

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

**Minutes November 23, 2015 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: Dunlavy, Klesch, Fasihuddin, Grant, and Phifer.

**Record of Votes**

- *Approval of November 2, 2015 minutes – Phifer moves to approve minutes of November 2, 2015 school committee meetings. Klesch seconds. Vote unanimous.*
- *Approval of Nature’s Classroom Field Trip – Klesch moves to approve Nature’s Classroom field trip for HA students as presented by Mr. Burgess. Fasihuddin seconds. Vote unanimous.*
- *Creation of student activity account for Diversity Club – Fasihuddin moves to approve the creation of a student activity account for the Diversity Club. Klesch seconds. Vote unanimous.*
- *2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading of policy IHBA-E District Curriculum Accommodation Plan– Klesch moves to approve the district policy IHBA-E District Curriculum Accommodation Plan at this its second and final reading. Phifer seconds. Vote unanimous.*
- *2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading of changes to HES and HA student handbooks as recommended by Attorney Dupere – Grant moves to approve changes to HES and HA student handbooks. Phifer seconds. Vote unanimous.*
- *2016 Statewide Assessment – Grant moves to administer MCAS in all grades/subjects in spring of 2016. Klesch seconds. Vote unanimous.*
- *Adjournment of regular meeting – Fasihuddin moves to adjourn meeting at 6:45 pm. Grant seconds. Vote unanimous.*

**Decisions/Actions**

- Dr. McKenzie presented senior Jenny Moss with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Excellence Award. Committee congratulated Jenny and her parents on this significant achievement.
- Committee members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of administering PARCC/MCAS in 2016.

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

Presentation of MASS Certificate of Academic Excellence

Student Jenny Moss received the MASS Certificate of Academic Excellence. In determining which student will receive the award the superintendent must consider cumulative grade point average, rank in class, and personal recommendation by superintendent for contributions to the school community.

Educating English Language Learners – Presentation by Celine Dasatti and Annie McKenzie

McKenzie and Dasatti presented an overview of the program including WIDA (standards and curriculum), ESL/SEI (instruction), and ACCESS (assessment). McKenzie highlighted the achievements of our English Language Learners, their academic growth, and the contributions of Ms. Dasatti. Phifer asked Dasatti what, if anything the school committee can do to support the program. Dasatti indicated that the recent contribution from Helping Hearts has allowed her to purchase much needed technology for her students. She indicated additional Chromebooks would be helpful. Grant asked about how much time English Language Learners spend in ESL classes versus in regular academic classes. Dasatti reviewed the requirements for ESL instruction. Grant also commented that the majority

of Hadley educators possess the Sheltered English Immersion endorsement which is required of all content area teachers who teach English Language Learners. Fasihuddin asked about the connection between ACCESS and MCAS performance. McKenzie explained that ACCESS only assesses English language acquisition; however English skill development will have a positive impact on MCAS performance.

#### Nature's Classroom Field Trip

Mr. Burgess presented the annual middle school trip to Nature's Classroom. The trip occurs in the spring and is estimated to cost each student \$290.00. Upon approval of the trip, teachers will begin fundraising to offset the cost of the field trip. Mr. Burgess underscored the value of the trip and the connections to the curriculum. Klesch praised the teachers for how well the trip supports the curriculum. Fasihuddin expressed how beneficial the trip was for her child.

#### District Strategy Progress Report

McKenzie provided a progress update on various district activities that align with and support the district strategy.

#### HES and HA School Strategy and Improvement Plans

McKenzie presented the HES strategy and improvement plans. Both plans are aligned with the district strategy document and the HA strategy document is aligned with NEASC standards in preparation for the upcoming accreditation visit. Grant asked how core values and beliefs would be developed. Beck explained that NEASC requires faculty to think through the core values and beliefs of the institution and then to engage the community, parents, and students in a discussion about proposed values and beliefs.

#### Statewide Assessment 2016

Committee members discussed whether or not students in grades 3-8 should take MCAS or PARCC in the spring of 2016. McKenzie reviewed the recent Board of Education decision. On November 17, 2015, the BOE voted to adopt MCAS 2.0 as the state's new test. The new assessment will be administered in spring of 2017. Districts who administered MCAS in 2015 will have a choice to administer PARCC or MCAS in 2016. Committee members discussed the advantages and disadvantages to administering PARCC or MCAS in 2016. One advantage to administering PARCC is the district would be able to test its technological capacity before all students would be required to take an online assessment in 2019. Committee members agreed that the district should consider administering statewide assessments online in advance of the 2019 deadline but spring of 2016 is too soon. Districts that administer PARCC will be held harmless. Hadley administrators do not see the advantage to being held harmless. The administrators would like data that is as comparable as possible to the previous year in order to assess the district's improvement. Committee members reached consensus on administering MCAS in spring of 2016.

#### Personnel Report

McKenzie reviewed the personnel report. School committee discussed when to post the positions of retirees or positions where an employee has indicated s/he will resign at the end of the year. Although the FY2017 budget has not been developed, the school committee does not anticipate eliminating any teaching positions. The committee agreed that all teaching positions could and should be posted sooner rather than later.

#### Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

#### Expense Report

Desjardins provided the committee with a highly detailed report this month. Desjardins reported finances are in good shape and expenditures are in line with projections.

#### Revolving Accounts

Desjardins has a meeting set with the town accountant. Future revolving account reports will have more up to date information.

#### Grant Report

Desjardins will also discuss renaming grant funds with the town accountant at his upcoming meeting.

### Policy

Chair reported that this evening the committee has been asked to do its second and final reading of policy IHBA-E District Curriculum Accommodation Plan and changes to student handbooks. All changes are required as part of the district's Coordinated Program Review Corrective Action Plan. All changes have been reviewed by school attorney.

### Unit D Negotiations

Klesch reported discussions with labor are ongoing. There are meetings scheduled into December. Negotiations are moving forward. Currently labor and management are discussing compensation.

### Building and Grounds Subcommittee

Phifer reported individuals are working behind the scenes to move forward with the fields improvement project. Phifer will request updates from volunteers and provide information at a future meeting.

### CES Update

Grant reported CES facilitated a meeting with superintendents and legislators to discuss the impact of school choice and charters on local school districts. Grant submitted a copy of the PowerPoint presentation to be included in the school committee handouts. Grant presented the summary of the annual CES audit. No events required disclosure and there were no audit findings. A copy of the audit summary is available in the superintendent's office.

### Graduation Robes

Beck reported that some HA students may attend the December 21, 2015 meeting of the school committee to discuss a proposal for graduation robes.

### Evaluation of Meeting

Committee members expressed satisfaction with the meeting.

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

- Agenda November 23, 2015
- November 2, 2015 School Committee Minutes
- PowerPoint presentation English as a Second Language Program Hadley Public Schools
- Curriculum Connections Nature's Classroom Field Trip
- Progress Report on District Strategy
- HES school strategy/improvement document
- HA school strategy/improvement document
- Personnel Report 11/23/2015
- Expense Report 11/16/2015
- Revolving Accounts Report
- Grant Allocations for FY16
- Revisions to HES and HA Student Handbooks as Recommended by School Attorney
- Policy IHBA-E with Revisions
- PowerPoint handout from CES on Public School Enrollment, Population Trends, and School Alternatives
- Collaborative for Education Services Financial Statements June 30, 2015

### **Names of Remote Participants**

No members participated remotely.

### **Next Regular Meeting Dates**

December 21, 2015 at 5:30

Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_ 6:45 \_\_\_\_\_ PM