Beck reviewed changes in the program of studies. Beck said there was a new course, Fundamentals of Baking. Other changes included minor updates to course descriptions and the change in graduation requirements previously approved by the committee. Klesch asked about the prerequisite for Advanced Computers. She was concerned that if Personal Finance replaces the prerequisite to Advanced Computers students may not be able to take Advanced Computers. Beck said he and Simmons would monitor enrollments and review prerequisites and course offerings. Fasihuddin suggested the district explore how the district can offer more computer science and coding courses. She suggested using Massively Open Online Courses and assigning a mentor in the district to assist students as they take these courses. Bell pointed out that HES students participate in the Hour of Code with Ms. Tumenas every year. McKenzie suggested amending the prerequisite for Advanced Computers to include "or with instructor approval."

#### Personnel Report

McKenzie presented the personnel report. There were no questions.

#### Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

## Business Manager Reports

### Expense Report

Desjardins noted the committee would see changes in the March report as he reclassifies expenses from the local budget to grants. Desjardins will review encumbrances prior to the next meeting.

### Grant Report

Desjardins noted he will be moving expenses to the grants before the March meeting. Grant balances should be much lower in the next report. Desjardins noted by FY20 both grant 701 and 391 will be entirely phased out.

Dunlavy asked how many grants come from the federal government. Desjardins stated roughly half.

### Revolving Accounts Report

Desjardins noted revolving accounts will be updated and corrected next month. The lunch and preschool accounts had duplicate payrolls posted to them on the town side. The balances in these accounts will change once this has been corrected.

## School Committee Reports

### Policy

Policy subcommittee will meet March 2, 2017.

### Tri-Board/Finance

Dunlavy stated the school department will discuss its budget with the town Select Board and Finance Committee on March 15th. Dunlavy and Grant will attend that meeting.

### Capital/Facilities/Grounds

McKenzie stated there is a call scheduled to discuss next steps with the field project. The call will include Paul Phifer, Berkshire Design, Erik Sudnick, and McKenzie.

### Negotiations

Klesch reported that negotiations were progressing smoothly. At the last meeting the drivers presented a financial package. The negotiations subcommittee has an internal meeting scheduled on March 6<sup>th</sup> and a negotiations meeting scheduled later in the month.

### CES

Fasihuddin will provide an update after the March meeting.

### ABA Technician Job Description

McKenzie reviewed a new job description. The position would eliminate the need for a third party contractor to provide behavioral support services. Klesch asked if the position would be a part of Unit D. McKenzie said she had discussed with the HEA president and the position would not be a part of any bargaining unit since it was not an ESP. Klesch recommended changing the title of the position to ABA Technician.

### Declaration of Surplus

Fasihuddin asked if the table had value. Desjardins stated the table was very old and did not have any value but policy dictates the committee must declare the item as surplus and the school department first offers the table to other town departments and then to anyone else as a donation.

### Additional Discussion

Next meeting March 27, 2017.

## **List of Documents and Exhibits Used at Meeting**

- Agenda February 27, 2017
- January 30, 2017 School Committee Minutes
- Summary of House Bills pertaining to teaching finance in schools
- Personal Finance proposal
- Student testimonials personal finance
- 2017-2018 District Calendar

- Announcement of Grinspoon Teacher Excellence Award
- EEC Notice Discontinuation of Grant 391
- Letter from Northampton School Committee to BOE
- Letter from Amherst Regional School Committee to BOE
- Revisions to HA Program of Studies
- Enrollment Projections
- Personnel Report 2/27/2017
- Budget Summary Report
- Grant Allocation Report
- Hadley Public Schools Revolving Accounts Report
- ABA Technician Job Description
- Email Requesting Wooden Table be Declared Surplus

**Names of Remote Participants**

No members participated remotely.

**Next Regular Meeting Dates**

March 27, 2017

Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_7:05\_\_\_\_\_PM