

HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035

Minutes September 26, 2016 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: Klesch, Phifer and Dunlavy.

Record of Votes

- Approval of August 29, 2016 minutes– Klesch moves to approve minutes of August 29, 2016 School Committee meeting. Phifer seconds. Vote 3-0-0.
- Approval of superintendent summative evaluation 2016 to reflect an overall performance rating of Proficient on standards and a rating of Met on goal progress. Phifer makes motion. Klesch seconds. Vote 3-0-0.
- Adjournment – Klesch moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm. Phifer seconds. Vote 3-0-0.

Decisions/Actions

- Chair adjusts agenda to move public comment to agenda item 4.
- School Committee gave an overall performance rating of proficient on standards and met on goal progress to the superintendent for her 2014-16 evaluation.

Summary of Discussion on Each Subject Presented to Committee for Consideration

Adjustments to the Agenda

Dunlavy moved public comment to item 4 on the agenda.

Public Comment

Deborah Levenson (Hadley resident) spoke on Question 2 on the November ballot. Levenson expressed her belief that Question 2 represents a threat to public education funding in the Commonwealth. Levenson further stated that if Question 2 is defeated it will not affect or close any existing charter schools but a no vote would prevent the proliferation of charter schools under the current funding system. Levenson urged the School Committee to pass a resolution in opposition to Question 2, similar to what other school committees have done. Levenson stated that she believes charter schools are not accountable to locally elected representatives (school committees). Levenson urged the School Committee to join other committees across the state in opposition to Question 2. Dunlavy stated that Question 2 was not on the School Committee agenda this evening and asked committee members if they would like to discuss at this time or would committee members like to do their own research and discuss the matter in October. Klesch indicated she would be happy to research the matter independently and send her comments to the chair in advance of the October meeting. School Committee agreed that members would discuss the matter in October; however the School Committee will not invite speakers to make an argument for and against charters.

Presentation on Student Learning

McKenzie reviewed data on student achievement and growth in the district. Copies of the presentation are included in the handouts. McKenzie underscored the effectiveness of the district's Title I program and emphasized the skills of the district Title I teacher, Rebecca DiBartolomeo, in contributing to student achievement and growth. McKenzie reviewed changes in students' normal curve equivalencies on the Gates MacGinitie assessment, positive changes in students' grade level equivalencies in reading as measured by Gates MacGinitie, and positive gains in students' scores on the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA). McKenzie reviewed DiBELS benchmark scores for 2015-2016. All data demonstrate students in grades 1-3 showed improvement in literacy skills. Aggregate

composite scores for each grade demonstrate all grades exceeded DIBELS benchmark goals. McKenzie reviewed ACCESS (Assessing Comprehension and Communication for English Language Learners) scores for English Language Learners. (ELL) Students in the ELL program have demonstrated high levels of achievement on ACCESS – every student who has taken ACCESS for two or three consecutive years has shown growth in English language proficiency and the majority of ELL students demonstrated moderate to very high growth in MCAS SGP. McKenzie reviewed MCAS SGP for all students all grades. She stated that the district saw the lowest growth in eighth grade mathematics and fourth grade ELA and that the principals would be speaking on how they are using the data with their faculty to drive conversations about curriculum, instruction, and assessment. McKenzie ended the presentation with a review of grade ten MCAS data. 34 out of 34 standard test takers in grade ten achieved proficient or advanced on ELA MCAS. In mathematics, 34 out of 34 standard test takers passed the MCAS and 30 out of 34 achieved advanced or proficient in mathematics. McKenzie noted that all students who had been in the district for 3 or more years before taking the grade ten MCAS in mathematics achieved advanced or proficient. McKenzie noted that when the district sorts student achievement data by number of years in the district it is clear students who arrive in Hadley early and remain in Hadley consistently score advanced or proficient in grade ten. Select board member Pipczynski asked if school choice students had an effect on the data. McKenzie emphatically stated the data suggests a positive relationship between length of time in district and student performance; however there is nothing to indicate a negative relationship between school choice and student performance. McKenzie informed the committee that the district remains a level 2 with no change in accountability level from 2015. Dr. Wickman reported on work underway at HES to evaluate curriculum alignment. Dr. Wickman noted that curriculum sequence (i.e., some material assessed on MCAS is taught in late May or June) appears to have an effect on student achievement. Beck reviewed efforts at HA to increase assessment opportunities that require students to demonstrate understanding through short answer and open response in mathematics. Dunlavy asked about the future of MCAS testing. McKenzie stated grade ten students will take MCAS through 2019. In 2017, all districts must provide computer based testing in grades 4 and 8. Districts must determine what, if any, additional grades will receive computer based testing. At this point in time, it is likely the district will only do computer based testing in grades 4 and 8.

