**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035**

**Minutes- January 24, 2022**

**5:30 PM – Regular Meeting**

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

1. **Call to Order**

Upon request for motion to start the meeting, Klesch made a motion to open the meeting. Percy seconded and the vote was 5-0-0.

1. **Adjustments to the Agenda**

Brugger would like to add Staff Appreciation to the Agenda

1. [**Public Comment**](https://www.hadleyschools.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif3206/f/pages/bedh_-_public_participation_at_school_cmte_mtgs.pdf)

Fasihuddin reviewed the public comment policy.

There was no public comment.

1. Brugger said she wanted to give a formal recognition of appreciation to the nurses that have been so dedicated to the COVID testing and COVID issues. Fasihuddin echoed the appreciation. McKenzie mentioned the parents that are nurses that are helping with the testing and thanked them as well.
2. **Presentations/Discussion Items**
3. DESE/DPH Protocols and COVID-19 [data](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BcblYfri2KbD9GE_NX-9IiGODw91D2tmvCc5GcXIG6g/edit#gid=851504940)

McKenzie mentioned that there has been a dashboard change in that parents of students who participate in extracurricular activities are being asked to enroll them in the school pool testing program. She reviewed the vaccination rates at the schools and the increase in the positive cases of over 100 positive cases since the last school committee meeting. It had not been considered necessary previously due to the low number of cases. McKenzie reviewed the procedures followed for symptomatic and asymptomatic incidents of the virus. School Committee members voiced their support for the policy of pool testing for all students enrolled in extracurricular activities. Phifer confirmed with McKenzie that spectators are allowed to attend athletic events.

1. HA Student Achievement [data](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gtx9Tvr85w8PE9awjl40EI2HaFE3g-rgybRMF2upvY8/edit)

McKenzie said she is sharing Hopkins data comparing the number of failing grades during remote learning and when the school was open. There was a significant increase in failing grades when the school was closed to in-person learning. Although some students thrived during remote learning, the data shows the importance of in-person learning.

1. At-Home Rapid Antigen Tests for Students and Staff

This is an optional program that allows families and staff to receive rapid antigen test kits for home testing. It is hoped that families exercise this option. It is only required to report if there is a positive result. These test kits are being distributed at no charge. The kits are distributed every 2 weeks, according to the number of participants.

1. Update on Pathways Programs HA - Future Educators Pathway

McKenzie informed the committee that the Futures Pathway for Education Program was funded with approximately $14,000. She said that this will allow students to take education courses at UMass free of charge. McKenzie added that the district has also received funding for a Math Acceleration Academy ($10,000) and a SEL grant ($69,000) that will expand our PBIS program and universal mental health screenings. The SC thanked and praised McKenzie for her work and success in obtaining these grants as well as many other grants for Hadley Schools.

1. [Proposal](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c4e_kp0w2RARBs_LT4jBKmVN_VuDIhpV/view?usp=sharing) for Facilities Audit

This is a critical step in future MSBA grant applications. McKenzie explained the process that she and the business manager had used to select a proposal for the Audit. She provided a link to the proposal on the agenda. It includes a top to bottom inspection of Hopkins and will offer recommendations for repair or renovation. She anticipates the report will be ready for presentation to the SC in March. SC members agreed that the proposal is needed in order to proceed with the MSBA grant applications and that the proposal is thorough and priced fairly. McKenzie informed the SC that the timeline would be too tight for a strong application to be submitted this year.

1. Sub pay

McKenzie asked the SC for approval for an increase in the daily rate for substitute teachers from $85.00 and $90.00 per day to $95.00 and $100.00 per day in order to meet the requirements of minimum wage increase effective January 1, 2022. The higher daily rate is for subs having teaching certification. SC members agreed that McKenzie should follow up with comparison of competitive rates for subs. Phifer made a motion to approve the substitute teacher daily rate increase. Percy seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.

1. Bus Driver Negotiations - appoint SC representatives

McKenzie said that the bus driver’s union has requested to bargain as their contract is ending this year. She outlined the timeline for negotiations as being in March and April.

Fasihuddin and Percy volunteered to serve on the Bus Negotiations Committee.

1. Superintendent Formative Evaluation - review [progress report](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wead0VKzLVAXM_iW29NYOr7pb9PoFyqD/edit)

SC members all congratulated McKenzie on her performance and spoke to specific accomplishments, including building a strong leadership team, Responding to SC requests, and grant awards.

1. **Business Manager Reports**
   1. Expense- Desjardins clarified that the phone budget was not actually over expended but that there had been an error in the billing that was being corrected. He also noted that there were several expenses that still need to be transferred over to grants, including reimbursement grants. The budget is on target and there are no concerns at this time.
   2. Revolving- Desjardins said these accounts are in good shape.
   3. Grant- Desjardins reviewed the grant allocations and expenses and responded to SC questions.
2. **School Committee Reports/Discussion**
   1. Finance – Percy had nothing to report. McKenzie outlined the timeline for the Budget process.
   2. Policy – Brugger has no update
   3. CES - Klesch said that a CES meeting will take place on Wednesday and will provide an update at the next meeting.
   4. Negotiations - Brugger/Klesch- actively negotiating with Unit A
   5. Fields and Capital – Phifer and McKenzie reviewed the timeline for Phase II of the Athletic Fields Project.
3. **Announcements- no announcements**
4. **Action Items**
   1. Approval of Minutes of December 20, 2021- Motion: Klesch; Second: Brugger; Vote: 5-0-0.
   2. Approval of Policy subcommittee minutes of November 20, 2021 and December 20, 2021- Motion: Phifer; Second: Brugger; Vote: 5-0-0.
   3. Approval of AP Warrants for December 2021- Motion: Percy; Second: Phifer; Vote: 4-0-1. Klesch abstains.
   4. Approval of Warrants for December 2021 – Motion: Klesch; Second: Brugger; Vote: 4-0-1. Phifer abstains.
   5. Increase teacher substitute rate to $95 a day for uncertified subs and $100 a day for certified substitutes- Motion: Phifer; Second: Percy; Vote: 5-0-0.
   6. Appoint SC members for bus driver negotiations- appointed Fasihussin and Percy
5. **Next Meeting Dates**

February 28, 2022 @ 5pm - Policy Subcommittee

February 28, 2022 @ 5:30 pm - Regular School Committee Meeting

1. **Adjourn Regular Meeting: 6:42 PM**

Percy made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Phifer seconded and the vote carried 5-0-0.