

HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01035

January 27, 2014

6:30 PM Music Room Hopkins Academy

CALL TO ORDER: Chair, Ms. Molly Keegan, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

PRESENT: Ms. Molly Keegan, Chair; Ms. Linda Dunlavy, Vice Chair/Secretary
Members: Ms. Robie Grant, Ms. Heather Klesch

OTHERS: Donna Moyer, Superintendent; Chris Desjardins, Business Manager; Jeff Udall, HES Principal; Caitlin Lord, Susan Duncan, Pat Bell, Annie McKenzie.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SC meeting minutes from April 22, May 20, June 24, and December 16, 2013 all approved unanimously.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA – Supt. Moyer requested that the action item concerning "Nature's Classroom" be discussed prior to the Budget Presentation. She also requested that discussion concerning fundraising for the HES climbing wall be added to the Information and Discussion items.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - None

PRESENTATION - (Please see attached Power Point presentation on the proposed FY2015 Budget)

INFORMATION AND/OR DISCUSSION ITEMS

Coordinated Program Review – Pat Bell stated that every 6 years the state sends a team of auditors to every school district to make sure they are compliant in all regulations in special education, civil rights and English language learning. To prepare for this visit, much documentation must be gathered. A coordinated effort between all administration and central office staff will be needed to put together all various documentation. The school committee may take a minor role as audience to the auditors. Supt. Moyer added that the policy committee met and saw the scope of what was involved in the civil rights. Supt. Moyer stated she would like to get as much in order for Annie McKenzie as possible prior to May. Fred is reviewing the policies Hadley currently has and will create those it does not. Linda inquired about the three year Special Education review, stating she did not remember going through a review process three years ago. Pat responded that it's a mid-cycle review, and the school committee might not have been aware of it if there had not been any issues or citations. Over the last three years, several new regulations have been added.

Sub Committee Updates –

Buildings & Grounds: Keegan and Grant discussed the \$200,000 grant being investigated to apply to the reorganization of the Hopkins athletic fields. Keegan stated that a grant writer will be working with the

committee to meet the February 17th deadline. Surveyors have completed the survey but it is unknown if it has been given to Berkshire Design yet. A revised estimate will be available once this is done. Letters of support are being sought by interested parties. Grant added that the total cost projected for field development was over a million dollars; while the grant will not cover the entire cost of the project, it will enable the work to begin. Keegan stated a coordinated volunteer labor effort would also be helpful.

Policy: Dunlavy stated that the Policy subcommittee plans to bring Section B, C & D for first reading at the February meeting. To prepare for the May 15th deadline, Fred will work on Sections E through L and the bringing the entire package for first reading in March.

Finance: Keegan stated the Finance subcommittee reviewed the Budget in advance of the SC presentation as well as discussing Hadley's current School Choice policy. Changes to School Policy wording will be available soon.

Parent Survey: Klesch stated that the Parent Survey subcommittee took feedback from the last school committee meeting concerning design and corresponding conditions for school effectiveness when drafting new questions. The two main sources driving the new questions were the NAEYC Endicott Survey and a recent parent involvement survey overseen by the Mass Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education. The five point rating scale was kept. A small focus group of eight to twelve parents will be folded in to review the final product. Donna asked when the surveys will go out, and Klesch stated the surveys will go out in March. A February 7th meeting was arranged for discussion and feedback.

HES Climbing Wall – Udall that the HES school council wants to initiate fundraising for a climbing wall for the gym. It would be ten feet high and fifty two feet long. Preliminary research has been done, and the wall will cost between 10 and 13,000 dollars depending on the quality and type of wall implemented. Local businesses will be solicited for donations in addition to grant applications, and all money generated will be set aside in an account specifically for this purpose. Hadley Helping Hearts may also provide some support. Projected installment would be summer of 2015. Keegan asked if there were any liability concerns surrounding the climbing wall. Supt. Moyer clarified that the climbing walls are installed at an angle and are not straight up and down. The district's insurance company was consulted and they stated they have no problem with the installation so long as it's installed safely and to code. Udall will also need to ensure it's only used when teachers are present. Training and certification will be provided for teachers. Dunlavy asked if Hadley Kids would have access to the wall. Supt. Moyer stated that since Hadley Kids is an independent financial entity their insurance would need to be looked into.

Superintendent Update – Supt. Moyer stated that she and McKenzie have met and have a transition plan. McKenzie has provided dates she is available to meet with individuals in the district who will be important to her role as Superintendent and build familiarity with them. The Hadley Mothers Club will continue to fund the messaging system. The district was able to purchase several Ipads. Supt. Moyer has continued to implement her goal of putting evaluation systems in place for all major employee categories. The new acting police chief is interested in establishing a positive relationship with the school and has begun to send an officer to help direct traffic without charge at HES during dismissal when possible. February and March will be big DDM months in Hadley and many grants will be applied for.

ACTION ITEMS

Nature's Classroom- Brian began by stating that the research concerning Nature's Classroom's connection to core standards had already been done by the Hopkins Middle School team. He stated that Nature's Classroom provides students with a dynamic, hands on opportunity to manipulate real world data. Susan explained that Nature's Classroom takes place over three days and two nights in a salt marsh with Field Groups of 12-15 kids, each paired with a Nature's Classroom teacher. Susan teaches her Environmental Studies unit at the end of the year in order to coincide with Nature's Classroom. Students study land and ocean biomes, ecosystems, geography, predator/prey dynamics and climate among other things. The field

groups and many of the classes at Nature's Classroom cover 7th grade science curriculum objectives.

MOTION: (Dunlavy/Grant) to approve Nature's Classroom trip for 2014: Unanimous

Approval of Hartsbrook School:

MOTION: (Grant/Dunlavy) to approve Hartsbrook as an operating Hadley school: Unanimous

Approval of Reallocation of Stipend:

MOTION: (Grant/Klesch) to approve that stipend funds set aside for a debate team be reallocated toward the creation of a robotics team at Hopkins Academy: Unanimous

Setting of date for Public Hearing concerning the FY15 Proposed Budget:

March 10, 2014 at 6:30pm was approved as the date for the FY15 Public Budget Hearing. The approval of this date and time was not sent to formal vote.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Roselee Conklin was hired as a long term substitute teacher at HES. Orin Nisenson was hired as the Long Term substitute nurse at HA. Joannie Wollmershauser was hired as secretary in the Superintendents office. Brian Winslow resigned as a bus driver. Jessica Plourd (Grade 6 HES teacher) and Carolyn Sorrentino (HA nurse) are both currently on leave of absence. Current vacancies are for a long term substitute of middle school Language Arts at HA and bus driver.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE – February 24, 2014

Time: 6:30pm Location: Hopkins Academy Music Room

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Klesch/Dunlavy) move to adjourn the meeting and enter executive session at 8:21pm

VOTE: Unanimous

Approved by School Committee: 2-24-14