Superintendent Evaluation

Dunlavy reviewed the superintendent's summative evaluation for 2014-2016. Dunlavy explained that the superintendent is evaluated on four goals aligned to the standards for effective leadership set forth by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Dunlavy stated that McKenzie had received a performance rating of proficient on goal 1 – aligned with the instructional leadership standard – and a rating of some progress on the goal. Dunlavy stated that although the district did not meet its stated achievement targets in MCAS, as McKenzie's previous presentation demonstrated, McKenzie has provided evidence of student achievement and growth. Dunlavy indicated that committee members would like to see MCAS de-emphasized when rewriting the goal for this standard and see emphasis placed on additional indicators of student learning and district performance. Dunlavy stated McKenzie had received a performance rating of proficient/met on goal 2, aligned with the professional culture standard. Dunlavy highlighted McKenzie's leadership in educator evaluation and stated the committee would like to see more qualitative data (storytelling, teacher spotlights, etc.) that tell the story of student success and faculty impact on student learning. Dunlavy stated McKenzie had received a performance rating of proficient/met on goal 3 aligned with the family and community engagement standard. Dunlavy highlighted McKenzie's collaboration with town departments, visibility/attendance at student/school events, participation in town meetings and forums, and her weekly emails to parents and families. Committee members would like to see a goal for next year that incorporates using social media in a constructive and controlled manner, and getting more positive press coverage for the schools. Dunlavy stated that McKenzie had received a performance rating of exemplary /met on goal 4 aligned with management and operations.

Personnel Report

McKenzie reviewed the personnel report enclosed in the handouts.

Expense Report

Houle reviewed the expense report. Houle noted shifts in lines were due to hires and changes in grant funding. The state is not funding the all day kindergarten grant. Houle reported the district is on track with spending this year although the district had to absorb \$17,000 into the local budget in response to the lack of state funding for all day kindergarten. Houle noted she will be working Wednesdays going forward which will allow her to meet with the town accountant.

Capital Plan

Houle reviewed recommended changes to the capital plan. After receiving detailed information from Mike Duffy, Houle revised the projected costs for computer replacement and network components. Committee members discussed changing the fields project to reflect the \$15,000 request supported by CPA for new designs in year one with a projected total cost to be determined. Houle noted the serving lines had been increased from \$13,000 to \$14,000. Houle explained the quote for air conditioners reflects a cost of roughly \$10,000 to \$12,000 per classroom with 31 classrooms and one large conference room/office with approximately \$16,000 for unforeseen issues/expenses. Phifer asked if there is a benefit to amending the capital request for special town meeting to reflect the air conditioning project being done in phases. Dunlavy recommended the committee decide what warrant articles should be amended, if any, after the town capital planning meeting on October 3rd.

School Committee Reports

Tri-Board/Finance

Dunlavy reported on the Town Forum that took place in September. Dunlavy indicated she had received very positive feedback on the superintendent's presentation. Klesch requested that the town forum slide show and one page information sheet be put on the district website. Pipczynski stated that he appreciated the superintendent's presentation.

Capital/Facilities/Grounds

Phifer thanked the CPA for its support of the school department's request for \$15,000 for creating developing updated designs that allow the project to be completed in phases.

Additional Discussion

Dunlavy reminded members of the forum to discuss warrant articles on October 20th and special town meeting scheduled for October 27th. Dunlavy asked people to come to special town meeting and support the replenishment of the \$75,000 cut from the FY17 school department budget. Richard (HPAT) stated the forum on warrant articles may be rescheduled to October 19th.

Klesch stated she would be absent for the next meeting.

List of Documents and Exhibits Used at Meeting

- Agenda September 26, 2016
- August 29, 2016 School Committee Minutes
- September 12, 2016 School Committee Minutes
- Personnel Report 9/26/2016
- Expense Report 7/1/2016 through 8/31/2016
- Minutes Policy Subcommittee 7/18/2016
- Recommended Revisions to Capital Plan

Names of Remote Participants

No members participated remotely.

Next Regular Meeting Dates

October 24, 2016 at 5:30

Adjournment _____ 6:50 _____ PM