

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035  
Minutes October 1, 2020**

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

**Present: Klesch, Phifer, Fasihuddin, Brugger, Percy, McKenzie**

Motion to call the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Fasihuddin made a motion to open the meeting, Percy seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**1. Public Comment**

Emily Pheiffer- said that her child was having a positive experience with remote learning. She mentioned the Amherst Public School System and said that she hopes there are plans in place in the event that it is necessary to move back in the reopening process. McKenzie said the teachers appreciate her expression of gratitude as they are working harder than ever before. Humera Fasihuddin spoke as a parent and said that she has three children at Hopkins and she has witnessed the effort, creativity, and work the teachers are putting into the remote learning process.

**2. Presentations/Discussion Items**

**a. HES In Person Plan for Universal Screening**

Dowd said that HES is looking for data on where students are in their learning. The teachers asked about conducting the annual assessments with remote learnings. There are many factors that are not conducive to doing the assessment process remotely. Dowd acknowledged that some screening needs to be done as most of the students have not been assessed since March 2020. She proposes that grade levels be allowed to come into the building for screening. All safety guidelines would be in place. In this way, teachers will know better where students are and be able to address their learning needs. She added that it would be the choice of parents if they want their child to take the assessments remotely. Phifer asked about the number of students involved and when it would take place. Dowd said they would test one grade level per day but will not have specific numbers of how many parents would take advantage of the in-person assessments.

McKenzie said that the largest grade had approximately 40 students and the testing/ screening takes about an hour. McKenzie said the testing is important in that it informs teachers if students are not meeting benchmarks in reading and math. Dowd explained that the kindergarten team would be testing for motor skills, etc., but planned to do it outside. Phifer and Brugger said they were in support of the assessment proposal, especially since each grade level would be tested on separate days, allowing for safety mitigations and cleaning. Fasihuddin said she agreed and introduced the topic of MASC testing. McKenzie said the testing being discussed was for the purpose of screening and identifying the need for Tier intervention. In response to a question from Percy, Dowd said that the students coming for testing would be kept separate from the special population students currently

attending in-person learning. All committee members expressed approval of the plan for universal screening.

**b. Introduction of Town Administrator – Carolyn Brennan**

McKenzie announced that David Nixon, current Town Administrator would be retiring and Carolyn Brennan has been hired as the new Town Administrator. She will be working in overlap with Nixon until the end of the year. McKenzie welcomed her.

**c. Edward Hopkins Foundation [Request](#) for [Sign](#)**

Mr. Forman made a request to create and build a new aesthetically matching monument style sign for Hopkins Academy to replace the white board sign that is currently there. He will take the request to the planning board once approved. The funding for the sign is from a grant obtained from the Hopkins Trustees. McKenzie shared a digital image of the proposed monument/ sign. Phifer said it was a very gracious gesture and asked if the school mascot would be included. He said he would like to see the school emblem and the final design. Fasihuddin said she would like, at least, for McKenzie to see the final design. McKenzie said Forman is looking for an approval vote from the committee prior to the Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> Planning Board Meeting. Klesch said the committee was in support of the idea and the general design, but if there is any departure from what is presented in the letter, it may need review. Fasihuddin made a motion to approve the funding and building of the Hopkins Academy Monument/ sign as presented. Brugger seconded and the vote was 5-0-0. Klesch thanked Mr. Forman and the Trustees.

**d. Review of Public Health [Data](#)**

McKenzie shared the most recent public health data. The total case count in Hadley remains at 50 with no new cases. She also reviewed the COVID statistics for Hampshire County. McKenzie reminded the committee of the parameters the SC had decided to use for phase movement consideration. McKenzie thanked families for their cooperation in keeping children with any symptoms home. The students have been compliant with all mitigation strategies. McKenzie reminded families to complete the surveys regarding attendance plans for in-person attendance for their children. Phifer asked McKenzie to review the metric criteria for reopening. McKenzie responded the criteria included the positivity rate of 3%, average daily incident rate per 100,000 of 9% or less, and any evidence of school transmission. McKenzie reviewed the process for school transmission analysis. McKenzie said that there have been no cases of special student populations or staff. Fasihuddin asked about the reduction of the number of students. McKenzie attributed that to decisions to attend remotely or disenroll and do home schooling. Fasihuddin asked McKenzie what attributed to the decline in enrollment. McKenzie said there was a whole range of reasons. McKenzie said that the SC would meet again on October 15 and take an action vote regarding phase movement at that time.

Carolyn Brennan joined the School Committee meeting and apologized for being late and said she looked forward to meeting the SC members as well as parents. She provided a brief

background of her work experience and said she was extremely impressed with the relationship between the schools and the town departments.

**3. Personnel**

McKenzie updated the committee on resignations, retirements and new hires.

**4. Boards and Committees**

- a. Policy Committee will report after next meeting
- b. Finance- Nothing new to report by Percy
- c. Fields and CPA update – Phifer reported on athletic fields project and that DPW will be milling and repaving of the Middle Street School Driveway.
- d. CES – Fasihuddin shared the most recent newsletter.

**5. Action Items**

- a. Approval of AP Warrants Submitted September 2020 – Motion: Phifer; Second: Percy; Vote: 4-0-1, with Klesch abstaining.
- b. Approval of Warrants Submitted September 2020 – Motion: Percy; Second: Phifer; Vote: 4-0-1, with Klesch abstaining
- c. Approval of 08-13-20 Minutes- Motion: Fasihuddin; Second: Phifer; Vote: 5-0-0.
- d. Approval of 08-24-20 Minutes- Motion: Fasihuddin; Second: Phifer; Vote: 5-0-0.
- e. Approval of Hopkins Academy monument sign- Motion: Fasihuddin; Second: Brugger; Vote: 5-0-0.

**6. Next Meeting Dates**

10/15/20 @ 5:30 immediately followed by Policy Subcommittee

11/5/20 @ 5:30

11/19/20 @ 5:30

Fasihuddin made an announcement that the work on making Hadley a more diverse and inclusive community is continuing and there is another book reading review on October 8<sup>th</sup>. If interested in joining the meeting or reading the books, please contact McKenzie or Fasihuddin. [Link for Resources](#)

Adjournment 6:34 pm

Percy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Percy seconded and the vote was unanimous.